

CITY OF JERSEY CITY



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Police Negotiations Collapse; City to Send a Layoff Plan for 82 Police Officers and 7 Civilians to State ***Twelve superior officers to be demoted as part of layoff plan***

JERSEY CITY – Police and administration officials announced today that the city would be sending to Trenton on Thursday a layoff plan for **82 police officers** and **seven civilian police department employees** following the collapse of negotiations between the administration and the police union.

Part of the layoff plan includes the demotion of two captains, four lieutenants, and six sergeants.

The proposal before the **Police Officers Benevolent Association (POBA)** included a pay lag that would save the city approximately \$3.4 million and cost the officers nothing, and a one-time give back of the officers' \$1,300 annual uniform allowance that would save an additional \$1.2 million.

In addition to these concessions, the administration – in conjunction with Police Director Sam Jefferson and Police Chief Tom Comey – had also identified other cuts and revenue sources that would save the city another \$2.4 million. These efforts, combined with the union concessions, would have avoided police department layoffs altogether.

“The first of January is only a month away and with it comes a new budget year, new tax bills, and a 2% legislative hard cap on property taxes,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The POBA was asking that we re-open their contract, which is a process that could take several months. Unfortunately, we do not have the luxury of time. We are hoping that we can still come to an agreement with the union before the layoffs take effect.”

In addition to these layoffs, the Police Department already terminated 37 civilian employees in February.

“We have begun a restructuring plan that would go into effect on the 1st of January to minimize the impact in the services we provide,” said **Police Chief Comey**.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///