



Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department
1041 Wilmington Pike
West Chester, PA 19382



April 21, 2023

Westtown Township Board of Supervisors,

The Command Staff of the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department has reviewed the Westtown School Oak Lane Project – Athletic Field Lighting proposal. Below is a summary of our concerns about its potential impact on police services provided to Westtown Township.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

1. LIGHTING AND SOUND COMPLAINTS: As acknowledged in the WCASD Agreement with Westtown re Rustin High School events (dated September of 2011), the lighting of a stadium and the sound associated with evening events has the recognized potential to disturb the residents in the surrounding neighborhoods – resulting in complaints to the police. This potential should be recognized because the hours of operation for the proposal are identical to that specified in the WCASD agreement (activities ending at 10:00 p.m.). Although the Township should be aware of the potential for increased police services due to the complaints, this issue is best addressed with the potentially impacted neighbors.

2. CLARIFICATION OF USAGE: The current proposal under consideration indicates that only a single field would be illuminated and that the field was solely for the use of Westtown School and its students (and associated individuals, such as their families). However, Westtown School has traditionally hosted large tournaments in the past that have included a large number of outside participants. We request that the Township clarify whether the lighted field would be utilized in these tournaments, specifically for the purpose of permitting the tournament to continue after sunset. This increase in individuals utilizing the fields after dark, particularly by individuals who are unfamiliar with the roadways, could potentially create safety issues such as an increase in crashes. In the event that the school does anticipate usage in this manner, we would suggest that Westtown Township require the school to pay for police officers to assist with traffic control in the same manner specified in the WCASD Agreement re Rustin High School events (extra duty details).

3. CRASHES: The Transportation Operational Analysis conducted by the traffic engineer examined the number of reportable crashes contained in PennDOT's database for the various roadways impacted by the proposal. As reported in their analysis, the crash data from PennDOT indicated that reportable crashes on the roadway were relatively rare. However, most police departments (including WEGO PD) investigate **non-reportable** crashes at a significantly higher rate than reportable



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crashes. For example, 60-70% of the overall crashes investigated by WEGO PD are non-reportable. If requested, the police department could provide additional data for the non-reportable crashes for the impacted roadways. This issue is relevant because any increase in crashes (reportable or non-reportable) would result in an increase in police services.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the application and provide input. If any changes to the proposal occur, please feel free to contact us regarding a revised assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda M. Bernot".

Brenda M. Bernot
Chief of Police