

CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Consumer Protection Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, June 21, 2006.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Cameron Alden • Chairman

Legislator Jack Eddington

Legislator Lynne Nowick

Legislator Tom Barraga

Legislator Kate Browning

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Jon Cooper • Vice • Chair

Legislator Wayne Horsley

ALSO PRESENT:

George Nolan • Counsel to the Legislature

Warren Greene • Aide to Legislator Alden

Charles Gardner • Director of Consumer Affairs

Richard Baker • Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

Joe Muncey • Budget Review Office

Kevin Rooney • Oil Heat Institute

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano • Court Stenographer

(* THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:30 PM*)

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Good afternoon. Welcome to the Consumer Protection Committee Meeting. We're going to start the with Pledge led by Legislator Nowick.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

I would ask everybody to remain standing for one minute. It has become tradition in this committee, we pay respect an honor those that are serving and putting themselves in harm's way and those that have given their lives for our freedom and our country.

MOMENT OF SILENCE**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Thank you. And, Charlie, I see you are here. In the past, you have usually given a little bit of an update on, like, gasoline supplies, the amount of price swings and things of that nature, so if you can •• and also for, you know, your best guess as far as what it looks like for the time coming forward this summer, the driving season.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

Well, as far as the prices of both home heating oil and gasoline, they have actually declined a little bit. They have leveled out the past few days, but in the past month, they've dropped about eight cents a gallon on average for gasoline. And home heating oil dropped about six cent in the last month. Still at very high levels when you compare to historical levels, but at least they are declining. The average as of the day before yesterday in Suffolk County for self•serve regular 3.17 a gallon. Lowest is about 3.08, 3.09.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Now, do we •• similar to what happens with heating oil, I know we have a couple of major storage units here on the Island and

we're supplied by barge, is gasoline the same, or does most of it come from New Jersey directly?

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

No. There's a pipeline that runs. For instance, there's a pipeline that runs from Port Jeff where they lighter. Lightering means it comes in by barge. It runs from Port Jefferson south through Setauket over to Holtsville. And then that pipeline continues from Holtsville along the Expressway to Plainview storage. And all grades •• I mean, all grades of gasoline as well as home heating oil come through that same pipeline.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

How are we looking for ••

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

Nothing unusual the last week or so that should affect.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Okay. And all efforts •• are you back to full strength or are you still down? Because I remember that I think you had lost one •• a senior ••

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

We're doing well. We're in the process of interviewing and filling another position, yes. The budget that was accepted and •• for us in this year is sufficient. And we should be up to full strength very shortly.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Any questions? Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

It's a question that has nothing to do with the gasoline, but for the record, and I know the answer, but what is the amount, total amount, of sales tax a car dealer will sell you •• will charge you on a used car and/or a new car?

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

The total amount of sales tax, state and local?

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

Let's see. There's no exceptions on that, so it should be eight and •• 8.5 now I think it is, eight and a half. That's state and local.

LEG. NOWICK:

Ben, you are saying yes to 8.5? State and local is 8.5.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Just a point of a clarification. If you are talking about when you into a dealership, you negotiate, you buy the car for \$10,000, what you pay as far as tax on that?

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

It's a fair tax.

LEG. NOWICK:

What is say on the line, percentage?

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

I think it's 8.675.

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh, it is 8.675.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

I think it's 8.675 for the sales tax. There's no difference on that sales tax and any other item that subject to be charged the sales tax.

LEG. NOWICK:

So is our tax now 8.675, is that what it is?

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

No. We're four point something and then the state is four point something.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. So it's 8.675.

MR. ZWIRN:

Together.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

Together.

LEG. NOWICK:

Together. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Any other questions or comments? And that came all the way through Budget Review, so we have a concurrence. Thank you. Any other questions? I'm going to go to the agenda and actually vote on some of these things and then we'll do the discussion. We have Cablevision here, and they're going to give us a little bit of a Power Point demonstration. Let's see what we have. Tabled resolutions.

1247, a Local Law to facilitate implementation of reciprocal municipal livery business registrations.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

I believe that was passed by a CN at the last meeting.

MR. ZWIRN:

You could table it subject to call. We will withdraw it.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

If you tell me to withdraw it, we'll put it on the record now and then we'll just leave it.

MR. ZWIRN:

We'll withdraw it.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

The intention is of the County Executive because it was passed in another form.

1391, a Local Law to ensure proper storage of toxic pesticides in retail stores.

LEG. ALDEN:

Ben.

MR. ZWIRN:

We are still working with the sponsor on this one. We're going to try to one that's more global, so we ask that this still be tabled.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Good. Motion to table, seconded by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? **Tabled (VOTE:5•0•0•2 • Not present, Legis. Cooper and Horsley).**

1524, to enact "Alec's Law" to help protect Suffolk children from SUV accidents.

We've made some changes that you've suggested. You're happy with •• or can you live with the changes? I know there's still a little bit of work for you.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

I just had a discussion in the past few days with Counsel

discussing the revisions. What we talked about is the e-mail addresses, make sure used •• it's new and used vehicles, the brochure, where that's going to come from, the distribution policy related to that, etcetera.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Good. I'm going to make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE:5•0•0•2 • Not present, Legis. Cooper and Horsley).**

1791, a Local Law to require gasoline service stations to install emergency generators for fuel pumps.

This has to be tabled for a public hearing. I'll make the motion to table, seconded Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? **Tabled for a public hearing (VOTE:5•0•0•2 • Not present, Legis. Cooper and Horsley).**

LEG. EDDINGTON:

On the motion, though, I just wanted to ask our Commissioner to just comment on that for a minute.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

On the emergency generators for fuel pumps, I would just like to point out that I would strongly suggest that •• to go on with the intent of the law that the wording be amended to make sure that diesel fuel is added. If you read it now, it specifically applies on to gasoline.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

I'll take care of that. Ben, you have it?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

That's a handoff. That's what it's called in football or whatever.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I have a question.

LEG. ALDEN:

Sure.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Commissioner, what kind of a generator would a gasoline station have to purchase in terms of size for all the pumps, in terms •• what is the cost factor to the station to do this?

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

The way the legislation is written, it would be a generator sufficient to power at least one of the pumps, so that even if

they have 48 meters, 50 some of the stations that we have have that size, the legislation requires a generator to power one.

LEG. BARRAGA:

One regular gasoline pump, and now you would also want the diesel pump?

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

Yes. There are about •• of our 600 service station in the County, about half of them, about 270, have diesel motor fuel. So for instance, it shouldn't be a requirement of all stations to have diesel, but those that have diesel should also be able to power at least one diesel pump just in fitting with the intent of the legislation.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Do you have any idea what the cost for a generator would be per station?

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

To confirm to the Building Codes, the NEC, National Electrical Code, etcetera, I would guess that it would be several thousand dollars.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Per station.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

Per station. But it's a very •• I think it's not a large generator.

MR. ZWIRN:

I just put one in my house because of Hurricane Katrina and everything else out on the East End. It was a Carrier Unit, a pretty good size unit, can pretty much run everything in the house. And that I bought, you know, right off the shelf, and it was \$5000 with installation for the pad and everything else. And the intent is because of Hurricane Katrina and the blackout that we had here last year, what happens is when there's a blackout, you look at your gas tank wherever you are, you say that's as far as I can go. And in Hurricane Katrina people couldn't even evacuate the city because they ran out of gas and the gas stations they passed has gas in the stations, but there was no way of getting it out.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I understand the intent. I guess my concern is have we had any input, positive or negative, from the Gasoline Retailers Association? Has anybody reached out to them to see what they think of this.

MR. ZWIRN:

I don't think we have. I think what they're thinking is with all

the profits that have been made by the gasoline industry, even though it's the stations that •• a lot of them are company stations, a lot of them are individually owned. But we think it's a good investment on their part, because if they have a generator and the power goes out, they're still in business. They're still selling gas, they're still making money. If they're not, they're closed down.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I would just like, you know, if we possibly could, get some input from the Gasoline Retailers Association as to whether or not they support this legislation or if they're opposed to it, why.

MR. ZWIRN:

Right. And public hearing hopefully some of them will come out.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

And if it be the wish of the committee, I'll make sure I contact Kevin Beyer.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I would like you to do that.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

I will absolutely do that. This is going to be held as a public hearing on next Tuesday.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

I just wanted to add that I agree too that we reach out them, because this sounds a lot like what the state does, unfunded mandates.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

All right.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Take that man's name and home address.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

We'll reach out, and I'm sure the County Executive will reach. And we'll make sure that they have every opportunity to address it at the public hearing. If they can't make that, then when it comes back to us, we'll make sure we get their comments. All right. So that's tabled for a public hearing.

M•48. Memorializing Resolution in support of requiring an examination of window tint in the yearly inspection of a vehicle.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Legislator Eddington.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Browning. And on discussion •• and I think I understand where you're coming from, but if you could just tell us •• this is a public safety problem, isn't it?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Yes. Actually police officers have mentioned it to me and constituents that when you approach a car, you can't see and you ask them to put down the window, it's a frightening people for the people that protect us. Plus, if you've ever stopped at a four•way stop sign, you end up playing blinking lights and things because you can't see. And by the way, it's against the law.

LEG. ALDEN:

Absolutely.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

What this does is put a mechanism so that the police officers don't have to deal with it. We deal with it at our yearly inspection.

LEG. ALDEN:

So we have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstain? It's a good law. Thank you. That passes. **APPROVED (VOTE:5•0•0•2 • Not present, Legis. Cooper and Horsley).**

That will be before the full Legislative body. That's it on the resolutions. Now we do have, as I mentioned before, Cablevision representatives here, and they've got an education program Power To Learn. And this is in addition to their Internet Smarts initiative, and I'd ask them to come on forward. I don't know who wants to do the introductions, but you have a whole team here it looks like. Whoever wants to grab ••

MS. GILROY:

Chairman Alden and Members of the Committee, good afternoon. For the record, I'm Joan Gilroy, Director of Franchise Management for Cablevision at 1600 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge. I'm here this afternoon with Trent Anderson, who is our Vice President of Education, and Trent will introduce the members of his staff that are here with us.

MR. ANDERSON:

Great. I'm Trent Anderson, Vice President of Education for Cablevision's power To Learn. With me today I brought running the computer, Martha Turner. And with arts and crafts we've got a thins to show you, I've got Jennifer Ostrager, Joan hendricks, and in the back, Marcia Lustgarten and Marie

{Stanbergen}. Thank you for having us today.

MS. GILROY:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to allow Cablevision to once again address the Members of the Consumer Protection Committee. Periodically, Cablevision meets with Chairman Alden and we review various consumer concerns relating to the cable industry. For example, last June, as a few of you may remember that were here, I came before this committee, and we explained the many tools that Cablevision makes available to parents to take control over their children's cable viewing.

Earlier this year, being concerned with unsafe and sometimes illegal activities on the internet, Chairman Alden met with Cablevision and he asked us to respond to a very simple question. He said to us, "How can parents in Suffolk County as consumers and Optimum Online subscribers protect their children and keep them safe while using the internet?" At a subsequent meeting, Chairman Alden challenged us to propose a way in which Cablevision can partner with the Legislature and help educate parents about being internet smart. Well, this afternoon Trent Anderson came to answer the Chairman's question and his challenge. I know present Trent.

MR. ANDERSON:

Thank you very much, Joan. My understanding is I should have about 15 or 20 minutes to sure I leave time to be able to answer questions as they come up. Please, also, if you feel appropriate as I go through the presentation if you have questions about anything I presented, I'm assuming you would interrupt as we go along.

I'm going to cover three basic things; one, what is Power To Learn in case you're not aware; two, what is the Internet Smarts Program and why does Cablevision do it; and then three, some specific actions that we would like your help on in term of distributing this free valuable information to the residents of Suffolk County.

First of all, I'll go through the history of Power To Learn. Cablevision's commitment to education started over 30 years ago with the wiring of schools for video, which 30 years ago was pretty cutting edge. Back in the late '80s, early '90s when the internet came to be more of a universal service, Cablevision added that. One of things we did discover, the company discovered, is that the tools aren't useful unless there is some learning technology and support around those to make them useful for education.

Power To Learn was founded in the '90s to make sure we didn't just drop off the connections, but that we provide programs, content, training to make those connections useful for learning. Within the program right now, the technology we provide I've outlined here, and this is available to all private and public schools in Suffolk County as well as public libraries. The Triple Play For Education, we're providing free digital cable TV. This includes the family tier of programming. So it's the news channels, History Channel, soon the BBC, Discovery, those that can be useful. And the cable industry has banded together and comes up with several hundred of hours of programming that is run during the early morning hours that schools can tape for use in classrooms, and it's a line to curriculum.

We then have the online internet access. The Optimum access

we provide to schools for free is the same as residential, the 15 megabits down stream, two megabits up. And starting in 2006, we're also providing Optimum Voice to schools. It is a great resource for schools to be able to use a voice connection. Free calling North American, Canada, Puerto Rico, conference calling, calling colleges for a high school student, etcetera. We do provide advanced connectivity through Optimum Light Path as well as some additional services, including web page filtering, which is required in order for schools to be eligible for federal funds.

I'll give you a snapshot where we are in Suffolk County. About 80% of the schools have a Cablevision service right now; 71% cable TV, 38% cable modem and nine districts, about 45 schools, are Optimum Light Path, in addition, it's in 92% of libraries. And what we have found in Suffolk County, the libraries are using the connection for reference rooms, public access points, so people can bring their laptops in or access the computers in the public libraries to get out to the internet. And the reason that we did this is that we found in some communities, not every household has an internet connection, and it provides a point from our perspective for students to be able to access the internet outside of school.

Content and programs, I mention the fact that we do provide this technology, but it's important to us not just to drop it off, but to make it useful for learning. I will highlight some of the things that we've run within Suffolk County so you can understand why we do Internet Smarts. Internet Smarts, I'll talk about in detail, it's a consumer-based program. It's for teachers, for parents, for students about safe and appropriate use on the internet. We also work with the New York Knicks on the reading lounge. It helps promote early literacy.

School to career, we provide ways for high school students to learn about different careers, including public service. And then, if your familiar, on News 12 we air a game show for high school students called The Challenge. It's an academic quiz poll. We also run content and partnerships with resources that we access to within the cable industry. For instance, up on the slide you see the History Channel, and this year Paul {Wilgencamp} from the Three Village School District in East Setauket was honored in Washington DC, what was it last week? It's amazing how quickly it goes by. Nationally, he was one of 13 finalists •• 13 winners for Leaders in Learning Award based on using cable technology in the classroom. And he had worked with the History Channel on a program called Save our History where his Sixth Grade students went out to a historical graveyard, collect data, used technology to then sort the data and draw conclusions from it.

These are some of the example of what we do. Today I want to speak specifically about the Internet Smarts Program. We can skip over the community page. And here is what we provide for free to your constituents, to Suffolk County. Online at powertolearn.com we have interactive case studies on six hot topics which I'll touch on briefly, parent guides for each topic. So each of the six has two versions; one for a parent to use as home; two, for a teacher to use with her class in school.

A family resources booklet, which we're going to leave copies of, and I'll talk about it ittle bit later. It's a non threatening way to introduce a lot of these topics to parents. A Get Certified Program, after someone learns about a particular subject area, they have the opportunity online to quiz their knowledge and then receive certification or a certificate that, in fact, they are internet smart. Ask the Expert, we've been running a series of successful programs with the Suffolk County Police Department, specifically Detective Rory Forrestal. He's been excellent in going out to schools with us, and he is an expert on our website

for Suffolk County schools, teachers, parents who have questions about internet safety.

Finally, we're adding what parents need to know. Due to requests from communities, we're going to come up •• we have come up with and have 11 tracks of parent•specific information that's available for free. We deliver this online, we also deliver it in person. And as I talk about later in working with all of you, if you identify schools within your areas that could benefit from this, my department is happy to come out and hold training for parents, hold training for teachers or even give them guidance using technology on how to access the free information.

I want to share with you some of the statistics that indicate why this is a such important topic. I'm sure you see the headlines. For instance, yesterday and today, the big news is that MySpace has now been sued by a 14 year old who is accusing a 19 year old of sexually assaulting her. And that 19 year old found her through MySpace. The statistics often are very alarming. One in five kids receive inappropriate solicitation. This one is staggering to me, 50% of teens communicate with people they don't know. It's unbelievable that they wouldn't walk up to a stranger on the street, but they're willing to give up personal information, because they feel they're anonymous online.

Right from our own backyard here, I live in Suffolk County as well, 80% of fourth and fifth graders in a poll, and this was done with Detective Forrestal, said that they had some type of personal information or profile online. I couldn't believe it would go that young, that a kid as young as Fifth Grade would do that. And then according to the Suffolk County PD, they had a thousand cases of computer crime, which is staggering. And the outcomes of this can sometimes be scary.

And just for your note, we didn't misspell Northport, this is Northport in Florida, not our Northport. A student posted something nasty online about her teach, and the teacher turned around and sued for defamation, for libel for what was printed online. Things are getting serious. Kids feel like they're anonymous. They don't understand the ramifications of what their doing online.

The long term consequences, for instance, the third bullet point up here talks about the fact that when you post something online, it never disappears, ever. Once it gets into the digital world, someone can access it. And today, kids are living in a harder period of time than at any other point in history. When we were kids, when I was a kid, if did something a little bit silly, you paid the consequence and you moved on. Today, you do something silly, it ends up online, it never goes away. It will follow you through your education, it will follow you through our career. And recruiters look at this. My wife has worked in admissions for a graduate school for a Law School for many years, they use internet. They go to facebook, they go to Xanga, they go to Bebo, they go to MySpace, and they do background checks applying to school. And kids don't recognize that this happens. Employers go to internet. They will Google potential employees to see what pops up.

And then disciplinary consequences. I just happen to pick an example from Michigan. This is a case in which a Michigan School District suspended kids for activity outside of the school from extracurricular activities. These kids weren't drinking in school. It was party off-site, but the school intervened, no choir, no course, no sports, etcetera. It's a growing problem. Based on that, for the last two years we've been trying to work with communities to educate kids about the rules on the internet, ethical behavior, safe and appropriate use and

consequences of actions.

And what I'd like to run through with you now are very quickly the sixtracks we have for Internet Smarts, the first of which is keeping personal information •• this should be obvious, but it's amazing to me. Kids will put on pictures with the street address on their house, street sign, they'll put up where they go to high school, where they work, and they get stalked.

Social networking, this is what's really been in the news. Something that was startling to me. I ask kids, "Who owns MySpace, which is always in the news?" You know what they answer. They think that the guy who founded it to promote his band in L.A. a couple of years ago still owns it. They don't realize Rupert Murdoch of Fox bought it for \$580 million. And it's the second most visited website in the world in terms of the page use, second be only Yahoo in terms of page views.

They think it's their own private anonymous place to communicate, share, etcetera. And what we're trying to do through this program and hopefully with your help is educate them. We're never going to tell them don't use. It's just not going to happen. The technology changes to radically. What we can do is arm them and the people who take care of them, their teachers and parents, to be better prepared to deal with issues.

The third case study, and you may have heard of this, cyber bullying. It used to be that kids picked on one another in the hallway. Today, it's using the camera phone and posting it online, text messaging back and forth. And we've talked to kids about the real consequences of it and also, what the emotional consequences of the person being victimized are. There's some

horrible examples of kids committing suicide based on the fact that they were cyber bullied.

Next we'll go to misinformation. This is one of my favorite. You would be amazed at the number of kids who think that the internet is controlled by you, by the government, that you guys control what's on the internet and that there's some person out there keeping them safe.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

They're not totally wrong. Al Gore did invent it.

MR. ANDERSON:

For instance, one of my favorite examples to show the kids is if you type in Apollo moon landing into Google, the first website that is returned says it was a hoax by the Federal Government. So just because you find it on the internet doesn't mean it's true. Or I'll show them three real websites. One is dehydrated water, one is dihydrogen monoxide and one is armor plated snails. Only one of the three is real. Almost invariably, they can't decide which is real. And so we try to educate them to be good consumers of digital media.

The internet is powerful place. It's good for education. So what we've talked to them about, finally, are issues like fair use and copyright. We want to make sure that they know how to use the internet, the world•wide web, appropriately for education and how to cite what they see, how to use it without violating law.

And then on the next page, the ethical consequences and legal

consequences of things like music and video downloading. One of my favorite things to tell them, legal download is now what, 99 cents through iTunes? The BMI, the music association, per song, accordingly to federal law, they can charge \$250,000 per song. And this year there have already been hundreds of cases on Long Island where people, including some kids have been sued by the music industry. To date they've done about 10,500 cases in the US alone. And they're starting to go after ring tones. You know how kids like having ring tones on their cell phones? You have an illegal ring tone, they're starting to track that as well. So we talk to kids about these things.

Finally, and I know I'm rushing, but I want to give you •• I want to make sure we hit two o'clock and give you a chance to answer some questions as appropriate. We also have parent information. We've created these last tracks on social networking, wireless devices, ISP protections, things like firewalls or web page filtering. Cell phones, gaming, a lot of parents don't know that it's more dangerous to have an XBOX 360 or a PS2 with an internet connection than to have a computer, because there are no control over that networked gaming device.

It amazes me that parents will not put a TV in their kid's room, but they will put a computer with internet access. The computer is far more likely to get the kid in trouble than the TV. The TV is easy to control. You know, you put in the pin code, and they can't do anything, they can't get around the box. The computer is much easier to hack into. But based on demand from the communities that we serve, we have put together topics for parents, very practical how-to guides on these topics for them.

Now I'll get to the part of our presentation where we need your help. And what I'd like to show you are some of the things that

we think we can work with your committee on in educating parents, in educating consumers within Suffolk County on these topics and directing them to free, commercial-free resources on this. Our thought would be that the public libraries, especially during the summer, are a good distribution point for parents and then throughout the school year. And what we can do is provide to you posters sponsored by the committee with some facts to catch their attention.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

In case you noticed, that has my picture on it, that would have in your case •• you don't have to use my picture, you could put your picture.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

I want your picture.

MR. ANDERSON:

Some quick tips, and then what we would provide, and we'll give you samples of it, is a free Family Resource Guide that a parent could then pick up from the front desk. In addition, we'll provide each of your offices with the Family Resource Guide that you can distribute to your constituents on these topics. You can house the material, powertolearn.com, free site, no registration, we don't collect information or set cookies. They can visit that for more in depth information about any of these topics should they want it.

Some of the other things that we thought we would like your help with •• and once again, it's Chairman Alden on the picture here •• two different types of templates. One would be a flier

you could send out to your communities alerting them to some of the fun facts or strong tips that you can give parents about the internet. Another would be, we're happy to provide you with the content that you can include in the mailings or the letters or the newsletters or fliers you distribute anyway. So you could have a paragraph, a column, a box about in what you're sending out to your communities about these topics. And we can pick ones that you think are relevant to your communities. Next, this is a picture of the Family Resource Guide. It comes in both English and Spanish. And for all the materials online for parents, it's in both languages as well.

Finally, as I mentioned early, opportunities to partner, if you identify schools, libraries, community organizations that would benefit from this, we will leave you with contact information. Please come to us, we would love to work with you in setting up an opportunity to train parents or train teachers within each of your districts. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Do we have any questions from the committee? You're going to leave us with all of the contact information, right?

MR. ANDERSON:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

And should we go through Joan, right? That's probably the easiest way. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

How many schools did you say you were in?

MR. ANDERSON:

In total within the Tri•State area, we're in about 4500 schools in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. On Long Island, Martha brought out list.

MS. TURNER:

We're in about 80% of schools, which is roughly about 500, 550.

LEG. NOWICK:

So you go in and you do this as a service in the school during the school day?

MR. ANDERSON:

The models that we've run, we've held in conjunction with PTAs, evening sessions for parents. For students or teachers we will go in during the school day. For instance, I'm in the Harborfields School District in Huntington. And I went in to our Middle School and did all 1000 kids with detective •• with Suffolk County PD. And we went through a bunch of these topics with all the Middle School kids in a day, 1000 kids.

LEG. NOWICK:

Can you tell us •• of course, I'm curious if you're in my district already, Smithtown, Kings Park.

MS. TURNER:

As a matter of fact, we are in Smithtown. We have the Smithtown School District ••

LEG. NOWICK:

What about Kings Park?

MS. TURNER:

Kings Park, I don't believe so, but let me just take a look.

MR. ANDERSON:

And if there is a district that you think could benefit from anything that we've mentioned, get us a contact.

LEG. NOWICK:

There's a charge for this?

MS. GILROY:

No. No.

MR. ANDERSON:

We provide both the underlying Triple Play technology, voice, video and internet, and then the Internet Smarts material is for free.

LEG. NOWICK:

So all those things that you mentioned, my kids know how to do better •• all those rings that we get. They do dances, the phones, and I pay for it

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

That's what mommies are for.

LEG. NOWICK:

Kings Park, yes, you're in?

MS. TURNER:

Kings Park •• we have video service in there. We have a little bit of internet as well. But, yeah, you're definitely a Cablevision district.

MR. ANDERSON:

And if you'd like us to approach them for the voice and internet, we're happy to do that.

MS. GILROY:

We recently did one that I attended in Brentwood, and it was a Middle School. And Detective Forrestal was there. It was amazing. The kids just loved it, because they actually go through the whole program with them. And how much information that these kids •• it's scary. They put their descriptions, how old they are, everything on this MySpace thing, which I didn't know that much about. And I think they learned so much, because when the detective told them where that information goes, how it's stored and what happens, the kids were really amazed. So it's a great program to do, and that's what we would work with any Legislator that wanted to bring it into their districts.

LEG. NOWICK:

Kings Park has Cablevision, but not this program?

MS. TURNER:

They're a Power To Learn division, yes. Right now they have the free video, which is a part of the package. They don't necessarily have our internet service, but that's not that big of a deal. We can work on getting them free internet service if they would like.

LEG. NOWICK:

Trent talked about going in there with the police and addressing a thousand children, have they done that in those two school district?

MR. ANDERSON:

No. No. Which is why we're hoping to enlist your help.

LEG. NOWICK:

Call me.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

And let me point out, this is for the fortuitous, you have the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee right here, Mr. Eddington. And he's been very proactive in protecting children in Suffolk County, among other people from sexual predators and other types of, you know, deviants and things like that. So I'm sure that, you know, like, when we all put our heads together, there will be a whole bunch of other applications that we'd like to talk to you about in protecting our citizens in Suffolk County. Thank you very much for coming down.

MS. GILROY:

Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:

It was very informative. Thank you.

MR. ANDERSON:

Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Any other business to come before the committee? If not, we stand adjourned. Thank you.

(* THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:08 P.M. *)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY