

**Smithtown Councilman Wehrheim
Smithtown Town Council
99 West Main St.
Smithtown, NY 11787**

Dear Councilman Wehrheim,

It has been brought to the Kings Park Civic Association's attention that wallets, purses and other belongings are being stolen from visitors to our local parks. Our residents cherish Smithtown's beautiful parks for the recreational opportunities, scenic vistas, wild life habitat, clean air and water and the peace and serenity they provide us each and every day. We should not have to fear for our safety and belongings while spending time at our parks.

A number of our residents have informed the civic organization that a wallet, pocket book and cell phone were stolen from visitors attending the Kings Park Youth Baseball Clinic at Hoyt Farm on June 2nd. We have also received reports of similar crimes taking place on other dates at Hoyt Farm at other town parks. Lack of adequate security presence in the parks is most likely emboldening thieves and other mischief. We can not allow criminal behavior to control and damage the very places that were set aside for our community's enjoyment.

Therefore the Kings Park Civic Association is requesting the Town of Smithtown and the Suffolk County Police Department implement a strategy to help keep our parks safe. We are recommending the following:

- Hourly police or public safety patrols of our parks**
- Increases in the number of public safety officers at our parks especially at large planned events**
- Better monitoring of people entering our parks who are not Smithtown residents**
- Severe penalties for crimes committed inside our parks**
- Public awareness signs asking people to call a specific phone # if they see any suspicious activity taking place in our parks**

We are hopeful that you will help expedite a solution to this problem by working closely with Smithtown Public Safety and the 4th Precinct to help implement the recommendations outlined above, and to do whatever else it takes to make our parks as safe as they can be. Thank you for your immediate attention to this very unfortunate situation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

**Michael Rosato
Kings Park Civic Association**