



Pembroke Titans Against Drugs (PTAD)

A community-based substance abuse prevention coalition

Pembroke Titans Against Drugs
100 Center Street
P.O. Box 626
Pembroke, MA 02359
Tax ID #: 47-1900355

May 9th, 2016

To our volunteers, supporters, and the town of Pembroke:

I am writing to gain your support of article #19, at Tuesday's annual town meeting (7pm at Pembroke High School). This article is set to fund a full-time School Resource Officer and part-time Police liaisons to the Pembroke Public Schools. The funding of \$21,000 for these liaisons is earmarked by Chief Wall to institute a D.A.R.E. program for each elementary school. This is a direct reason that PTAD was started and at the heart of our goals.

We recently surveyed students, in partnership with our schools. We found that as their age increased so did the percentage of them that **did not have a trusted adult in their lives** to talk to – in fact, this was the case for *45% of high schoolers*. Not only would these programs provide an additional trusted adult to speak to, but it **would offer them an additional level, and feeling, of protection and accountability for our children**.

As a child (a long time ago) in this very school system, I personally was affected by a D.A.R.E officer who not only taught me about drug and alcohol abuse, but I felt was always "on my side". I also knew that, at the same time, his job was to hold me accountable for unhealthy decisions. It is the right thing for our community and quite simply: our Titans deserve this.

Please attend this town meeting to let our administration know how important this opportunity is for our organization, and most importantly our youth. This may come to a vote on the meeting floor, and if it does we need all of the hands that we can get.

With Sincere Thanks,

Mike Cogburn
PTAD Founder and Chairman