

**PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
of the
Suffolk County Legislature**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Public Information 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 February 6, 2002.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Angie Carpenter - Chairperson
Legislator David Bishop - Vice-Chair
Legislator Lynne Nowick
Legislator Joseph Caracappa
Legislator William Lindsay

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Maxine Postal - Excused

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Legislator Ginny Fields - District #9
Legislator Allan Binder - District #16
Legislator Jon Cooper - District #18
Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature
Doug Sutherland - Aide to Legislator Carpenter
Linda Bay - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna
Tom Donovan - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna
Jim Dobkowski - Press Secretary to Presiding Officer Tonna
Terry Pearsall - Aide to Legislator Lindsay
Ed Hogan - Aide to Legislator D'Andre
Barbara LoMoriello - Aide to Legislator Cooper
Andy Raia - Aide to Legislator Binder
Jim Spero - Deputy Director/Budget Review Office
Rosalind Gazes - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Bill Faulk - County Executive's Office/Intergovernmental Relations
John Gallagher - Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department
James Abbott - Chief Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Dept
James Maggio - Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department
James Rooney - Sergeant/Suffolk County Police Department
Dr. James Caniff - Chairman/DARE Task Force
Dr. Timothy Brennan - DARE Task Force
Fern Alexanderson - DARE Task Force
Dr. Seth Foreman - Long Island Regional Planning Board
Arty Cliff - President/Superior Officer's Association
Vincent DeMarco - President/Deputy Sheriff's Benevolent Association

1

Alan Otto - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
Robert Kearon - Division Chief/District Attorney's Office
Kristine Chayes - Suffolk County Department of Civil Service
Fred Daniels - Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Warren Horst - Chief Fire Marshall/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Jim Golbin - Chief Planner/Suffolk County Probation Department
Yvonne Pena - Director/Human Rights Commission
Rabbi Steven Moss-Nominee-Chair/Suffolk County Human Rights Commission
Sylvia Diaz - Nominee/Suffolk County Human Rights Commission
Alice Lambert - Nominee/Suffolk County Human Rights Commission
Lynda Perdomo-Ayala - Nominee/Suffolk County Human Rights Commission
James L. Stephens - Nominee/Suffolk County Human Rights Commission
Reverend Richard Hill - Nominee/Suffolk County Human Rights Commission
Michele DelMonte - Nominee/Suffolk County Human Rights Commission
Susan Berland - Councilwoman/Town of Huntington
Dennis Ryan - Deer Park School Board
Kathy Ayers-Lanzillotta - The Quality Consortium of Suffolk County
Barbara Keller - Coalition to Prevent Alcohol & Drug Dependency
Rosco Reynolds - Coalition to Prevent Alcohol & Drug Dependency
Maureen Rossi - Kings Park School District
Nancy Schwartz - President of DREAM/Half Hollow Hills Schools
Andrea Acker - Half Hollow Hills School District
Ruth Peretz - Half Hollow Hills School District
Sue Vallejo - Half Hollow Hills School District

Deborah Harris - Half Hollow Hills School District
Jenny Shore - Harborfields School District
Susan Lipman - Suffolk District PTA
Sue Schultheiss - PTA President/Commack-Sawmill PTA
Michele Drugan - Commack-Sawmill PTA
Lori Brush - President/Board of Education - Middle Country Schools
Nancy DiMonte - DARE Advocate
Margaret Connor - DARE Advocate
Kristin Schmidt - DARE Advocate
Eleanor Smith - American Red Cross/Community Service Program
Eileen Nomikos - Long Island Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence
Mary Callan - Long Island Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence
Norma Laudano-East Islip School District/Connetquot Elementary School
Millie Alport - Teacher/Connetquot Elementary School
All Other Interested Parties

The following names are of children who were in attendance from the Connetquot Elementary School:

Ashley Stock Ashley Powess Chris Buzzi
Kimberly Tucci Brittany Bayer Eveline Schmidt
Ashley Tsirigotis Jillian Gallino Larry Cohen
Amanda Guerrier Cassandra Erdman Danielle Brady

MINUTES TAKEN BY:
Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

2

(*The meeting was called to order at 9:42 A.M. *)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Good morning. Sorry we're a little late getting started this morning. I would just like to ask everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and I would like to ask Legislator Caracappa to lead us in the pledge.

Salutation

Thank you very much. We have quite a full agenda today, so we're going to try and be as efficient as possible because there are committees coming after us today all day long so we don't want to hold everyone up. I would like to -- before we begin this morning, I would like to welcome some visitors that we have here with us this morning. They are visiting from very far away and it seems quite appropriate that as we start the Olympics this Friday that we have visiting with us the girls basketball team, the Shanghai Administration of Sports from China. They are hosted this week by St. John the Baptist High School in West Islip. They are staying here, they're interacting with our students here. In fact, they're on their way into the city. I had hoped that we could get them to come to the Education and Youth Committee, but we have them here visiting this morning.

We also have with them Tedd Oberg who is the Head Varsity Girls Coach St. John the Baptist High School; Ted, if you would stand. Mr. Walter Lace who is the principal of St. John the Baptist. And please forgive me if I don't do this name right, but { Song Geefoo} who is the Headmaster of the Shanghai Administration of Sports, and also Lorraine Bouklas who is the Girls Athletic Director from St. John's. And would the members of the team please stand, we would like to recognize you and thank you so much for visiting.

Applause

You know, it's these kinds of exchanges I think that really make a difference in what happens in the world and we certainly can make a difference a person at a time. And there was a game the other night at St. John's, Monday evening, and Mr. Lace, could you tell us what the final score was?

MR. LACE:
57 to 52, I think.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Fifty-seven, fifty-two. And the --

MR. LACE:
We lost.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
And the Shanghai Administration of Sports, the girls from Shanghai were the better team that day. So we congratulate you. We encourage you to stay as long as you can, I know you're off into Manhattan. Have a wonderful day, enjoy the rest of your visit and thank you for being here. Okay, let us move --

3

MR. LACE:
Thank you.

Applause

We have a couple of presentations. First Chief Otto, if you would come forward, from the Sheriff's Department. Good morning, Chief Otto.

CHIEF OTTO:
Good morning. Legislator Carpenter and all participating members of the Public Safety Committee, good morning. I'm here this morning to speak briefly on IR Resolution 1089 because in some part misinformation or concern has apparently surfaced.

IR 1089 restores funding for the consultant fees in capital project 3035, the closed circuit TV system for the Riverhead Facility. Capital Project 3035 has two primary phases. The first is the consultant phase and the next is the construction and equipment phase. The construction and equipment phase is located somewhere way down the road after another RFP is written and the bid process has started all over again. This cannot be initiated until the consultant is finished with his recommendations. The consultant has already been contracted and is presently working in the Riverhead facility; his study and the recommendations will be released sometime in late March.

It also should be noted that the consultant is prohibited by the RFP to bid on Phase II. This IR resolution restores the original funding for his fee which had originally appeared in the Sheriff's Operating Budget in the year 1999. It was removed from that year's operating budget when a series of unrelated delays caused a contract to be signed in early 2002. Not only does this resolution restore this funding, but it places the funding where it belongs, in the Capital Project, not in the operating budget of the department.

I have taken the liberty to contact the Budget Review Office, the County's Budget Office and the County Executive's Office and have given the authorization to state that they all support this resolution. I respectfully request your consideration and approval with regard to this resolution. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Thank you very much, Chief Otto. Does anyone have any questions? Okay, thank you.

Next, I would like to ask Rabbi Moss to come forward. We have a number of appointments this morning for the Human Rights Commission.

RABBI MOSS:
Good morning, everyone. I would like to, first of all, thank you in advance for the approval of the nominations, but also to thank all of you very much for your constant and ever present support of the County's Human Rights Commission.

The commission, as many of you know, is made up of 15 Commissioners and we, over the last year-and-a-half to two years, have had a loss of a number of commissioners, as you can see by the new appointees. And

4

the County Executive has now placed these nomin -- these people for nomination and certainly I feel that all of them are very appropriate candidates to serve. And this would bring us, once again, up to our full complement in order to do our work.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Rabbi, I just want to ask. I know there are a number of appointments this morning; is everyone here who is scheduled to be appointed or reappointed?

RABBI MOSS:

Yes. Well, no, the reappointment persons are not here.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right, so we just have -- because that's kind of been the practice. We would like to see the new appointments.

RABBI MOSS:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So why don't I call those --

RABBI MOSS:

I do believe -- and I have to -- someone from the County Executive's Office would have to say this, it's not from me, I guess -- but with 1142-02, Mary Abad, I don't -- it was brought to my attention that actually she was supposed to replace someone whose term of office was up, Jason Short?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah, that resolution has been withdrawn.

RABBI MOSS:

Okay, good.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

RABBI MOSS:

But everyone else is here.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Well, why don't I just call off the names and if you could come forward, this way the committee can meet you and if there are any questions can ask them of you. Richard Hill, Lynda Perdomo-Ayala, Alice Lambert, Michele DelMonte, Sylvia Diaz, James Stephens, of course Rabbi Moss. Howard Glickstein is a reappointment, Rajeshwar Prasad is a reappointment and Augustus Mantia is a reappointment, okay. So if you would just introduce yourselves so we know who's who.

MR. HILL:

I'm Richard Hill from Selden and I've been nominated. I'm the Pastor of HOPE Lutheran Church in Selden.

5

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. If you could just give your name and who you represent or what your affiliation is, that would probably be sufficient to start with.

MS. PERDOMO-AYALA:

My name is Lynda Perdomo-Ayala, I'm from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, School of Medicine.

MS. LAMBERT:

I'm Alice Lambert, I am the Chairperson of the Board of Education of {Baneas Row Reform Temple} and a retired middle school Dean of Students from the William Paca School District.

MS. DIAZ:

My name is Sylvia Diaz, I live in Smithtown. I am Chief Deputy Commissioner for the Suffolk County Department of Social Services.

MR. STEPHENS:

James Stephens from Central Islip, I am an employee of Waldbaum's Supermarkets and President of the Log Cabin Republicans of Long Island.

MS. DELMONTE:

Good morning. Michele DelMonte, I live in Mastic Beach and I currently work with Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you very much for coming down here this morning. I know that the Legislature really appreciates those who are willing to come forward and serve on boards like this and to show your commitment that you've taken the time to be down here this morning is very meaningful and we do appreciate it. Does anyone have any questions of any of the appointments or any comments that they'd like to make? Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Really it isn't in terms of a question, but just to relay what Legislator Carpenter said, to thank you for serving the County and our communities and giving of your time so willingly. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, Legislator Lindsay. Any other comments or questions? Hearing none -- Legislator Bishop

LEG. BISHOP:

Did we get resumes?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yes, the resumes --

LEG. BISHOP:

There's so many people here I don't want to drag this on.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah. No, the resumes are attached to the resolutions. It's in the

6

backup. Okay, then. I thank you all for coming down and I wish you luck.

(Thank you said in unison)

RABBI MOSS:

May I just add one thing?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Certainly.

RABBI MOSS:

I just want to say that the commission welcomes interaction by the Legislators and any input, suggestions or comments about the work that we're doing, as well as the work that you hope that we could do, please just let us know because that way we can serve even better than we do. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Before we proceed, I would just like to put on the record that Legislator Postal has an excused absence this morning, she was not able to be here. And I would like to welcome visiting the committee this morning Legislator Binder and Legislator Cooper.

Next on the agenda is a presentation by the Police Commissioner, John Gallagher. Mr. Gallagher, if -- Commissioner, if you would just wait, Legislator Bishop asked if I could do the courtesy of allowing Councilwoman Berland to come forward first, she has an appointment and wanted to address the committee. So as a courtesy to Legislator Bishop, we would be happy to do that. Councilwoman Berland?

LEG. BISHOP:
She's in the hall.

MS. LoMORIELLO:
I'll get her.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Right at the table.

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:
Good morning, Legislator Carpenter and fellow Legislators. Sorry I was outside there for a moment, I apologize. My name is Susan Berland, I'm a Councilwoman for the Town of Huntington. I am here today as a parent and as a mother of four young children. I'm here in support of the concept of a DARE Program. I'm in support of the continuation of a drug and alcohol education program whether it's DARE or whether it's in some other format.

I have witnessed the benefits of the DARE Program first hand. My eleven year old daughter is a two time graduate of the DARE program. She first graduated from Chestnut Hill Elementary School in Dix Hills and then she graduated from the program at the Long Island School for the Gifted just in the last couple of weeks. My daughter as well as her classmates at both schools is totally empowered at this point in her life to say no to drugs. She's received the knowledge necessary

7

to lead a drug-free life. I heard the children give their own assessments of the DARE Program. I have heard them tell of the confidence they now have, the confidence to say no to drugs, the confidence to say no to violence. The confidence to walk away from drug dealers, the confidence to avoid dangerous situations. My daughter and her friends have the confidence to be drug-free adolescents and drug-free adults, right now. Does this last? I don't know; I personally can only hope.

I know that I will continue to reinforce to my children the importance of a drug-free life. Does the research support that the DARE Program as it exists right now continues them into a drug-free life? I don't know the answer to that either. But if we need to expand a program into the higher grades as recommended by Legislator Cooper, then I think that's something we should really seriously consider.

Our children are our most important resource, they're our future. It is up to us to protect them, to ensure their safety and to ensure their welfare. In order to do this, we must give them the necessary tools to succeed. They get these tools from the officers who teach the DARE classes and they get these tools from the parent who reinforce the values taught in DARE. We need to keep DARE or a similar program in our schools. All our futures depend upon it. Thank you very much.

Applause

LEG. BISHOP:
Thank you, Councilwoman. I don't know if committee members have any questions. I have one.

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:
Sure.

LEG. BISHOP:
It seems that the PTA's have shifted position; am I understanding that correctly? It was always you've got to keep the DARE Program, the DARE Program works, we need the DARE Program, and I think what I'm hearing today is we need the DARE Program or something that's just as good.

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:
Well, I can't speak on behalf of the PTA's. I am here because -- as a mother of Half Hollow Hills students. I got a flyer home which pretty

much was, you know, "Keep DARE in our schools, please attend this meeting for the benefit of your children, pass this on to people."

LEG. BISHOP:
Right.

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:
"Let's show they can't play with our children's lives." I personally, you know, with my daughter going through twice having changed schools, she is well equipped now. You know, I have -- I have read the information on both sides, so the PTA's may have the position to keep DARE or nothing else, but personally I think the most important thing

8

is to have a drug education program, whether it's DARE or whether it's some other format personally remains, you know, to be seen as far as I'm concerned.

LEG. BISHOP:
I'm sorry to put you on the spot but --

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:
No, that's okay.

LEG. BISHOP:
But you ran for office. When you say you want a drug alcohol program, I don't think there's a school district on Long Island that doesn't have it in some form. The question is do you think that we should use uniformed police officers in that program?

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:
Yes, yes. I definitely think --

Applause

In the case of my daughter at the sixth grade level, the uniformed police officers make a tremendous difference. Whether or not that difference would matter in the older grades or whether it would have the same impression or a different impression on them at that point, I don't know the answer. So it might be, you know, to keep the uniformed officers at the sixth grade level and then as you continue the program to the older grades, maybe then it's time not to have a uniformed officer but to have someone, you know, in plain clothes. But, you know, I can only -- you know, I can only speak from, you know -- my eleven year old is my oldest, so I'm sure there are other parents here who have older children who could speak more directly to that. But I don't know what the effect of having uniformed -- I mean, I think actually having a uniformed officer in the older grades may keep them off as well.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:
Yes.

LEG. BISHOP:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Legislator Caracappa.

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm glad that we have another elected official from another layer of government here to answer this question. If in the Town of Huntington you were deciding on a major policy that affected so many people, and in this instance thousands of kids, would you -- would you want, as an elected official accountable to the people, would you want that decision made by a department head or a Commissioner that is under you or would you want that as a policy decision by the town board and the supervisor?

9

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

Nothing like putting me on the spot here, huh?

LEG. CARACAPPA:

The reason I ask is to -- this is what -- this is what this resolution does, it gives the Legislature the ability to make a decision determining what we do with DARE and how we move forward with DARE as opposed to letting one individual, though a very good Commissioner, he's done a great job with the department, I think that the elected officials accountable to the people who elect us should have the say with relation to this what I call wonderful program and one that effects so many people. So would you want --

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

I would --

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Would you want a Commissioner making the decision for you on your behalf --

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

No, I would --

LEG. CARACAPPA:

-- or would you want to, as an elected official, to make it?

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

As an elected official, I would want to make the decision as part of the board.

Applause

LEG. CARACAPPA:

And I appreciate that because it's hard to get our point across that not only does 1072, the resolution number, put the control of DARE basically in the hands of the Legislature, it -- again, not to be redundant -- it lets us as elected officials accountable to the people who are sitting in that audience make the decision on behalf of their kids and their families.

Applause

LEG. BINDER:

Madam Chair? Madam Chair, could I ask a question?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. Legislator Binder, yes.

LEG. BINDER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Before you start, I just want to -- we have a lot of cards here this morning and as I said earlier, we've got committees that are going on all day, so we are going to try to keep to some sort of schedule and speakers will be having the allotted three minutes. And if you could please keep that in mind because there are a lot of cards and I know

10

that everyone wants an opportunity to speak and I'd had to deny anyone that. So continue, Legislator Binder.

LEG. BINDER:

Thanks. Sue, thanks for coming. Do you know that the DARE program itself has more than the component of the elementary school? I don't know if you realize that. Do you know that there is a middle school component that we offer in Suffolk County to districts that would like to opt in and we actually tried to but in this hub-ub we lost the opportunity last year to put in legislation that would have allowed us to implement the DARE Program in high school, because it's actually a three part program and a lot of people think it's just the one part. Were you aware that it's a multi-part program that goes through school?

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

My oldest is eleven, so I have to be honest with you and tell you that --

LEG. BINDER:

No, if you don't -- no, no.

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

You know, I came -- unfortunately -- I mean, I wear two hats. You know, I'm not here as a Councilperson, I'm here as a mother of an eleven year old daughter who just went through the program.

LEG. BINDER:

It's not to put you on the spot in that sense.

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

So you can ask me those questions but I'm here really as a mother, first and foremost.

LEG. BINDER:

The reason I asked the question is because as a mother, you're the average person probably who wouldn't know that this is a more comprehensive program than some people think that it is. They think it's just a fifth grade program and then we ask them in twelfth grade, "So what did you think about that program in fifth grade," and then we're surprised that it's a faint memory or if a memory at all. So I just wanted to see and I think you're the average, it's not -- it wasn't to put you down or denigrate you, it's kind of the average people don't know.

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

This was not a prepared thing that I came or politically anything. This is --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

-- as a mother

11

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much for coming down, we appreciate it.

COUNCILWOMAN BERLAND:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Now I would like to ask the Police Commissioner if he would come forward, and I know you have some speakers with you. Commissioner Gallagher?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Good morning. I would like to first just introduce the people that are here with me so that we're -- to my right is Dr. Caniff, James Caniff who is Chairperson of the Suffolk County DARE Priority One Task Force established by this Legislature. Next to him is Dr. Timothy Brennan, Superintendent of South Huntington Schools who is also a member of the task force that the Legislature established whose report you were given in December. Next to me is Fern Alexanderson, Task Force member representing Suffolk District PTA, she was the representative from the District PTA to the task force. And then to my left is Deputy Commissioner James Abbott.

Back when -- last week I guess it was, during a news conference that I held to reinforce one of the -- some of the buttressed reasons why we came to the conclusions we did as a task force, I said that I would appear before this committee and answer any questions you have and members of the task force graciously agreed to also appear.

I think the main thing I want to say this morning to this committee and to the Legislators that are accompanying this committee is that

the task force started out with a charge from this Legislature to investigate into -- investigate the DARE Program, investigate the operation of DARE, and they did so I think very diligently. I want to give my fellow task force members credit for the work they did and the months of research and meetings that were put in to the task force. The research we did turned out several studies that were done. But those studies that I am not citing this morning are the studies that were done, the academic studies going back to the 90's, the early 90's from the University of Kentucky, the Research Triangle Institute of North Carolina, etcetera, but those studies were part of a deposit of knowledge that was left with the Federal Government. And you know, in terms of the point I want to make, I know -- you know, the previous speaker has echoed a point that I've heard several times, that those children who go through the DARE Program emerge from that program committed to the resistance to drugs that that program espouses. And I think we all know that, we can all agree to that, that at the time they are exposed to the DARE program, the program works for them at that moment.

The program partially, we came to find out from the task force standpoint, works because of the presence of the police officers, that they're a major part and their presence in the classroom makes a major difference in the success or non success apparently of the program. But we move from opinion surveys, educated opinions, research surveys, you move to something at a different level, Ladies and Gentlemen.

12

What I cited here in this handout you got, the Federal Government at some point in its deliberations, over its programs like this or any program, moves to a finding of fact, that is a conclusive finding of fact. And since 1998, the Federal Government no longer considers DARE to be a research-based drug prevention program, that means it doesn't meet their criteria. That's a finding of fact, it's not an opinion. It's saying you don't meet the criteria for a program that can be deemed to be effective. It is no longer included in the list of effective programs that is published annually by the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

The Department of Education no longer endorses the DARE Program. It's safe, disciplined and drug-free schools expert panel, which is a rather bureaucratic long name but it's a group that is the lead, the expert group in the Department of Education that the department uses as the guideline for assessing drug resistance education. They have taken DARE off the list of effective programs, they have taken DARE off the list of promising, even promising programs. They have said that the program does not have an effective or promising designation.

Finally, the Surgeon General of the United States in the Year 2001 wrote that one school based universal prevention program, one of them, meets this criteria, the criteria that is -- the finding of fact of the Surgeon General was the criteria that you establish for a program working or not working, DARE meets the does not work criteria. "Children who participate," the Surgeon General concluded, "are as likely to use drugs than those who do not participate." The Surgeon General's finding of fact, when you go buy a pack of cigarettes you know on the side it says, "Warning: The Surgeon General has decided determined", that's a finding of fact. This is a finding of fact. This is a factual, conclusive -- it's not an opinion. It's based on a body of research that determined on the part of the Federal Government through the Justice Department, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and the Surgeon General, four different levels of Federal research based decision makers came to these findings of fact about DARE.

Given that program's assessment and the conclusion drawn by those agencies, we have come up as a task force with the following conclusions, that we -- I -- I made the commitment and continue to make the commitment that I will continue to commit DARE officers to teaching drug resistance in our schools. The officers who are now designated DARE officers will remain officers assigned to teaching drug resistance education in the schools. But I'm urging the schools to sit down and work with me to develop programs that have

comprehensive educational components, that do not just concentrate on whether it's in the middle school, high school, fifth grade, fourth grade, a 17 week -- under the DARE Program as it's classically ordered now. The program -- again, not the program as it may turn out to be under the revision they're doing now which, by the way, was an admission on the part of DARE of America, this franchise operator, that their program needed to be revised, they're going through revision now. They are going through some preliminary studies that show what promise or whatever they're saying they show.

13

The fact is the programs I'm dealing with is the program that's in place now and the program I have to deal with is the program that we are actually operating now in the schools. And our conclusion is that that program as it's operated with the 17 week classic DARE educational component starting in fourth or fifth grade, that that program is not an effective program. And I'd like to take the officers that are teaching in that program and use them more effectively in a comprehensive program, something that takes into account the ability of the schools to run drug education programs through -- right from the K through 12 level of schools. And we're there to help them. We're there to be part of it, but I need to get -- you know, with my opinion, I need to get -- the decision that I am trying to seek here is the decision not based on -- I didn't wake up one morning and say, "I want the officers out of DARE." The task force came to its conclusions based on the findings of the United States Government. You know, when you make a decision you don't make it just simply in a vacuum.

So I am trying to get the schools to work with me. I am trying to be as flexible as possible. I am making a decision based on what I can hear from you as Legislators, as policy makers. I would like to also make sure that the word policy is clearly understood, that it's a broad-based -- a directive to me, not a specific one program directive.

So with all of those, you know, caveats and with all of those directions I'm trying to move in, I would ask you to consider what we're trying to do as a task force, what we've recommended. As you see in the conclusions, we've recommended that you do -- that the schools develop comprehensive drug education programs to target all grade levels and that we as a community, we start to build coalitions. You're going to hear later from some speakers that have actually been working at this concept of the coalition approach to school community education and drug resistance. And I think it's a much -- to me it's a much more promising approach than the specific approach that DARE officers.

If anybody else? I think some other people here on the task force would like to make some statements also.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Fern?

MS. ALEXANDERSON:
As a member of the task force, I've been accused of entering into this project with a predesigned outcome. I can say that although the committee members entered into this project with five different opinions of what was needed regarding DARE, once the work ensued our consensus was built not on personal opinion or agenda but a true discussion and evaluation of the research, research that included assessments of other communities across the country, review of requirements from the SAFE and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

14

Grant, a Suffolk County study of young adults' perceptions and reported behavior and numerous other sources.

Our conclusion of the need for this Legislature to support our communities and schools in the development of a comprehensive kindergarten through grade twelve approach to drug abuse resistance education is well thought and provides Suffolk county with a monument opportunity.

During the past year I've spoken to a number of people regarding the DARE Program. I listened to the testimony of students, young adults and parents praising the program. My initial impression, like that of others who experience it, was positive. Children and adults have fond memories of the DARE Program, mainly revolving around the positive relationship between the uniformed DARE officer and the students. Everyone feels good about participating in DARE. But years later when self-reporting their use of drugs and that of their peers, quite a different impression surfaces. Suffolk County Young Adults report drug and alcohol use above the national average. In a County with such good experience with DARE, how can this be? We know that the key to long-term student learning is a curriculum that builds and reinforces learning over time. The seventeen weeks of the DARE Core Program, or even the Core Program coupled with the other middle school and high school components, cannot produce results that will not erode over time.

New York state Commissioner of Education, Richard Mills, has been nationally recognized for raising the standards of education in our State. The standards initiative is built on regular assessment of curriculum in schools. Programs that do not produce positive results are subject to the change or inter -- to change or intervention. All assessments of DARE, except those conducted by DARE America, show that DARE's positive results are short-term at best and the revamping of the program is just beginning. We need to act now.

Federal funding for resistance education is available to schools that engage the community in the schools efforts. Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Community Funds are available if a program is enacted to meet and assessed community, need involves key stakeholders and is evaluated annually. DARE is specifically cited as not eligible for funding by this Federal grant. The National PTA began an initiative to build partnerships between schools, families and communities with the goal of students success in education and life. The involvement of parent and community support are key components of any successful education program.

The Suffolk District PTA Board of Managers, after a review of the task force report, voted to support the task force findings; you all have a copy, I believe, of that statement. Parents in communities who are lulled into a false sense of security never address problems early enough to save them from tragic results. DARE seems to provide parents with a false sense of security that children who have graduated from the program will remain drug-free. There are programs out there that are available to our schools but many of our resources remain untapped because of our reliance on the DARE Program. Fighting to preserve a short-term, flared program diverts attention from the real issue.

15

Suffolk County youth report drug use personally and among peers at above the national average. This problem needs to be addressed comprehensively and now is the opportunity. This is not a police issue, it's not a health issue and it's not a school issue, it's a Suffolk County issue and it needs to be addressed with the input of all.

The task force engaged all the stakeholders and they should be heard clearly in unity. We need to focus our attention, our energy, our dollars and our support for a comprehensive Kindergarten through grade 12 program of Drug Resistance Education in Suffolk County. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Dr. Brennan?

DR. BRENNAN:
Talk about a field that makes spurious decisions on the basis of

incomplete research, try public education. We have a sad list; new math, whole language, block of time, unguided use of microcomputers. And so I'm a skeptic about research. I believe we now have two sets of triangulated research on which we can base our progress, and I want to thank the Legislature for that. Thank Commissioner Gallagher for having the courage to say, "I don't think DARE works," thank the people at this table who said, "Well, wait a minute, we're going to have a task force." Because we school districts could never have mounted a research study like this. I believe the research shows we have two DARES; we have the human side of DARE, the police officers, and we have the paper and pencil side of DARE. Triangulated data that the officers are wonderful, the kids will tell you, they told us in the public hearings, they'll tell you later.

In the same study that the Surgeon General said DARE does not work, he said, "But the DARE officers have a long-term effect on young people's view of police officers." And the other triangulation? We see it every day in our school districts. We not only have these officers teach, we sometimes have them talk to kids who don't have a father at home. These men and women who come in will say, you know, "Officer Maureen is going to talk to you before she goes to class." They are the best. And I as a Superintendent will tell you right now, I cannot replace those officers in my classrooms with anybody nearly as good.

On the other hand, I believe we have triangulated data that the rest of DARE does not work. We certainly started by looking at the Surgeon General's statement. That office takes a long time to, for example, put statements on the side of cigarette packs or packs of saccharine, and so I started there and we looked to see why would the Surgeon General say that? And I found two particularly disturbing studies; one, a 1998 Illinois DARE Study. Now, remember, DARE has been in operation for 18 years, so a 1998 study would be in the 13th or 14th year of DARE's operated, not when they're just getting started. And that Illinois study found that DARE has even unwittingly encouraged some young people to try drugs, especially students in the suburbs.

And another disturbing study by a very reputable group called the Research Triangle Institute found that, "DARE could be taking the place of other more beneficial drug use curricula that adolescents

16

could be receiving." So we've got the Surgeon General, we've got the university, but I do want to just point out these charts to you for a moment. Drs. Foreman and Koppelman of Long Island Planning Board did a study of 2,500 Suffolk County youth, and I believe we made charts of these because we believe these charts seem to backup the Surgeon General and the Illinois and Research Triangle Studies. I must say, this is not a perfect sample; it's not randomized and there's no data on pre-drug use before these kids were surveyed. This is a survey of Boards of Education and Superintendents who had the courage to participate in the survey. Have you used marijuana? The DARE kids seemed to have used marijuana more recently than the none DARE kids. The DARE kids, that's 1.1 -- and by the way, this is in your report -- seems to equate to between last year and last month, whereas the non DARE kids are between never and last year.

We got a similar report on marijuana when what grade level did you first use marijuana? Once again, the DARE kids seemed to use it earlier, 1.4 would put them somewhere between 10th and 12th grade whereas the non DARE kids were between never and 12th grade. Having come up with those reports, we then asked Drs. Foreman and Koppelman to see if they could find a similar, national study by which we could compare Suffolk County use with national use. So once again, this is not a perfect fit; it's our study versus the monitoring the future 2000. But it does not point a picture of everything is fine, keep the status quo. In fact, it appears that last month Suffolk County 12th graders, 59% of them used alcohol where national 12th graders, 50% used alcohol. We found a similar finding with marijuana.

And so I say we can't ignore this. I think what we need to do is find our points of agreement, keep those officers, keep the best, get to work on the rest. South Huntington will be piloting a new DARE

Program and I think DARE America, I'm not sure we should be hanging on to for DARE life to this grade 5-7 program if DARE America's new program is instead a grade seven through nine. Instead, I think the Legislature, who I believe should make this decision, should maintain police officer presence at the current levels using programs that fit the Federal criteria for effective, drug-preventive programs. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, Dr. Brennan. Dr. Canniff, did you have anything to add?

DR. CANNIFF:

No, I don't have anything to add at this time.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you. I would open it up to members of the committee. And also, let me welcome Legislator Fields who has joined us. I know that the Police Commissioner sent a letter to each of the Legislators talking about the fact that this presentation was going to be made, so I thank particularly those who are not on the committee who took the time to be here this morning. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for coming this morning to talk about this very important subject. By the charts and by the

17

report, DARE doesn't work; what does work? Is there a {canned} program that does fit the criteria of the U.S. Department of Education, the Surgeon General, etcetera?

DR. BRENNAN:

Yes.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

There's no can program. I think the report that I saw said that there are programs that work better than DARE. In other words, there's no one program that fits all needs but there are other programs that are listed as effective and promising.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay, but do we have to reinvent the wheel? We can't emulate some of these programs that do work in and are approved?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

We can't emulate them, Legislator Lindsay, if we are -- in the DARE Program, the DARE Program is a franchised program. You contract to teach a 17 week curriculum, you know, mode by mode, class by class, that's your contract, you can't deviate from that. So we can't introduce these other programs into the 17 week DARE Program.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I'm not suggesting that but, you know, if DARE doesn't work, we don't have a prototype that we can say to the school districts, "This program does work"?

DR. CANNIFF:

I don't think there's a proto type. First of all, in the report on page 19 on table six

DR. BRENNAN:

That's Appendix A.

DR. CANNIFF:

Appendix A, it lists some sample, effective and promising programs. But I think the reason that the task force came up with the recommendation that we have to build our own is that we can take elements from other programs but we know we have to have a comprehensive program that fits the needs of Suffolk County. And when we look across the country, the comprehensive programs that respond to what the community needs are the ones we should build upon, and that's why we have not come up with a specific program. I wish we had one,

but our research didn't indicate that there was such a program. There are plenty of elements out there but not comprehensiveness.

DR. BRENNAN:

We did find that the successful programs all have some of the same things in common, and in your report we listed what they are. Everybody is trained, there's instruction at every grade level, there are at least three nonacademic components like drug-free movies, trips, you know, leadership program, Tri-CYA, Weed and Seed, and they all work together. And most importantly, that everybody is involved, the media, the Legislature, the town government, the peers, the

18

parents and the business and the teachers. That's in your report. We don't have to reinvent the wheel. And there are similarities if there's no program that can be clicked into place, and there isn't.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Because one of the features of DARE is it's convenient, you know, it's something we can adopt, we can implement it pretty uniformly, it has a lot of advantages there. Again, you know, I don't want to condone or endorse a program that doesn't work, but I don't want to see drug education abandoned.

DR. BRENNAN:

That's right.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And us not be prepared to step in the void with something that does work.

DR. BRENNAN:

You're right, Legislator Lindsay.

Applause

LEG. LINDSAY:

And I'm fearful that will happen unless we come across with specific recommendations what to put into place.

DR. BRENNAN:

Well, as the Superintendent of Schools, I believe elected officials should make policy decisions, but I'm used to recommending how that would be done. I would recommend you change your resolution to say that the same level of police presence currently afforded to districts in the DARE Program be continued and that the district be required to submit for approval a comprehensive drug program. And by the way, that should be easy because every school has to do that to get Federal funds. But I agree with you, with scores like this, I don't think we should be asking should we use DARE, should we not, I think we should be asking how did we get into this situation and what can we do about it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

If I could. Are you finished, Legislator Lindsay?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I was looking at this flier that Suffolk District PTA gave each of us and the resolution that the Suffolk District PTA adopted, and they're basically asking us, challenging us as a Legislative body I think, to look at the implementation of a comprehensive K to 12 Drug Awareness Program, and Dr. Brennan said something that I thought was very meaningful this morning. He thanked the Legislature for committing the resources to put the drug task force together and to allow them to do the study because as a district they would not have been able to do it. And I think that we should take up this challenge and I've had

19

conversations with Legislative Counsel about it with Legislator Caracappa and the Police Commissioner about taking what we have that's good and making it better and making it work. And right now we as a County have been lauded for our initiative in utilizing tobacco money to do tobacco cessation programs, to -- we've got drug educators in the Health Department who are going into the schools and doing the Choices Program, and a lot of what's in that Choices Program are some of the very good components of the DARE Program where you talk about peer pressure, making healthy choices. And I would like to see us and I would ask the committee to consider embracing this concept of putting together a blue ribbon panel that will work on developing that program. I know the Police Commissioner has talked about keeping the commitment to the drug educators, police officers, continuing forward, and I think that while that's happening, we should be developing a comprehensive program that works and would challenge, as we've been challenged, would challenge Suffolk District PTA, would challenge the Superintendents Association, would challenge educators, would like to see participation by our best DARE officers because they're in the classroom with the kids, they know what's effective. I know I've had conversations with some of the them and some of the things that they're required to teach, they're mandated to teach when they adopt that DARE curriculum, they don't necessarily support. And I know we have heard feedback from parents who, then when they have gone to a DARE lecture, are appalled at some of what is being taught as part of that curriculum.

So I think yes, we need to look at this in a very, very broad stroke. And I don't think anyone is suggesting that in the interim that we abandon drug education in our schools, that we abandon the DARE Program, but that we try to come up with something that really does the job for our kids. And I know that -- I have seen the bumper stickers that say "Save DARE", but I say that we need to save our kids first. And if DARE isn't the thing that does it, then we need to come up with something that does. I think I went to Legislator Cooper, then Binder, then Bishop, Fields, Caracappa; let me get that list down. Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

I wanted to echo a lot of what Legislator Carpenter just said. I don't know how many Legislators around this table have sat in on a DARE Program at school. I believe -- I know I'm the only Legislator here who has five kids, two of whom have gone through DARE already, and I did sit in on my daughter's DARE class last year and I also was appalled at some of what was taught there, and I was not the only parent, there were several parents there all for the first time. And I know there was one part of the curriculum one day where the DARE officer was teaching the kids about other temptations that they may be facing and mentioned, for example, sniffing glue and it went into some detail about that. And the kids across the board were entirely new to this concept, they had no idea that you could get high sniffing glue, and all the parents turned to each other and said, "Why are they teaching this in the classroom?" They thought it was totally inappropriate to be talking about that with fifth and sixth grade kids, the concern being that we would be providing them with information that they were not picking up at that time at that age and that we may be encouraging them to try something that they otherwise

20

would not have tried. And this may dovetail with some of the studies that we were quoted earlier that showed that DARE graduates in some instances have a greater likelihood to try drugs or smoke or drink, and at an earlier age.

I'm not adverse to the concept of the Legislature making the decision ultimately as to whether we should continue DARE because it is a very important question. I for one, however, if I'm forced to make this decision, I want to guarantee everyone that it's not going to be made based on what's best for parents or teachers or cops or politicians, but only what's based -- what's best for our kids. I want to see the most comprehensive, most effective drug and alcohol prevention program available. Anyone who seeks to imply that there may be other motivations behind our decision, and among them cost, I think that

those accusations are misplaced and I personally am insulted by it. I certainly want to make sure that we have the very best, most comprehensive program in place so that my children, my kids will be less likely to smoke or do drugs or drink alcohol when they get older.

I asked my own daughter Jessica when she was in the midst of the DARE Program what she thought about it and of course she said she loved the program. I mean, what's not to love? You get T-shirts, you get bumper stickers, the police officer comes to your class, you have time off from your regular classroom assignments. So the fifth graders, the sixth graders love the program, there's no doubt about that. But I also asked my 17 year old what he thought about DARE and I asked about six or seven of his friends. To a kid, they all said that DARE was a joke, they all said that it had no impact long-term on whether or not they did drugs. And I know that at my kid's school, I'd say 25%, 30% of my kids friends either smoke pot, smoke cigarettes or drink, and they all graduated from the DARE Program.

So I believe that everyone in this room, everyone, whether you're on that side of the horseshoe or this side, you're well intentioned and you really want what's best for your kids. I really have, and have had for some time, some real concerns that DARE may not be the most effective program out there. I know that there are other programs, whether it be Choices, whether it be Compass, that I've heard are equally effective, if not more effective. I agree that we need a very comprehensive program, one that involves not just teachers and cops but parents and the whole community, local businesses, etcetera. I'd like to see that sort of a program created and implemented County wide.

One thing that's nice about DARE, I think -- and again, I'm not impugning the intentions of anyone here, but just from personal experience and friends and neighbors that I've spoken to -- one thing that's nice about it is that it's very easy for parents. I know that for my two kids who went through -- I have two kids that went through DARE in sixth grade, I didn't play any roll whatsoever in the process, the parents weren't asked to. There was no homework to check, there were no reports to get involved with, there was not interaction with the kids on it, it was all done in the classroom. If you wanted to attend the DARE graduation you did. I think that at the DARE graduation, maybe 35 kids, there were maybe three parents that bothered to show up.

21

So unless the parents are involved, then I think it's much more difficult for the program to work.

What's nice about DARE is that it doesn't require much effort on the part of parents. And everyone is very busy. My concern is that there are a lot of parents that think that their kids are immune from the pressures to do drugs or alcohol because their kids went through a 17 week program at school, but it's a lot harder than that. And for us to make sure that our kids do remain off drugs and alcohol and cigarettes, it's going to take a lot of effort on the part of parents not just for one year or two years, but it may be from the time that our kids are in kindergarten through the time they graduate from high school. And a lot of parents don't want to hear that because, number one, it is a lot of effort on their part and, number two, right now I think that they do have a false sense of security.

If I asked most of my neighbors whether they thought that their kids were doing drugs, they'd all say no, but I know to the contrary. I mean, I've met these kids. I've spoken to my son, his best friend who is like a brother to him and one month I realized that he hadn't seen his friend for several months and I asked him why and he really hesitated speaking to me about it but finally, after a couple of weeks he finally confided in me that the reason was that his friend had begun doing drugs and he was concerned about running around with that crowd. But this kid's parent has no idea, no idea whatsoever that her son is smoking, doing pot and drinking beer; well, he graduated from DARE just as my son graduated from DARE. I think the difference is that my kid, I remain very active with my child, I continually

impressed upon him that smoking and drinking and drugs is a bad idea. We have a good open relationship. I think that was one of the key components. They both went through DARE, one kid is now smoking and doing drugs, one of them is not. So it clearly was not DARE that was the defining program in that case.

So I respect those that believe in DARE, I really respect those that have the guts to question DARE's effectiveness. And my hope is that we can somehow come up with a more comprehensive program drawing together not just schools and parents but the broader community in an effort to make sure that the statistics that right now apparently show that kids in Suffolk County use drugs on an average rate higher than in other communities across the country, that that could be turned around and we'll have a decline in drug use in Suffolk County.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, Legislator Cooper. Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. I suspect if DARE does work that you'll never find a 17 year old who will say, "Oh yeah, I don't do drugs because I went through the DARE Program and got a tee shirt when I was in the sixth grade." It's going to work in a cumulative manner similar to commercials on television. Nobody says, "Oh yeah, I bought that because I saw the commercial and I thought it was swell," you know, but it works on a different level.

22

While nobody can match the cynicism of a 17 year old, I will attempt a few questions that might belie my own cynicism. In this pilot program -- or display my own cynicism. In this pilot program will the amount of police hours, uniform police hours in the classroom, equal, exceed or be less than they currently are?

DR. BRENNAN:

It will exceed it. We sent the permission slips out to our parents last week, the folks from the University of Akron are here this week and the officers are due in in two weeks. I understand the introductory program which is currently a grade five is being moved to grade seven.

LEG. BINDER:

No.

DR. BRENNAN:

And the refresher program from grade seven is being moved to grade nine.

LEG. BINDER:

Let --

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, you can correct --

LEG. BINDER:

Incorrect statement.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, Commissioner, actually do you have the answer? The amount of officer hours in the classroom, is that going to increase, decrease or be the same?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I'm not sure, I don't have an answer for the amount of officer hours. We're doing whatever the pilot program asks us to do as far as instructional components of the program where the officers were sent for their training, I believe they went to -- I believe they went to Ohio but I'm not sure. They're trained, they are ready to do the program as the DARE curriculum has been given to us.

LEG. BISHOP:

Oh, maybe I misunderstand. The pilot is not the alternative to DARE,

it's the enhanced DARE?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Well, that's what I was going to ask you. Are you defining -- I assume what you mean by the pilot program is the experimental program that DARE is working out with the University of Akron under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation?

LEG. BISHOP:

No.

23

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

No.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, no, that's not what I meant, but let's answer that one. That one there would be more DARE participation in the classroom, is that correct?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I don't know the number of hours. I don't know the number of hours, the number of sessions.

DR. BRENNAN:

It's almost double.

LEG. BISHOP:

Almost double, okay.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Well, the Superintendent would be more --

LEG. BISHOP:

And then other people are disagreeing, so we'll hash that out as we move along. Have we developed -- if we are to eliminate DARE at the end of the school year, have we developed an alternative program in Suffolk County; not yet?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

No. What I'm asking the school district is to start now to work with me towards an end of a more comprehensive program than what is envisioned by the DARE Program.

LEG. BISHOP:

And in that development process, is the Police Department's position that school districts, you can have the same amount of police officer personnel hour, power, as you have now, will you have less, or will you have more?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I'm not in any way diminishing the number of hours that officers that are presently teaching DARE would be assigned to any other program that either supplements or supplants DARE. They would be there for the same hours that -- the number of hours that the schools need them they would be there. If it takes more hours of their time spread of more schools, we would work that out, too, in terms of the amount of hours that I have available, the officers I have available.

LEG. BISHOP:

So if the school districts want them in September of 2002, there will be the same amount of uniformed police officers in the classroom as today, although it wouldn't necessarily be under the category of DARE.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I think -- yeah. If we could get away from the same amount of uniformed police officers -- actually, if we get away from the DARE contracted franchise obligation, I can then commit officers both from

24

the traditional DARE teaching officers that we identify with DARE now,

I can also commit COPE officers who are capable of doing these same lectures, you know, to doing lectures that are dealing with drug programs. I can't commit them on the 17 week DARE Program basis but I can commitment them without -- you know, once I have a more flexible approach to the program I can commit more officers, yes.

LEG. BISHOP:

I don't think that parents, Legislators, students believe in the name DARE, T shirts or bumper stickers. I think what they do believe in, however, is the presence of uniformed officers in classrooms. And what I'm trying to get at is in developing this alternative, are we maintaining the same commitment that we currently have or are we envisioning a reduction?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

At the least we're maintaining the same commitment. I'm envisioning actually an increase in commitment of police officers in the classrooms.

LEG. BISHOP:

Very good. Thank you, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Binder.

LEG. BINDER:

Thank you. I obviously have a lot of grave concerns about this particular report, how it was put together. I have concerns about intent. I have concerns when a task force -- on a task force, sitting in the task force are people who have a public stated position before the task force ever was created. It would seem to me if you were forming a task force -- and I've said this from the beginning -- if you're forming a task force, the people who are in the closed door helping to create a study that's supposed to be credible on the other end must be all people who haven't particularly publicly, or even privately, given their position. And I think it's unfortunate we created a task force that had people who had publicly stated their position. So how do we know? I mean, you can all come out and say, "We we have no bias, there was no bias, there was nothing here, we only did everything credibly", except that people who had a stated position were sitting there. And historically, I don't think -- or just go around, go look at other studies. Ask if any of these other studies that you even site, RTI or any of the others, would actually put someone in the room on the study who had publicly declared what they thought the program should have before they actually started the study. Would they have them in the room? Would they have them there participating the formulation? And I think not and I think that that's what's happened here.

I think also -- and I'm very weary and leery on any level in politics, whether it's national, State, local, whenever you hear -- when you know -- how do you know something is political? And when you -- and the way you know it immediately is when everyone is using the same word, they all of a sudden have a catch phrase or a word and everybody seems to be saying the same tune. And what we have here today is the

25

same word over and over; comprehensive, comprehensive, comprehensive, we need a comprehensive, it's got to be comprehensive. Comprehensive, it's a wonderful word, everybody agrees, it's got to be comprehensive. The DARE Program is not just a fifth grade program, it's a comprehensive program. The question is whether we are willing to utilize that.

In this task force survey, did we look at our seventh grade program? In other words, the middle school, did we take a look to see, did we survey, at least have something to see how it worked when we had a fifth grade and a seventh grade component, do we know? Because I don't know, does anybody -- did we do that?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Are you asking that question?

LEG. BINDER:
I'm asking a question, sure.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
The research -- Dr. Foreman is here. The research that was done did not examine the seventh grade program because there was not sufficient base to examine as to the number of times the program is used and the number of schools it's used in.

LEG. BINDER:
Well --

MS. ALEXANDERSON:
Some of the respondents to the survey had had both programs.

LEG. BINDER:
So did that skew it?

MS. ALEXANDERSON:
But we can't -- there weren't enough to separate it because there are very few schools that use the second DARE component.

LEG. BINDER:
How many schools do we have?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:
Forty-one.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
It's listed in the research document in terms of -- you know, I would defer to Dr. Foreman if you want to ask questions about --

LEG. BINDER:
Well, let me ask you a question. Are there more -- are there more of -- no, because it was a policy decision whether to use it or not, and that was your policy. Let me -- are there more --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
No, it was not a -- Legislator Binder --

26

LEG. BINDER:
Let me ask you a question.

LEG. BINDER:
-- you keep using policy decision, you keep using that the same as we use the word comprehensive.

LEG. BINDER:
No, no.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
The policy was to do a research on scientific data.

LEG. BINDER:
Let me rephrase policy. It was a decision whether you would use this or not and how you would structure the questionnaire. What my question is, you did a survey and you did a comparison between those who had DARE and those who didn't. How many school districts don't have DARE?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
There are four districts in the --

LEG. BINDER:
In the whole County that don't have DARE.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
-- Police District that don't have it.

LEG. BINDER:

How many districts take the middle school program, how many here on this list; no more than three, more than four? So in other words, there's a larger statistical pool --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
No, there is not.

LEG. BINDER:
Oh, there's not more than three?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
There's not a larger pool among those districts. Dr. Foreman can answer that question for you, Sir.

LEG. BINDER:
Sure, go ahead.

DR. FOREMAN:
In the first place, we didn't -- we decided not to look at the middle school program because most school districts, or almost all school districts that we surveyed, that's not the core of the DARE Program. Most of those that do participate in the middle school programs do so in an complete capacity, meaning that there are ten sessions under the current DARE curriculum and most of the middle schools are unable to schedule ten consistent classes as dictated by the DARE core curriculum. As well, we were looking for long-term results somewhere

27

on the order of five to seven years after the DARE Program is implemented and the Suffolk County Legislature didn't approve the middle school program for use until about, I guess now it's three, three to four years ago. So we decided not to look at those.

LEG. BINDER:
Well, why isn't three or four years a reasonable long-term or at least would give us an opportunity? Because as you know, I went to one the task force meetings when you decided whether to use seven or not, and I said this was coming, I said that I was going to be very concerned that you wouldn't look at what might be the best, incomplete, not incomplete, see if there were some that did complete it, see if they were willing to do it. The reason being is isn't it always better to say, "Here's the best we had to offer under the DARE Program," and to see what the effect was. And then if was effective you can say, "Well, I don't know if just the fifth grade works, but obviously having the two inoculations, the fifth and seventh grade works, and we would then recommend that all the other school districts -- because then we can make it a recommendation -- that other school districts that only have fifth move on and add this to their curriculum. If we find out that it doesn't, then that raises a further question. But when you only do a survey of those schools who only have the one level, fifth, then all you're doing is you're looking at what might not be the best program.

And in fact -- look, here's the -- what you did was you went out and you said let's look to see, in effect, if whether we start giving addition and subject to kids in fifth grade and the school district doesn't do any more math for years, and then we go to in tenth grade -- they don't do any more math, they just do addition and subtraction in fifth grade, they'll get tests of course, and in tenth grade we ask them, "How is your addition and subtraction?" Well, it's not going to be very good because you haven't continued, you haven't done a further program. Comprehensive, the word you keep using.

What you found out was something that's obvious. Fifth graders are not, by five and ten years out, going to retain something when they had a 17 week program. I mean, the fifth graders would give you -- their answer would be, "Duh, no kidding. I mean, you didn't give us anything new." The point is that DARE as a national program has many components. What are the components? The components are fifth grade, middle school, high school which I was in the middle of trying to put in when this all hit. Because we had legislation in the Legislature last year that got bottled up because we would have had a high school

program, so we would have had comprehensiveness in the program, three levels of it. It has a parental component which should be used and maybe we should be encouraging the parental -- maybe they don't use it, so maybe that's something we should do, what we should look at.

What you did was you said we've got a fifth grade program, it doesn't last until tenth and twelfth grade, no kidding. And you know what? It doesn't work so let's throw it out and let's see if we can come up with something ourselves right here in little Suffolk County. We can figure it out because we are brilliant. We are better than Robert Wood Johnson; they've got \$15 million and they're figuring it out. We're brilliant, we can do better than a national program that has input

28

from students and parents and police officers and people from all over the country. They also utilize national research, take it in, pace it, figure out what's best, what's not, but we in Suffolk County, we're going to figure out what's the best way to do this thing. And maybe we can let each of the 60 school districts, let them all figure it out for themselves. So what we've done is we've said, because we've looked at one little piece, the DARE curriculum doesn't work.

The fact is that this task force doesn't even know what the new DARE curriculum is. I'm listening and they're saying, "Well, this is what's going on, the DARE curriculum." The DARE curriculum in the pilot program -- South Huntington School District is going to be the seventh grade.

DR. BRENNAN:
Seven and nine.

LEG. BINDER:
Seven to nine revamped program under the Robert Wood Johnson Study, but that doesn't mean they're not doing the fifth grade program. DARE still will be doing the fifth grade program, they're revamping it, they're shortening it. Why? Because they do have input that they have to change some of the curriculum, that it's too long.

Now, the question was put by Legislator Bishop. He says, "Well, how many hours" -- and I think maybe he wasn't asking about the knew DARE Program -- he's asking how many hours would be a commitment of police. The truth is I have a task force who has just spent all the time studying it and doesn't know what the commitment would be under the new DARE Program. The commitment would be 29 hours at three levels. There would be the K through 4, occasional visits by police officers, they would show up in the classrooms just to start, it's kind of a base. Fifth grade program, shortened, so you would go from 17 weeks to nine weeks. Why? Because they use that more now -- they would use that more as a launching point to get them ready for the seventh grade program. Now you get into the seventh grade program which South Huntington is going to pick up and they're -- and then they're going to have -- what would be the best? Tell me we're going to figure out a better middle school program than a national \$15 million study, which we're participating in here in Suffolk, that's going to be the next portion of it. And the last portion will be high school, which I tried to do here, and so we can continue to get them all the way through. Talk about the word comprehensive? That's comprehensive. And the total number of hours for all of three pieces will be 29 hours.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
That's your definition of comprehensive?

LEG. BINDER:
Right now it's 27 hours if you use the middle school and fifth grade. Go ahead, I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
I just want to clarify, that is your definition then of a comprehensive program, visits through kindergarten, etcetera.

29

LEG. BINDER:

The DARE Program will start, K through four they'll start the visits.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Let me just -- I'm asking you, that's your definition of what a comprehensive program is.

LEG. BINDER:

I am looking at this program -- comprehensive to me starts at K --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Well, you took us to task for using the word comprehensive, so --

LEG. BINDER:

Right, I'll tell you what I think comprehensive is. You want me to finish? You want me to answer or you want to cut me off?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

What is your definition of comprehensive?

LEG. BINDER:

Comprehensive is when we start at the earliest time, which would be kindergarten, we get them all the way through high school and we utilize national information, national studies, national data to tell us how best to do the program from K through 12. That's comprehensive.

MS. ALEXANDERSON:

The biggest flaw --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Could comprehensive -- excuse me. Would comprehensive -- not -- utilizing national data, can I just address that a moment, Madam Chair? Would you utilize the data of the finding of fact of the United States Government that DARE is not an effective program?

LEG. BINDER:

Well, let's see. Do you have actually -- does it say DARE isn't an effective program?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Yes, I do. It is, yes, it says that in the --

LEG. BINDER:

In the Department of Education?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Yes.

LEG. BINDER:

Because, in fact, that was interesting. Fern, I'd love to get -- I'd love to get what you said. You said that they specifically said that DARE was specifically cited in terms of the grant, it was specifically cited --

MS. ALEXANDERSON:

That DARE is no longer covered because --

30

LEG. BINDER:

No, no, no, you said -- was it not --

MS. ALEXANDERSON:

Because it doesn't --

LEG. BINDER:

Was it not on the list or was it specifically cited? In other words, be cited and say --

MS. ALEXANDERSON:

Yes, it was specifically cited.

LEG. BINDER:

Can you get me that, please?

MS. ALEXANDERSON:
And the reason that it was --

LEG. BINDER:
Can you get that for me?

MS. ALEXANDERSON:
Yes, I will, I'll find it for you. But the reason that it was specifically cited is because it doesn't include all the principals of effectiveness which is to include the community and include everybody in the drug abuse resistance education. This includes the police and it includes the parents and it includes the schools and children but it doesn't include the community at large, which is a key component that this program does not have. And the parent program is under utilized of the DARE Program, we do know that.

LEG. BINDER:
Agreed.

MS. ALEXANDERSON:
And the reason is because we can't get the parents to come to these type of programs; as a PTA person, I know this. You go to PTA meetings around the County and you get a small handful of people that show up, because people are busy and they can't. One of the initiatives this Task Force has asked that the Legislature come up with a committee of all of the interested parties, all of the people that should be included in this and find a way to increase parental involvement and to increase community involvement. These are things that are lacking in the DARE Program and we are losing out. Our children are losing because they're not there.

LEG. BINDER:
So let me ask you, who's the -- do you know the person that came up with those particular criteria is Dr. Zili Sloboda, right? I mean, we know that that's the person that came up with it.

MS. ALEXANDERSON:
Uh -huh.

31

LEG. BINDER:
Do you know who is involved right now in the Robert Wood Johnson research in recreating the program?

DR. BRENNAN:
Same guy.

MS. ALEXANDERSON:
The same --

LEG. BINDER:
Woman, woman. Well, Zili, I know, I guess it could go either way.

MS. ALEXANDERSON:
Yeah, same person.

LEG. BINDER:
A woman, and I had a very long conversation with her yesterday. Do you know also that on December 28th, 2001, William Hansen, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education, just sent out a letter but let me give you an important piece of the letter. "The heart of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Plan is a strong commitment to funding what works combined with accountability for results, the list of promising and exemplary programs," which you talked about, "is by no means an exhaustive list of effective programs that may be in operation. We want to reiterate that Safe and Free -- Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act funds may be used to support other programs that are consistent of the principles of effectiveness," etcetera. So the fact that they're not on a list doesn't mean that they're not there, it's not an exhaustive list, that's number one.

Number two, the very person who created those principals that we're hanging on here, we think is important, is the person now involved with a \$15 million study to revamp. So now the difference --

MS. ALEXANDERSON:

But how long can we wait for that? We need to start acting now.

LEG. BINDER:

Well, I don't know, let's think about it. Let's think about it now. Right now they're in the middle of doing it, they're already having a preliminary report. How long do we wait? Suffolk County, first let's put together a sneak attack blue ribbon that's going to probably have a CN so there can't be a discussion about it, there'll be a CN at the next meeting, I promise you that, because that's how we do things with DARE, we don't have discussions. So then we're going to have a sneak attack blue ribbon panel, okay, and this blue ribbon panel is going to have who? It will have Dr. Zili Sloboda who actually wrote this. Will it have people of national stature who actually understand on a national level what the research indicates, who have that kind of depth and understanding? No it won't, of course it won't, we're here in Suffolk County.

I don't know how long it's going to take, but I can say this. A \$15 million study having people like Dr. Sloboda who wrote the things you're referring to, has got to be a far site better than anything we

32

can do here. I would want to listen to that. But why are we running? Why is it that that is no interest to us? Why would it be that something of that stature, of that kind of commitment and at a national level, with that -- we're talking about Robert Wood Johnson. Anybody want to know? I mean, I heard -- and I don't know if it's correct, I wasn't at the press conference -- that the -- it was at least -- it was said by media that that the Commissioner cast some serious aspersions on Robert Wood Johnson as just kind of being a front for DARE in this case.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I never said anything about Robert Wood Johnson.

LEG. BINDER:

Good. Okay.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

You must have been listening to the -- obviously, sir, you were listening to the wrong press conference.

DR. BRENNAN:

I never heard that.

LEG. BINDER:

No, I'm saying that --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I never even mentioned Robert Wood Johnson.

LEG. BINDER:

-- media people came to me afterwards. Media people that came to me afterwards had related that to me.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I don't know what press conference they were at, they weren't at the one that I was at.

LEG. BINDER:

Well, that's good, I'm glad.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

By the way, I'm glad you mentioned Dr. Sloboda because her boss was Joe {Califano}, the Secretary of Health, during this term that she was in the instance to health and Mr. {Califano} now is Director of the

Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse at Columbia university, a nationally recognized center, and he has -- I've had conversations with him just as you had conversations with Dr. Sloboda, and he has said that the only programs that show any signs of any kind of effectiveness are those programs that start at K, work through 12, involve the entire community and are community-based comprehensive programs. And that so far, DARE does not -- has not gotten into that level of community based programs.

LEG. BINDER:

Right, but that's exactly what we see happening right now. What we see -- what we see is a national attempt to put something like that

33

together. Let me ask you, I'm reading about the PTA resolution. Did the PTA ask for anyone to come down that might disagree with the report, might have another opinion? Was there kind of a debate for the PTA before they passed a resolution?

MS. ALEXANDERSON:

Yes, there was debate.

LEG. BINDER:

Really. Who was there, who had a concern about the Task Force report, who was there who spoke --

MS. ALEXANDERSON:

A lot of PTA members, a lot of PTA members that were there did have concerns about it, and the greatest concern is that if our schools are to lose the DARE Program they would have nothing.

LEG. BINDER:

I guess I'm wondering why, why someone like myself who is known to be someone who is an advocate on DARE, and I will readily admit it, and someone who has a problem with the Task Force report wasn't asked to come down. It sounds to me like a set up, that's as far as I'm concerned.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Is that the same set up, sir, as you said was this Task Force? I would like to go back a moment.

LEG. BINDER:

Sure.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Can you identify who, besides myself, went into that task force with a preconceived set up notion to make --

LEG. BINDER:

No one, I wouldn't have put you on the task force.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Well, then you mentioned --

LEG. BINDER:

I was actually talking about you, but --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Actually it was me. Thank you. I'd like to, just in deference to the work that the other members did, to say that you were singling out me, not anybody else on the task force.

LEG. BINDER:

Well, no. Secondly, I would also not have -- first off, I wouldn't have Commissioners on because this is supposed to report to the Commissioners so I wouldn't have it part of the working group. Secondly, I wouldn't have a Commissioner who has a program in their own department, the Health Commissioner. So whether it is perceived that might have a conflict --

34

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Oh, so she was pre-setup, too, then.

LEG. BINDER:
No. -- who goes in there --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Dr. Bradley was pre-setup you said.

LEG. BINDER:
Who would have a conflict of interest going in there because she has a program that she runs in her own department --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
So that's two of us that were set up.

LEG. BINDER:
-- that competes on some level. So I would say that we shouldn't have had Commissioners and we certainly shouldn't have had a Commissioner who from the very first came out and said he wants to kill the program.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Okay.

LEG. BINDER:
That's what I wouldn't have done. And I can tell you no one would have created a task force like that other than Suffolk County.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Well, I don't know. I'm glad your comprehensive research tells you it can never be done anywhere else in the world besides Suffolk County, but I think there have been times when you want advocates of both sides with position on the task force, when you actually want people who come into the task force because of their position who have done some research and maybe have some knowledge to bring to the task force.

LEG. BINDER:
I would actually --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
You also want to have people who come in without preconceived notions. That would be just my opinion, would be that a task force can be valid with advocates on both sides of a position coming into it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Okay.

LEG. BINDER:
Okay. Well, we didn't have access from both sides, unfortunately.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Excuse me, but we're not --

35

LEG. BINDER:
And I knew I would be cut off because -- I knew the other Legislators wouldn't but I knew I would because the Chairman doesn't particularly support the program. Another question I want to have with --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Legislator Binder. Legislator Binder, you have spoken longer than any other Legislator. There are other Legislators who wish to speak. If you have other things to add I will get back to you.

LEG. BINDER:
I didn't know we were being timed as Legislators.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
I will get back to you.

LEG. BINDER:
Oh, so now we have time limits for Legislators.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
I have members of the committee who have not had an opportunity to speak yet. Thank you.

LEG. BINDER:
How many more minutes was I speaking than Legislator Cooper?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Legislator Fields.

LEG. FIELDS:
Thank you. Commissioner Gallagher, do you know how many school districts are there in Suffolk County?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
I think it's somewhere in the neighborhood of 164. Perhaps Dr. Brennan --

DR. BRENNAN:
I'm not sure.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
No, Dr. Foreman.

DR. FOREMAN:
Seventy-two.

LEG. FIELDS:
There are how many?

DR. FOREMAN:
I believe there are 72.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
In the district?

36

DR. FOREMAN:
That includes the east end. In the Police District there are 44.

LEG. FIELDS:
So seventy --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
I'm including Nassau, I'm sorry. Thank you.

LEG. BISHOP:
You're including Nassau.

LEG. FIELDS:
Seventy-two districts are in Suffolk County?

DR. FOREMAN:
Throughout the whole County and the Police District there are 44.

LEG. FIELDS:
And how many were using the DARE Program; of the 42 you said?

DR. FOREMAN:
Forty.

LEG. FIELDS:
Forty are using the program?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Forty out of 44 in the Police District, yes.

LEG. FIELDS:
Forty out of 44. Was there an analysis made of the four?

DR. FOREMAN:

Yes. I'm sorry. A lot of the schools that we were talking to were very concerned about protecting the students in terms of the drug use survey, and we guaranteed them that we would not record or in any way maintain knowledge of which districts decided to participate. Surveys were handed out to all school districts, or almost all the school districts in the western portion of Suffolk County. When we received surveys back from districts, we had clerical workers number the district but not record the name in order to protect their anonymity in terms of Freedom of Information. But we did receive -- I believe there were 12 participating districts.

LEG. FIELDS:

So we don't really have an analysis of how kids fair in the school districts that don't incorporate the DARE Program in their curriculum?

DR. FOREMAN:

That's correct. We did not do a -- we did not do a comparative survey across school districts, we measured among individuals who self reported either having participated in DARE or not participating in DARE.

37

LEG. FIELDS:

How much is the cost of the franchise?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

The cost to the County? I'm not sure if there is any cost specifically for the contract, a franchise contract, not to the -- you know, there's no cost to incorporate -- you sign a contract but there's no monetary restraint.

LEG. FIELDS:

It's contracted but there's no monetary --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Exactly.

LEG. FIELDS:

I commend Legislator Carpenter for her words, I think they were an excellent choice of what it is that we need to do. I think that it's a healthy situation when the Commissioner and the task force have begun to evaluate and analyze a situation by saying we're not satisfied with what we have and we want to do better. And the word, Legislator Binder, comprehensive I don't believe is a political word but more an intelligent approach to an analysis and to what it is that we should be doing, and I think that we should never be satisfied with what we're doing but always look beyond and see what it is that we can do that's better. And this is not to pander to parents or to people who believe something works well but don't really know whether it truly is working well or not. And I think that the bottom line is to find out what is the most effective approach that we can use. When you look at these boards and you can see visually that Suffolk County is not doing well, then we have to do something better. And Legislator Carpenter, I think your decision or your comments about looking to see what we can do that might be more comprehensive and a better approach I think is an excellent suggestion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Legislator Caracappa.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I will try not to be repetitive from what was already said so we can get to the other speakers. First, I would like to thank the committee. Of course I haven't agreed with the report in every aspect, but I thank you for what is at this point, you're finding out, a very difficult job, not only compiling all the data but to sit here and take it from us.

You pointed out some graphs from the report and I appreciate that. But there are also a lot of things you left out with relation to

graphs such as on page 34 and 35 of Appendix A that showed some pretty promising bar graphs, or at least a couple with relation to DARE and kids who went through it and didn't go through it. So the report isn't all doom and gloom, there is some actually good data that came out of this report that says DARE works if you took it or if you didn't take it.

38

I have to respectfully disagree with Legislator Cooper -- though I'm not saying he's wrong, every person has their own opinion -- with relation to what he heard on the curriculum in the classroom. As one individual, I would much rather a police officer tell a child about sniffing glue and the dangers it will do to that person than having a kid --

Applause

-- just hear it on the street that sniffing glue is cool but their best friend isn't going to get into an hour discussion on how it can kill you. So though it may be in your phase and it may seem inappropriate that these kids are learning about things that they don't know about yet, I would much rather them hear it from a police officer and get an education about it than, again, hearing about it on the street corner and getting a one-way education to a bad life.

It was mentioned about parents, the DARE Program in general, the stripped down version that we're all living with and the kids are going through, and that's absolutely true in my -- and I agree with Legislator Binder. Legislator Binder and I have been fighting to save this program for over a year now. Every DARE graduation I go to, not only do I spend time speaking to the kids, I think I spend more time speaking to the parents. Because DARE and everything you see about DARE, there is a triangle and it's a triangle of learning, the Police, schools, the parents and the children. And without the parents doing their work as the kids did their work, DARE is a failure regardless of how good the curriculum is. So we need to continue to ask parents to be involved and to help DARE be as good as it can be. And I think DARE can be as good as it can be in Suffolk County if we do follow through with a better elementary program as is being discussed across the nation, if we do get the middle school program into every school district that we can, and that we do get a comprehensive -- I hate to use that word now -- comprehensive program into the high schools. It seems like a no no-brainer that the reason why it's not working is because there's not enough of it

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:
That's right.

Applause

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Also, I understand and I can appreciate the direction that the Commissioner wants to go with the program, the new direction, and that is throw it over to the school districts for the most part. And I have to disagree with that because educators today, and I'm not talking DARE educators, educators in school districts have been inundated as of late just trying to keep up with what's been thrown upon them over the last couple of years. Case in point, Project SAVE Legislation. They, being the school districts, had to scramble over the last year, to meet the mandates of this new legislation and to do it with very little money, if any. Now you have a new Federal Education bill coming down the pipe that every school district is going to have to deal with. And I don't think throwing this curriculum, the DARE curriculum that we've been doing in my view so

39

well with master educators and the Police Officers, I don't think educators should be thrown the responsibility of doing the job that's being done by the DARE officers already. Because their job is to educate our kids to get them ready for the professional jobs and to get through into a good college and to have a very good life, and they

have too much on their plate already. School districts are struggling to keep up with other levels of government just throwing things at them saying, "This is a good idea now implement it," without a dollar or a red cent to back up those programs. So they have enough to deal with.

Applause

And I agree wholeheartedly with Legislator Lindsay, that if DARE is going to be revamped that we cannot just end it now or the January date that you - I know it wasn't set in stone, Commissioner. And I want to thank you for meeting with me earlier this morning before this committee meeting with Legislator Carpenter. The other day I called Legislator Carpenter and we spoke for about an hour about instead of being combative about this issue because it's kids lives we're talking about here, that we try to work together. And then I called Legislator Binder's Office and spoke with his aide, Andy Raia, and I expressed the same thing, that if we fight this the kids are going to lose.

I'm asking you, and this is a long-winded question to you, Commissioner, are you willing, are you willing to take that January date and dump it in the garbage and work with us to come up with either a better DARE Program or something that the commission has proposed?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
You're talking the Legislative --

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Yeah, are you willing to drop that January date and let us as an elected body do the work for the people and for the children?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:
You're willing to drop that date. Okay.

Applause

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Thank you, Legislator Caracappa. Well, I'm happy to hear that the Commissioner has said that publicly and I think key in what you said, Legislator Caracappa, is are you willing to let us do the work? Let us do the work. Which means that we can't now just say everything is over and taken care of, we actually have to pull people together to do the work, to come up with what absolutely is the best and most comprehensive -- and yes, I'm going to use the word comprehensive

40

program -- that we can have for our kids here in Suffolk County. And if it's more hours, we have to find a way and we have to work with the schools. We can't just come up with something and tell them, "Here, do it" or, you know, "Open up the doors and let us come in and do it," because there are limited hours in a day and they are coming up with all kinds of regulations and programs that have to be implemented. So we have to work with the schools, they have to be a part of it, and I think the DARE officers have to be a part of it. And if Legislator Binder finds it offensive, we certainly will make sure it isn't called blue ribbon on whatever you tried to intimate.

And I would like to correct one thing that was stated by Legislator Binder when you chastised me for -- or you looked in your crystal ball and you knew that you were going to be cut off, that you were being cut off by the person who was trying to kill the DARE Program. And trust me, Legislator --

LEG. BINDER:
No, I said who doesn't support.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Trust me, Legislator Binder, that has never been my intent. I have always, always been very, very supportive of any kind of programs that we can put in place to help our young people, to empower our young people, to make sure that we equip them with all the tools necessary so that they can grow up to be responsible, productive members of society and not a burden to themselves or anyone else. So with that, I think --

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
-- the next person is --

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Just one final point.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:
We are also going to be debating a bill today with relation to the policy decision and I would urge my colleagues that we go in that direction, that it be the policy direction of this Legislature which direction we go in DARE and that we do pass 1072.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
And I -- just to pick up on that, I would like to say that we look at expediting if we could the process, even though it might be the offensive thing that Legislator Binder suggested, and think about having this committee move forward with putting together a comprehensive committee, taking up the challenge that the Suffolk District PTA has laid before us and putting together that comprehensive committee and seeing if we can get a CN for it when the Legislature meets on Monday so that we can get a group together. And I

41

would welcome Legislator Binder to move his name forward to be somebody who would participate on a committee like that, to really work just as this task force did. None of the people that were on this task force delegated their responsibilities to anyone else, they came to the meetings themselves and worked themselves. And if we are to put together a group to do just that for this very, very important issue, I'm going to suggest that no one delegate their responsibilities either. If they're appointed to work on this committee or commission or whatever we decide to call it, that they do that themselves and not delegate that very awesome responsibility. I believe next we have Legislator Cooper and then Legislator Nowick.

LEG. BINDER:
If I could have another opportunity, Madam Chair.

LEG. COOPER:
Just dovetailing off that, I hope that -- one problem with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Study, and this was confirmed by Dr. Sloboda who we spoke with just earlier this morning, as well as by Dr. Hawthorne who's the person who actually developed the curriculum for the Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Study, the nationwide study, is that because of limited dollars -- they did have \$15 million to spend but believe it or not, that was not sufficient for them to look at programs outside of the DARE Program -- they were only able to utilize programs within the DARE network. And as a result they were not able to study and they are not able currently to study programs that do not use uniformed police officers in the classroom and determine whether those programs could be as effective or more effective than programs using cops.

I'm not convinced that we need to have -- although it certainly serves a very useful purpose having cops in the classroom as far as bonding with the kids and having the children develop respect for police

officers. I believe that there are other ways of accomplishing that goal other than having these officers be the ones who teach our kids to try to stay off drugs and alcohol. It may make more sense, I'm not saying it does, but it may make more sense to use civilian experts in drug and alcohol counseling to do that task. And I would hope that if we do set up this new task force or panel that they would try to look into that. There are programs right now in Suffolk County such as the Compass Program that are not -- although they involve police officers as well as local business people and family, parents, other family members -- again, it's, I understand, a very comprehensive program -- the core of it does not revolve around police officers. And I also understand that this program could be run at a much lower cost than DARE because we're not using police officers that are earning upwards of a hundred thousand dollars a year.

To reiterate, I want to get the best program in place for our kids, the most effective way to make sure that our kids stay off drugs and alcohol. If we can find a way that's just as effective if not more so and if it costs half the money, that's even better. The financial aspects should not be the driving force behind it, but I want to make sure that we don't close our eyes to the possibility that there may be a program out there that does not use police officers as the instructors that may be the most effective program that can be used.

42

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Thank you. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:
Yeah I think today we are losing site of one very important factor. The Commissioner has come to us, my friend Fern Alexanderson has come to us. This bill that Legislator Binder has introduced has brought to our attention the pros and the cons of DARE. This brings us all together to work for our children, this has brought it to our attention. You have shared with us the good things, you have shared with us the cons, now let's work together as a Legislative body. Keeping DARE will not preclude us, I don't believe, from looking for something better, this does not preclude us from that. We can continue -- we have learned a lot. We have learned that the tenth grade has a 595 use of drugs. Did we learn at all about the seventh grade or the sixth grade or the fifth grade, did we find any --

DR. BRENNAN:
No. We were trying to study the long-term results and so we looked at five years out and seven years out.

LEG. NOWICK:
I think that maybe what Legislator Binder was trying to say is we can't get long-term results unless we have long-term education.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Legislator Binder.

LEG. BINDER:
Thank you. To respond on the blue ribbon commission, I don't care if it's blue, purple, red, I don't care what color the ribbon is, and it's fine to have a commission and that's fine for us to study and look at it. I would say let's not undermine the confidence of the public and again do what we call in our haste something we have to do quickly. How about let's doing it right? I would say let's not get a CN. Let's but a bill out there that is discussed among us that is formulated in the right way. I mean, look, the original legislation forming the task force has in the WHEREAS, "The DARE Program has not proven effective in abating the dramatic" -- so in the first WHEREAS, that's how it was originally written, we were in such a rush we had to change it at the last minute the night we were passing this task force, but it originally had in the WHEREAS that it didn't work, basically telling you it doesn't work, please tell us that, that's what it says here.

I would say instead of doing another CN and another rush because if we don't do this in one month the sky is going to fall and we're not going to be just fast enough, let's take the month. We'll meet again in March, we'll have a month to talk about how to create this commission, task force or whatever we're going to create. Let us take the month and talk among ourselves and say what is the best formulation? Maybe I should be on it, maybe I shouldn't be, maybe I'm too big an advocate, maybe not, I don't know. But I do know this, that I would rather do it right than let's do it -- than doing it fast. So

43

I would urge us not to vote for a CN and then under mine the confidence of the people that we didn't give them a chance to come before a committee and come before the Legislature and discuss what we put before them. So that's my first point. My second point --

Applause

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

On that point, Legislator Binder. I would say then in light of what you're saying, if you are willing to suggest that Resolution 1072 be tabled --

LEG. BINDER:

No. No, I didn't ask for a CN.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

-- so that we're not moving in haste, then I would agree to that.

LEG. BINDER:

See, that's not moving in haste.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Well, there you go.

LEG. BINDER:

Let's talk about the difference between that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

There you go, okay.

LEG. BINDER:

Yeah, there I go. 1072 has been on the table now since January, we had now two meetings, they asked for it to be tabled so the Commissioner could come here and talk about it. So now we've had discussion, the people have an opportunity to come here, it's been written about, at least in Huntington, in local newspapers, so they've had an opportunity. That's the difference, there's no CN here. And secondarily, this is not just a question, 1072, of the DARE Program. I think it's a big question of us as an institution, as a Legislature whether we're going to control programs that are offered in this County. And I have to tell you something, I've just put in another bill because this came -- this brought something to mind, that it's not just about DARE. I've just put in a bill that says COPE, foot patrols, bicycle patrols, all of these, we should decide whether they're offered. Now, how they're done, how they're executed, how they're implemented, how we do that is a pure administrative function and the Police Commissioner has got to find a way if we decide we want COPE. But it shouldn't be the Police Commissioner or any Commissioner's purview to take programs away that we decide or maintain are good programs. So that's what 1072. Is about and it has been around, it's not a sneak attack, it's not a CN, it's not depriving the people their opportunity to speak, and that's the difference.

Applause

44

Now, one of the things I want to point out is that I think there is agreement. Let's not talk about long-term for a second, let's talk about short-term in the fifth grade program. I would venture to say

there's agreement on short term this is an effective program, it's been found, with its foibles, with its lack of comprehensiveness in terms of community involvement and other things. For fifth graders, sixth graders, that compressed time period, it's a pretty effective program in there. We don't know about long-term, in fact we have problems with long-term, but short-term we know that -- so when something works in the short-term with its foibles, I don't think it's time to run and take it out. I think the short-term effectiveness is exactly what turns on the parents. I think the parents see their kids working in fifth grade, they see it working in sixth grade, they're saying things that are protecting them. But like anything else in the long-term, human beings, particularly children, are made to forget how unfortunately much have forgotten about September 11th. But that's what happens over time, it's unfortunate but that's what happens.

Go back to biblical questions. They saw the Red Sea part, then they made a -- they created a cow, a calf, the Golden Calf right afterwards. They just saw the Red Sea part, how quick do people forget. Of course they forget. It's the constant using of a program over and over again. And if the program is good in the short-term, then maybe you have to do it staccato, over and over again. And we tried to do that with putting the middle school and I wanted to do that with the high school program and we would have had a much more effective program, and then I think we could have looked at it and said does this work or it doesn't when we've had that kind of staccato, that kind of continuity of message through school.

One of the other things is if we don't have DARE, I don't know that we're going to -- if we decide to have the police officers as I'm hearing, we're not going to have the kind of training that is essential. We laud these officers for what they know and what they're able to do. That's what we're talking about, how good they are, how much they know, how good they are in the classroom. They are that good because they are trained by DARE, not trained by some other -- I hear we're lauded in Suffolk County because of our program on using our tobacco money; well, that's true. That we're lauded for Choices; we're not lauded for Choices. I don't know if Choices works, we don't have a study, I don't know if it works, it doesn't work, it might work, it could work, it's possible, but we don't know. We're not lauded for -- we're lauded because we're using more money, it's a percentage of -- that's what we're lauded for. As a percentage of the total money in that revenue stream, no one uses as much as Suffolk County to attempt to go out there. And we should be lauded for how much effort we're making and how much of those resources we are dedicating to doing this. But DARE as you're saying, as you've said, the officers are being trained correctly. If we don't have DARE, I don't know that we have that.

Now, the other thing, and I'm going to leave it at this, this is my last -- I'm going to leave this as a concern. I keep hearing that Suffolk County has high rates, we're looking at charts and Suffolk County's high rates compared to the national average, 59 versus 50% in alcohol. I would venture to say we don't know, and I would probably

45

venture to say that it probably isn't demographically right meaning the survey that was done was done by those school districts that would opt in. Dr. Brennan said they had to have some courage to do that, and I understand that and that's probably true. I don't know if the fact of having courage skews it. I don't know if it is a demographically correct sample. So then you've extrapolated and you said, "Well, this is what's happening in Suffolk County because these 2,400 students are doing this at this percentage level. I don't know if we have a higher percentage of high risk districts than not. I don't know if from racially, socially, economically, gender-wise, I don't know if this is reflective and I can't because you have grouped it together, understandably, we don't want to call out any school districts as having this or that. The problem is I would bet not, my bet is we didn't do it in a way that would say here's Suffolk County, here's how we demographically break down in all our manners, in all these different categories, and our sample breaks down exactly the same way.

So I would caution the task force in taking that leap and saying, "In Suffolk County we're higher than the national average. In Suffolk County" -- because I don't know if we -- we might be worse than this, because maybe there are less high risk districts and you haven't included enough high risk districts and maybe the worm is the worst, maybe it's better, I have no idea. I would just caution that you've taken what is a 90 day study, granted it was short, it didn't give you enough time to do something very comprehensive. And I have to tell you, I commend -- for all affordables I find in the task force, I commend how much time and effort you have put into it, all the efforts that Dr. Koppelman put into it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Wind up, Allan.

LEG. BINDER:
So with all that, with all that, there are serious flaws because of how it was put together. And I would hope that you wouldn't leap to conclusions that are not justified by the task force report.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Legislator Lindsay, did you -- okay, thank you very much. It is now 11:30, the next committee is supposed to be starting. Legislator Caracappa.

LEG. CARACAPPA:
As you stated, the next committee started, was supposed to start three minutes ago, which is the Public Works Committee which I am the Chairman of. I am going to go across the hall to the conference room and quickly have the Public Works meeting, we have a very short agenda and I will return for the public portion in just a few minutes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Okay, thank you. The first speaker, and I'm going to have to ask you to keep very much to the three minutes because there are a number of cards. And if you can group your -- Commissioner and members of the task force, thank you very much for coming down.

46

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:
Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Group your comments -- if some of you who have come together, if you would please come forward together and try to condense your comments so that we can get as many speakers in as possible, because at 12 o'clock I will not be able to go on with any more cards, we will have to go to the agenda. Nancy DiMonte.

MS. DI MONTE:
Good morning or good afternoon, whatever it's approaching. I came here this morning not realizing that I was going to get such a comprehensive education myself in the two hours, and I do thank everybody, opponents and advocates, for that. I also want to thank Commissioner Gallagher because, you know, as much as we may not see eye to eye on some of these issues, as a citizen I do know that he does have our safety as his foremost agenda and for that, you know, we appreciate it.

I come as a parent, a drug educator and a DARE advocate. The first thing, too, that I want to say before I move on is that no program or study will ever replace parental involvement. Parents who do not communicate with their kids are the only ones to blame, the fault is not that of any curriculum. So those who don't attend their kids DARE graduations or DARE parent courses should take a closer look at themselves rather than the curriculum.

It is kind of unconceivable to many that a County as credible as Suffolk could be so quick to discredit comprehensive drug and violence education. DARE is a controversy in this County, but in reality it

leaves nothing to debate. The facts are simple; it works, it bonds, it teaches, it is inexpensive and is a thriving source of education nationally and overseas. Last year at this time threats of eliminating DARE in the County were rampant until the program was unexpectedly granted more time. Inconclusive threats were based on unsubstantiated information from unreliable sources. Again it seems as though a hasty decision may rule which will cost us many more dollars than it already has, and it's sure to leave a large gap in our students education.

As the voters, the taxpayers and parents, we know what's best for our children. We know that it is impossible to provide the necessary curriculum for our students without experts. Experts do not constitute a task force whose members exclude parents, cops and advocates of the program. The selection of study participants as well as task force members was not, in my opinion, random but rather quite contrived. We know that the study did not fully examine what it should have and it failed to evaluate the middle schools involved with the program. Plainly speaking, it is invalid and unreliable. Lastly, the study skims the surface rather than analyzing the deep. No single person can decide the fate of our children. This does not define democracy.

47

Finally, during the month of May Suffolk County Police Week takes place. This popular event is a fine way to display police techniques to the public, it brings the public closer to law enforcement. During this time as well, DARE Day occurs. The irony is that parties choosing to abolish the program are advertising this event. We know that the officers are devoted to the program, but the powers who command the Suffolk County Police Force desire to eliminate DARE. So what does DARE Day intended to do? Is this day meant to rationalize its end in a political show? Is hypocrisy a fair word to describe this? We can leave that up to the hundreds of students who will partake in the events, they are the ones who count. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Eileen Nomikos. And while you're coming forward, I just want to make one comment. When you talked about parents being involved, you couldn't be more right. And this morning I feel like any of those comments, there's a term that we heard over and over in PTA when you try to put a program together and get parents to come, there would be a handful of parents there and you always said you were preaching to the choir because those that needed to hear it just weren't there, and that's what we have here today. So I thank you all for coming down, regardless of which side of the issue you're on. Go ahead.

MS. NOMIKOS:

Yes, good morning. My name is Eileen Nomikus. I'm the Clinical Director and Prevention Specialist of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. We are an affiliate of the National Council which is in every state in the United States. The purpose why I'm here today is not to bash the DARE Program. I'd like to explain to yourselves and the public the real purpose of education and prevention.

What has happened and what we believe is education should start in kindergarten. It is very crucial from kindergarten through fifth grade, there's a great momentum of education, parent involvement, faculty involvement and community involvement. The reason being we change the attitudes of children before they reach the fifth grade, because by the time children reach the fifth grade they're already contemplating the use of alcohol and other drugs. What we have found at the Long Island Council is that for the past five years when we go into middle school and high school, we are talking about the children say to us, "Eileen, it's too late." Teachers are telling us, "It's too late. Why are you bothering to come in now?" When all kinds of agencies -- and by the way, we do not represent any agency. At the Long Island Council we've been around since 1956. Our roots started in AA and Al-Anon, that's who asked us to get started in educating the

Long Island community, Nassau and Suffolk County. And when we heard the students and the faculty of Nassau and Suffolk County, we decided to make a home-grown program.

We're not saying that we'd like you to advocate it, we're just saying that when we listened to the public, we listened to the students. We formulated a program a year and a half ago called Smart Kids, and what

48

we're finding out -- I'll give you one example. We were in one particular school for two years and this is a mother of a kindergartner, and during our parent program which is two-and-a-half hours in length and we actually interact with the parents on how to talk to their children about drinking from kindergarten through college level. And the parent raised her hand, she said, "Mrs. Nomikus," she said, "I'd like to tell you what my kindergartner has done." She says, "My kindergartner is now in first grade." She said, "I would like to tell you that my mother is 71 years of age. She just entered a rehab last week. The reason being is that my daughter was so educated in kindergarten, we started talking about the disease in our own family." So she asked me, "What should my daughter, my young daughter who is now in first grade, tell her grandmother?" I said, "It's very important to allow her grandmother to have some recovery and then the grandmother can reach out to the daughter." She said, "I applaud you starting in kindergarten." It is five lessons, 30 minutes each for kindergarten through third grade and 45 minutes in fourth and fifth grade.

I am not talking about this particular program, but you need to start in kindergarten. Also, what I've heard from Nassau/Suffolk County parents and faculty is faculty involvement is crucial. We talk to the faculty. And about parent programs? We go out daytime and evening, twice in the day time and twice in the evening. Parents hear about it, they come back. In one particular parent program, believe it or not, I had 400 participants of parents. And I am also a parent, I have two children and I work just like anyone else. But I am telling you, when parents hear something works they're out there. And I would just like to state that the Long Island Council will be here at any point at any time if you would like us to be involved in any type of committee. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Thank you.

Applause

And Mary, I guess you echo her remarks.

MS. CALLAN:
I just would like to add that as part of the discussion, it was mentioned the importance of involving the parents. One thing we did with our lessons, every lesson has an assignment that requires the child or asks the child to go home and speak with the parent. The idea of the assignment is to involve the parent in a dialogue to share experiences, to ask them for their advice. And so we feel that our program covers that hated word or disputed word this morning comprehensive. That it does involve the children, the parents, the teachers. And in fact, we also involve a lesson in the media in terms of helping children to understand the pressure they are under, through advertisements and other forms of media, to use drugs and alcohol. And we have very specific lessons of practicing skills, it's a skill activity also where we give the children an opportunity to practice saying no to drugs.

49

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Thank you. Thank you very much. Next speaker, Susan Lipman.

MS. LIPMAN:
Good morning, Legislator Carpenter. Susan Lipman, District Director for Suffolk District PTA. Because you have all been provided with a

copy of our reaction statement, I'm not going to read it. As you can see from the motion that was made at the Suffolk District Board of Managers meeting, we actually had planned on presenting this to our Legislators at our breakfast which is this Saturday. I didn't know at that time I would have an opportunity to be here today. But I also just want to say for the record, I'm sorry that Legislator Binder is not in the room at this time, that our position is not to say that DARE should or should not exist but that we do support a comprehensive K-12 prevention program which may or may not incorporate DARE. And that, again, as you so kindly read the motion itself, that we encourage the Legislator to put -- the Legislature to put together a committee that will further look into this.

I do wish to also thank the task force for their work and really commend Commissioner Gallagher because I think that he was the catalyst for this conversation. While uncomfortable for some and aggravating for others, it really does shed light on the fact that we have not won the drug war for our children and we really need to do more. We can't just do a little bit, we need to do more and we need to keep looking at how we're doing it.

I also wanted to say as a parent, my two children have been through the DARE Program, they loved it when they were fifth graders, they're 20 and 17 now. Most of their peers unfortunately have experimented with drugs, all of them had the program. We need a comprehensive program so that students have more consistent reinforcement. And I think the issue that other people have brought up about parent involvement is critical as part of that comprehensive program. My two children feel that the most determining factor for their avoidance of drugs and alcohol has been the vigilance that my husband and I have kept as parents and the involvement that we've had in their lives. So that has got to be an important component.

I would also just like to say that we look forward to seeing the Legislators on Saturday and I'm sure there will be more questions with regard to that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. If you would, Susan Lipman, Legislator Lindsay has a question.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, Mrs. Lipman, first of all, I'd like to thank the PTA for their open-mindedness to this whole subject and just the hope -- stick with us, hang in with us that we can solve this problem together.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Along those lines, I would ask if Suffolk District PTA would be a willing participant of a panel, a working group to address the issue.

50

MS. LIPMAN:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you.

MS. LIPMAN:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Next speaker, Norma {Landano}?

MS. LAUDANO:

What about the kids? We have children that come from the school district that are with me.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Excuse me? You have --

MS. LAUDANO:

Children that are with me.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, sure, bring them up. And I was given cards, I know someone just shouted from the audience, I was given cards and I'm taking them as I was given them. And again, three minutes if you could.

MS. LAUDANO:

Yes. Good morning, Legislator Carpenter.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We are stopping at 12 o'clock.

MS. LAUDANO:

Is this on?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yes, it is.

MS. LAUDANO:

I would like to thank you for having us here today. I am here in full support of the DARE Program from the East Islip School District and I would like to say that one of the reasons we save DARE is because our children are very valuable to us. And I personally feel we don't need to waste time or money on implementing programs that we really don't know anything about. We can't afford to lose not even one child while we're experimenting with other programs, one child that will slip through the cracks as we're implementing programs. We need to move on improving and expanding the programs that we already have that we put time and effort and money into. And I appreciate the government's finding and the criteria that they put before us today, but I have a question about that and that is when did they put this criteria together, was it before or after the DARE Program? And --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

It was after the DARE Program.

51

MS. LAUDANO:

After the DARE Program, yes, okay. So basically it was our DARE Program that probably gave them the incentive to put this criteria together, I would think; but if not, it's just something that I -- a point I would like to bring out.

The Surgeon General's findings, very interesting. I've worked for a marketing research company for many years. I'm not saying that the survey wasn't as accurate as they could possibly put it together, but I know that surveys can be manipulative. And that's my point I'd like to make about that. I have some children here who went through the DARE Program and they have some essays that they wrote. And I am not sure that all of you would be able to read it all, so --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I can tell you for sure that you will not be --

MS. LAUDANO:

-- can I have a few read quickly?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Excuse me. You will not be able to read them at all.

MS. LAUDANO:

No?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

You can have one read and what we'll do is if you will let me take the essays, if you don't want to leave them I will copy them, I will make copies of all of them and I'll make sure that every Legislator that's here this morning gets copies of them. Okay? So whoever has a birthday closest to today -- how do we do that?

MS. LAUDANO:

It's hard to say which one, they're all so good. You gave me a very --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, no, no, here's what you do. Whosever birthday is closest to today, I'd like to hear their DARE essay.

UNKNOWN CHILD:

Mine is March 3rd.

MISS TSIRIGOTIS:

Mine is January 27th.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, January 27th is the closest. Whoever that is, ready your essay.

MISS TSIRIGOTIS:

I think the DARE --

MS. MAHONEY:

Can you state your name, please?

52

MS. TSIRIGOTIS:

My name is Ashley Tsirigotis and I'm from the East Islip School District.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Speak right into the microphone. Make sure that the switch is up. Okay, right in there.

MS. TSIRIGOTIS:

I think the DARE Program is a really fun and interesting program. We get to do a lot of things about people saying no to drugs and etcetera. I can stay drug-free because I kind of have an idea what people will do and what not do. I can also stay drug-free because I can know what people will do -- stay drug-free because I know that I will be one of the many people who will go to a good school and college and get a good job when I get older. I think it would be important because I can get good grades, stay smart and have a very, very good life. To sum it up, I think we should keep the DARE Program running so the rest of the kids in our school can get the same type of teaching that we got so we can have long, healthy lives. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much, and happy birthday.

Applause

I'll make sure that we get those copied and we'll share them with everyone. And thank you for coming down. Okay, next speaker, Nancy Schwartz. Hi, Nancy, nice to see you. Three minutes, okay?

MS. SCHWARTZ:

Thanks, yes. Before my three minutes start, I just want to present --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

They started.

MS. SCHWARTZ:

I just want to hand this in.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

They started. Just leave it, we'll get it.

MS. SCHWARTZ:

It saddens -- my name is Nancy Schwartz, I'm President of DREAM, Drug Resistance Education Awareness Moms, and a parent of a tenth and fifth grader in Half Hollow Hills.

It saddens me to be sitting in front of you once again in my coalition's pursuit to keep DARE in Suffolk County schools. I have thoroughly read the Long Island Planning Board and DARE Review Task Force Report. Three years ago the middle school DARE curriculum was

made available to all Suffolk middle schools; currently, 41 middle or junior highs participate. It was supported by County Executive Robert Gaffney, Commissioner Gallagher, Suffolk District PTA, Allan Binder and numerous other Legislators. And Dave Bishop, Chairman of the

53

Public Safety Committee at that time, asked if the committee could cosponsor Allan Binder's bill to have the program implemented.

We all knew that research proved that the benefits of having a booster class to reinforce the elementary DARE Program showed increased effectiveness in the long run. It confuses me why a priority one task force would allow a touted research specialist like Dr. Koppelman to exclude the Suffolk Middle School DARE evaluation in his study. Three years in the life of a adolescent is like a lifetime; Page 11 of Section 5 in the report says differently. The sole purpose of having the Middle School DARE Program was to enhance DARE's effectiveness for our children. I find the elimination of that evaluation in the study preposterous and unacceptable.

The Suffolk County Superintendent's Association also sent a letter asking that the study be stopped because the questionnaire was not representative of all the DARE teachers. The study says we need parent participation. There's a parent DARE Program that would be given to 16 districts in Suffolk County this Spring. It is a five evening session. There would be more that participate but the Police Department has reached capacity. There's also a parent manual that the fifth grade parents received to involve them. The new pilot DARE curriculum is showing shining results in the initial study and they will be revising and shortening the core curriculum soon. Louisiana and Elgin, Illinois, just came out with positive results in the current DARE Program this summer. Louisiana alone studied 4,000 students.

Every parent and lawmaker should question the validity and reliability of the task force study. Because of this, I question the effectiveness and accuracy of this research team. This is not a "one size fits all" program as stated in the Planning Board study. Just like math and science, you need a base line curriculum in which to work from and then there's always extra help for those who need it.

In light of everything I have read in the report and information I have since gathered, I ask the Public Safety Committee today to approve Resolution 1072 giving our Suffolk County Legislators the sole authority to decide on the future of DARE in Suffolk County. The decision needs to be taken away from the Commissioner. The Legislators are the people we elected to represent us, they know what we, their constituents, want. Ask how many children the DARE Program saved or help stand up for their values; can you quantify that? Please support Resolution 1072. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much, Nancy. Next speaker, Jenny Shore. I'm sorry. Jenny Shore is not here. Dennis Ryan? And there will be five more minutes of speakers.

MR. RYAN:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am Dennis Ryan, I am with the Deer Park School Board. I am an elected official, however I am not a paid elected official. Before I ask about the DARE, I do got to tell you, with the children that came down and the people that came down, the minute that the public was to be heard, to see only three of you

54

sitting up here I think was absolutely rude. I understand where you're coming from.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

If I could just respond to that. If I could just respond to that. There -- normally committees go about an hour or so. We started at 9:30, it is now five of 12. There is another committee that was

scheduled to meet at 11:30, they are meeting in the back, there are Commissioners that are down here to discuss issues on that agenda. Legislator Caracappa who chairs the committee had to leave to go attend that meeting, and he stated that on the record, and as soon as he got back -- you know, finished he would be back. So, you know, I'm sorry, there's just so much time and there are, as I stated first thing this morning, there are four committees meeting today. So continue.

MR. RYAN:

As an elected official in Deer Park, one of the things that I want to take away is what I'm going to tell my constituents when we come back. When I look at the arguments on both sides of the table, it's very simple, I think everyone wants the same thing. We're looking for a program that's extended from K through to the high school, nobody's really figured out how we're going to do that yet. So for the next school year, am I to go back to my constituents and say DARE is in place as is? So there's one question.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yes, the answer is yes.

MR. RYAN:

Okay.

LEG. BINDER:

Does Deer Park --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Excuse me.

LEG. BINDER:

-- use their middle school program?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Excuse me. Legislator Binder.

MR. RYAN:

It's all right.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Binder.

LEG. BINDER:

Do you use the middle school program?

MR. RYAN:

We do not but it is --

55

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Mr. Ryan, if you will excuse me.

LEG. BINDER:

I think you should look at that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

There is a procedure here at the Legislature and the Chairman of the committee runs the meeting.

MR. RYAN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And any questions that are to be directed to the speakers --

MR. RYAN:

Should be directed to you. Very good.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

-- are directed through the Chair.

MR. RYAN:
Yes, Ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
So Legislator Binder forgot that for a moment, so you'll have to forgive him.

MR. RYAN:
Yes, and I did too, so I apologize.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Continue.

MR. RYAN:
So the answer is yes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Yes.

MR. RYAN:
And we can expand the program.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
I think the Commissioner said that, yes.

MR. RYAN:
The other thing that I have heard is that there is a high school element to the DARE Program?

LEG. BINDER:
Can I answer that question, Madam Chair? He's asking a question.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
I didn't realize -- go ahead, Legislator Binder.

56

LEG. BINDER:
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Quickly because we are nearing twelve o'clock.

LEG. BINDER:
I tried to do that last year, it got bottled up last year in committee caught under all this. I'd like to be able to pass that, I'd be very willing to put that legislation in and do a high school component.

MR. RYAN:
Okay. Madam Chairman, the commission that you're putting together, do you have any idea when it's going to start and what type of --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Well, I would like to see it start, you know, sooner rather than later. There will be a resolution that will be circulated amongst all the Legislators to get their input and hopefully their support. We have a process in place, we're meeting on Monday, the Legislature. We don't meet again until late in March, so I would be leaning towards trying to move it forward so that we're not waiting that extra six weeks. But since you are a school board member, would you agree that one of the participants in such a comprehensive committee should be a representative of the School Boards Association? Because in my mind, the school boards set the policy for the district and I think that input would be valuable.

MR. RYAN:
I think that would be very good, yes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Good.

MR. RYAN:
Also, the PTA and even the public needs to be part of that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Uh-huh.

MR. RYAN:

I would like to thank Legislator Caracappa for reminding everybody that school boards have been doing politician's jobs for quite a long time now. We are getting mandated like you wouldn't believe, we are getting less funding for those mandates. We're not against working out a better drug prevention, violence prevention program, but we need to have at least DARE in place as is the way it's going until we come up with that better plan that everybody wants. When it comes to funding, we have avenues that we need to go after. I doubt the County is going to help us fund that. We can look towards the Federal Government, we can look towards the State Government, but that should also be part of your commission, to look at what the funding levels will be. That's it. Thank you.

57

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Thank you very much. And I think you raise an important point about the funding because there is justice money out there, but the component that needs to be there is that partnership, that comprehensive approach, that involvement with the community. And I appreciate your participation and being down here today.

MR. RYAN:

And I would agree. And just one more point, if I could, real fast.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Sure.

MR. RYAN:

Having the police officers in the classroom, I mean, I'm hearing from my constituents at a regular rate, it is absolutely huge to those parents. And I have a 15 year old, I have a 10 year old, I have a six year old, the respect that DARE put in my children towards the Police Department is worth seven mill right there. So try to keep that in mind.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Absolutely. And I think the Police Commissioner agrees with you.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Deborah Harris, and this will be the last speaker.

LEG. BISHOP:

Should the people that we missed come back?

MS. HARRIS:

Good afternoon. My name is Deborah Harris. I have a fifth grade child at Forest Park Elementary School in the Half Hollow Hills School District. I also have a second grade child at the same school.

My concerns are somewhat, how shall I say -- with respect to the DARE Program, I think the statistics that have been presented to the public are very misleading and they are totally invalid. If you have a non scientific, un -- I forget the word that he used, non randomized study, you have no way of actually comparing what the data means. What are the four non DARE districts in the County? You said there were four districts that don't participate in DARE.

LEG. BISHOP:

West Babylon.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

West Babylon, Bay Shore, Brentwood and Northport.

MS. HARRIS:

And was a comprehensive study done between the district -- between the

58

students in those particular districts who are non DARE students and the students in districts that do have DARE?

LEG. CARACAPPA:

No.

MS. HARRIS:

So was any determination -- I heard last night on Channel 7 News, they said that students who go through the DARE Program are more likely to use drugs and alcohol than students who don't; how was that determination reached? What studies were done that specifically compared the results of non DARE students in this County compared to DARE students in this County?

LEG. BISHOP:

Direct it that way, we're on your side.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, I'm not -- Legislator Caracappa, did you want to respond to that?

LEG. CARACAPPA:

No. You basically answered your own question earlier by -- they just asked kids who didn't participate in the program and those who did, they didn't do it by school district, one school district participated and another school district didn't. So I firmly believe the results are non scientific. I know they were gathered and compiled but still, not scientific enough to lay these charts out and for them to be gospel.

MS. HARRIS:

For them to go on and tell the public that non DARE students are -- that DARE students use drugs at a higher rate than non DARE students when there's no scientific evidence to support that. Also, with respect -- I guess Police Officer Gallagher would have to answer that question about the DARE officers.

As far as the program creating a false sense of security, I have spoken to many, many parents in the district and I do not know a single parent who thinks that their fifth grader getting DARE is going to inoculate them from future drug use. Every parent that I know sees this as a first step, as part of a continuing, ongoing process to teach children, to inoculate them at home, at school, everywhere, about the dangers. I don't know a single parent to whom the DARE Program creates a false sense of security.

Applause

I also take issue -- and in my school, at Forest Park, DARE graduation is not attended by three parents. At my school the parking lot is full at DARE graduation, and we come and we care and we're there. And we want our children to be taught, we want them to have respect for the police. My daughter came home from DARE yesterday and she told me she learned about crack; she didn't go down to the rest stop on the Expressway to buy any. She did not get the sudden desire to experiment with drugs. And as far as, you know, them being exposed to knowledge

59

about glue or knowledge about huffing; good, let them hear it, I tell them about it. I don't want them going to some kid's house and sniffing a can of hairspray and ending up in liver failure. Let them tell them, let them learn, let them know. Start it now, start it young, start in kindergarten, go through twelfth grade, that's fine. But don't present false data and misleading data and tell people, "Oh, this doesn't work." If there are political reasons why it doesn't work that's one thing and if there are technical, real, legitimate,

scientific reasons, that's entirely another story.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Okay, thank you very much.

MS. HARRIS:
And I think we should be told the truth.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Your time is up.

MS. HARRIS:
Thank you.

Applause

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
There were a number of speakers who, I'm so sorry, did not have an opportunity to address the committee and Legislator Caracappa has asked me if those who are here supporting DARE, if you would just raise your hand so that he can be aware of that. Thank you.

MS. SCHWARTZ:
Those who have not spoken?

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Who have not spoken, right. Okay, thank you very much. We do have one other person who needs to address the committee, Elie Smith from the Red Cross. Thank you for your patience. And you, too, unfortunately only have three minutes.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:
Brevity is my middle name at this point, so I will be definitely brief. First, I want to thank all of the Legislature for restoring our Juvenile Division budget back to our 2001 budget. Even though the numbers indicate a need for another person, I'm just thankful that we didn't lose on the Juvenile budget, but we do need another position there.

Based on the projection in front of you, it looks like we're going to have another banner year in terms of our numbers of referrals. We keep going up, as of 1999 to today we have doubled our referrals in
60

the Suffolk County Courts for adults. But unlike the juvenile budget, not only has the money not been restored but the money today is less than our 1999 budget. Yesterday I met with our bookkeeper who let me know that we cannot replace two adult budgets unless our money is restored. As you can see from the chart, it will take \$50,000 to restore us to our 19 -- 2001 adult budget level. I'm in front of you today with the understanding that we all must do more with less, that is -- that's been our motto for 22 years. Therefore, I'm just asking you to restore the level at our 2001 just not to jeopardize public safety as we continue to see a growth in our numbers of referrals. We have not been lobbying for the referral growth, the increase, it just naturally comes because we've been around 22 years, as some of our Legislators know.

Thank you as always. I appreciate your help. Please do not break us, we're not broken yet. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Thank you.

LEG. BISHOP:
Elie, your bill was filed.

MS. SEIDMAN-SMITH:

Oh, thank you so much. I appreciate all your help. We are -- you know, I just don't want us to break. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. And there is one more person from the Suffolk County Quality Consortium, I am so sorry. Kathy Ayers-Lanzillotta. And that will be the last speaker.

MS. AYERS-LANZILLOTTA:

I do appreciate this opportunity and I'll speak as briefly as possible. I'm Kathy Ayers-Lanzillotta, the President of the Suffolk County Quality Consortium of Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Prevention Providers. We are representing -- I can just list them: Alternatives Counseling Center in Southampton; BOCES Student Assistance Program; Brookhaven Memorial Hospital; Catholic Charities, I'm the Administrator of Chemical Dependency Services of Catholic Charities; Charles K. Post Addition Treatment Center; Concepts, Incorporated in Northport; Day Top in Suffolk; Family Counseling Services in West Hampton Beach; Family Service League throughout Long Island; Hope for Youth; HUGS; Huntington Drug and Alcohol Project; Madonna Heights; Morning Start; Mather Memorial Hospital; Outreach Project in Bellport; Pedersen-Krag Center in Huntington; Phoenix House of Long Island; {Quanica} at Eastern Long Island Hospital; Smithtown Horizon Counseling; St. Catherine of Sienna Medical Center; Suffolk Coalition to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Dependency -- and I will ask in my testimony for Barbara Keller to speak as our resident expert on prevention -- the Town of Babylon Drug and Alcohol Services; Town of Islip access and the YMCA of Long Island.

Our consortium has been in existence since 1995 and our mission is to advocate on behalf of treatment and prevention services. I would like to begin by calling -- I'm sorry, I'm not as organized as I should

61

be -- to the attention of the September 11th, the big picture, the terrorist attack, the impact on our community of that. We know that the consumption of alcohol and other drugs has risen significantly, just as it did in Oklahoma City. And we need to be smart and learn from the failures of Oklahoma City to increase our need for addiction treatment and prevention services which lends itself well to our consideration now of what we're going to do with this DARE Program and prevention and comprehensive prevention.

Quality Consortium would support the concept of comprehensive prevention as it was indicated by Commissioner Gallagher, and we think that it's very important for that to be the forefront of where we go in terms of prevention strategies. We believe there is a need for police presence in the school system, there are positive outcomes of that. But comprehensive prevention uses police officers at every level. I would like to turn it over to Barbara, she's our expert on prevention. That's basically it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Barbara, thank you. Could you finish as soon as possible because we are almost out of time.

MS. KELLER:

I want to thank everyone connected with this, from Commissioner Gallagher to you, Angie, to even Legislator Binder for all of his efforts, because this is the first time in all the years, which are over 30, of working and teaching prevention. Prevention has been -- become a major front page issue for us here in Suffolk County and for that we're grateful.

As someone who's worked in the prevention all her life, I would like to give you what is the definition of comprehensive prevention because I've heard it alluded to, but here it goes. The belief system is that only prevention that includes womb-to-tomb education, from prenatal to our elder citizens. Age appropriate education comprehensively taught at every level, by teachers, by anyone who networks with children.

The coaches need to be involved, the social workers, the health educators, the nurse teachers, the principal, everyone needs the knowledge base. Parents, guardians, members of families, grandparents must be educated. Our business community has to be involved. What good is any program if we're selling to under-aged children around the corner? Our civic, social, youth leaders, our youth board, every -- our faith community, every member, our governmental agencies at every level are empowered in a comprehensive prevention program.

Currently, the Federal Government is supporting, in addition to the 1,200 existing coalitions, that community coalition is comprehensive prevention and it is science-based research. Prevention is not a program, it has never been one program. Only when everyone is coming together, that's why we're still sitting here. So I urge you in your process of getting engaged in this, let's collectively study together how we can move towards eliminating this because the statistics are out there and they're alarming. Unless we stop the sales, unless we look at the sources and how they're coming into the County globally, one program is never going to resolve it.

62

And so I invite you, we have a Suffolk County Prevention Network which involves every major prevention initiative in Suffolk County to attend on Tuesday, March 5th, an educational meeting that is being sponsored which will provide the leading authority in coalition building, Dr. Richard Catalano, followed by Federal representatives. In President Bush's budget, the monies for coalition building in communities has been doubled, monies are available to support this. The State has introduced Communities That Care as its initiative. I think it's time that Suffolk County began to get engaged in the process. Currently there are two coalitions funded for Long Island through OJJDP, one is in Bay Shore and one is in Southampton. It's a hard work process to get everyone involved. It's very easy to have a program but it's tough to do what is comprehensive. And I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. Okay, let us move now to the agenda. And I want to again thank the Legislators who are not on the committee who took the time to be here this morning. We will go to tabled resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

1072 -02 (P) - To establish DARE Program in Suffolk County as a permanent program (Binder). Is there a motion?

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
There is a motion to approve. Is there a second?

LEG. BISHOP:
I will make the second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
All right, I will just ask one more time, will Legislators please report to the horseshoe.

LEG. BISHOP:
I would -- Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Go ahead, Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:
I agree with the goal of the resolution in that I think that the determination ultimately should be a Legislative question because it's a fundamental policy question. I find the title troubling because it seems to commit us to the DARE franchise and my personal position is I'm committed to uniformed police officers in the classroom, not necessarily to the DARE franchise. However, I am going to vote in favor of it because the substance outweighs the form which I disagree

with. So I would ask, however, that the sponsor consider a name change to something that's more in line with the ultimate goal of the resolution which is to clarify that it's the Legislature that makes this determination and not -- and it's not an administrative determination.

63

LEG. BINDER:

Could I respond to Legislator Bishop?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Certainly, Legislator Binder.

LEG. BINDER:

I would do that. The only problem will be that if the change is more than scrivener's change the eight day rule kicks in. I would ask then -- if I thought I had 12 votes and it could get a CN, then I would make that title change.

LEG. BISHOP:

You're -- I asked the Commissioner, I had only two minutes of questions and I thought that the question that I asked at least for me was the information I really needed. He said that any alternative program that is developed, so long as the administrators of the school districts want it, the police presence will be equal or greater in the future. So given that, it seems like there is room for some sort of consensus now, because I'm sure -- maybe I'm incorrect, but I assume that your position is police in the classroom, it's not DARE itself.

LEG. BINDER:

Well, except I would say that my position leans towards DARE because those police in the classroom are going to be trained by a program that trains them. If we put police in the classroom and they don't have a continuous training course, where else are they going to do it? Is the Police Commissioner going to train them? That's the problem. Police are not just police, these are especially trained police and that's one of the points. If there's another program that has --

LEG. BISHOP:

Maybe there isn't a consensus then. But anyway, my position is that I'm for police in the classroom, the Commissioner has stated that he intends to do that next year equal to or greater. Therefore, I believe that this resolution is all right, it simply says that the ultimate question is the Legislature's and that's where it should be.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, the --

LEG. BISHOP:

The title stinks.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The title stinks, is that what you're saying? I think that the question of the Legislature setting policy certainly is appropriate and I think that we heard -- well, I know we heard here today that the Police Commissioner is committed to keeping the police officers in the classroom and I know from a conversation that we had earlier with Legislator Carpenter this -- Legislator Caracappa earlier this morning with the Police Commissioner, that he is committed to working on trying to develop that comprehensive program and committing at least the resources that we have now, if not more. And I think for us to pass a resolution here committing the County to DARE only permanently is a little bit premature. We have gotten, you know, publicly that he

64

said he's going to keep the police officers in the classroom, so I think for us to move forward with this now would not be appropriate. Legislator Lindsay?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, I just wanted to say that I agree with Legislator Bishop,

although I don't have the same conclusion. I, too, want to keep police officers in the classroom and I do want to continue with a drug awareness program. I'm reluctant to support a resolution that makes DARE the only choice and the way the Resolution 1072 is worded now, I can't support it but am wide open to any modifications to the resolution.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
All right, we have a motion and a second.

LEG. BINDER:
Can I speak on the motion, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
All those in favor?

LEG. BINDER:
Can I speak on the motion, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
No. I'm sorry, Legislator Binder.

LEG. BISHOP:
He's the sponsor.

LEG. BINDER:
I am the sponsor of the legislation, I would hope that I can speak on the resolution.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
If you hadn't had an opportunity to speak all morning I would say yes, of course.

LEG. BINDER:
I didn't speak on the resolution.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Do you have something new to add?

LEG. BINDER:
On this particular resolution, yes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Yes.

LEG. BINDER:
Yes, on this resolution. It came -- it became particularly clear that DARE is not the only question we have in terms of the Police Department where we have given up a policy making roll. Basically we make a budget, we give the Police Commissioner the ability to do

65

policing any way he sees fit, whether it's COPE patrols, whether it's bicycle patrol, whether it's foot patrol or whether it's DARE. I've actually put in another resolution to cover the other programs because I think -- what this legislation says, okay, the title says permanently so maybe it is a concern in the title, but the structure of the legislation itself says this is the program and if we want to end it we will, it's not permanent because if we end it then it's over. So I differ, I think we should take control of this program.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Thank you. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? I'm going to abstain.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Opposed.

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Three one one.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

3-1-1. So I'm going to make a motion to table because the resolution would need four so that -- it needs four. There are six on this committee.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

It needs four? Doesn't it need a simple majority at this point, Counsel?

MR. SABATINO:

Well, if the vote is officially called then it was defeated, but I'm not sure that the vote was officially called.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

I second the motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Thank you very much. We have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor? The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal). Thank you.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Let us move to 1089-02 (P) - Amending the 2002 Capital Program and Budget and appropriating planning funds for security improvements to County Correctional Facilities (CP 3035.111) (Carpenter). This is the resolution that Chief Otto came forward about this morning. I'll make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Caracappa. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1136-02 (P) - Approving the appointment of Richard O. Hill as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive).

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Motion.

66

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We have a motion. Second by Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

No, I will not second. I am not seconding that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right, I'll second that resolution. Legislator Bishop, did you have something you wanted to say? I have a question first before we move forward with this. We have a number of these appointments and reappointments to the Human Rights Commission. The new appointments did come down to the Legislature this morning. I'm asking the committee, you know, what is your wish, do you feel it's necessary for us to bring them down to the full Legislature? I think not. The fact that they come came to committee this morning, if they're approved out of committee, I would feel that that would be sufficient. Okay? So we have a motion and a second. And Legislator Bishop, on 1136.

LEG. BISHOP:

I don't think they need to come down to the full Legislature. I am not sure I am prepared to vote for these nominees at this time.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. We have a motion and a second for 1136. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1137-02 (P) - Approving the appointment of Lynda Perdomo-Ayala as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). Is there a motion?

LEG. BISHOP:

I'm not making a motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I will make a motion, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor?

Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Abstain.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
The resolution is approved via one abstention (VOTE: 4-0-1-1
Abstention: Legislator Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1138-02 (P) - Approving the appointment of Alice P. Lambert as a
member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County
Executive). Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Nowick.
All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Abstain.

MR. SABATINO:
Just back up on that. I'm sorry, Madam Chair. Just on --
67

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
1138?

MR. SABATINO:
On 1138 --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
There was one withdrawn by the County Executive, 1142; is that your
question?

MR. SABATINO:
No, this one is correct. There was -- one of them has a problem.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
1142 was withdrawn. All right, so we have a motion and a second on
1138. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstained?

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Abstain.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
We have one abstention, 1138 is approved (VOTE: 4-0-1-1 Abstention:
Legislator Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1139-02 (P) - Approving the appointment of Michele T. DelMonte as a
member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County
Executive). We have a motion to approve Michele DelMonte, second by
Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Abstain.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
One abstention on 1139. Approved (VOTE: 4-0-1-1 Abstention: Legislator
Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1140-02 (P) - Approving the appointment of Sylvia A. Diaz as a member
of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive).

LEG. BISHOP:
Motion to table.

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Second.

LEG. NOWICK:
Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
We have a motion to approve by Legislator Nowick and there was a
motion and a second to table. All those in favor of tabling? Opposed?

LEG. LINDSAY:
No.

68

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
I'm opposed to tabling. Okay, the resolution to table fails. We have a motion and a second to approve 1140. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BISHOP:
Well, I would like to abstain.

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Abstain.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
All right, we have --

LEG. BISHOP:
I'll tell you what. I'll give you a motion to discharge without recommendation.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
All right, let's do that. We have a motion and a second to discharge without recommendation 1140. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
We have one opposed, the resolution discharged (VOTE: 4-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1141-02 (P) - Approving the appointment of James L. Stephens as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive).

LEG. BISHOP:
Motion to discharge without recommendation. This is the member who identified his qualifications as being the head of the Log Cabin Republicans. I will make a motion to discharge without recommendation.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
There is a motion to discharge without recommendation. Is there a second? I will make that second. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:
Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
The resolution is approved (VOTE: 4-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1143-02 (P) - Approving the reappointment of Rabbi Steven A. Moss as Chair of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). I will make that motion, second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:

69

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
We have one opposed, the resolution is approved (VOTE: 4-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1144-02 (P) - Approving the reappointment of Howard Glickstein as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). I will make the motion, second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

One opposed, the resolution is approved (VOTE: 4-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1145-02 (P) - Approving the reappointment of Rajeshwar Prasad as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Nowick, second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

One opposed, the resolution is approved (VOTE: 4-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1146-02 (P) - Approving the reappointment of Augustus G. Mantia, M.D. as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The resolution is approved (VOTE: 4-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Postal).

We go to 1154.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Can I just ask one question?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

How many Chairs are there?

LEG. BISHOP:

You have two listed as Chair.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Three.

70

MR. SABATINO:

There's 15 Trustees altogether.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, but you know what? In the -- I think it's a type on the agenda.

LEG. BISHOP:

Only Moss is the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

That 1144, 45 and 46 should read member and not Chair.

MR. SABATINO:

Oh, yeah, you are right about that, the agenda is wrong. There's 15 members, only one Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So we'll just note that.

We will move to 1154-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$104,100 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to enforce Motor Vehicle Passenger Restraint Regulations with 96.4% support (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor?

Opposed? The resolution is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1155-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to enforce regulations regarding junior license operators with 94.1% support (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Nowick, second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1156-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to apprehend aggressive drivers with 94.1% support (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Caracappa, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1157-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to apprehend aggressive drivers on local roadways with 94.1% support (County Executive). Is this a repeat?

MR. SABATINO:

No, this is local roadways, the previous one was the two parkways.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Motion by Legislator Caracappa, second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

71

1158-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to locate and apprehend certain habitual vehicle and traffic law offenders with 94.1% support (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Caracappa, second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1159-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating 83% Federal Pass-Thru Grant funds from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services for the "Enhanced Services for PINS" Program administered by the Department of Probation and authorizing the County Executive to execute grant related agreements (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1160-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating 66% Federal Pass-Thru Grant funds from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services for the "School Based Probation" Program administered by the Department of Probation and authorizing the County Executive to execute grant related agreements (County Executive). Motion by myself, second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

1172-02 (P) - Transferring Terrorism Contingent Funds for emergency preparedness and response equipment (County Executive). I'll make that motion, second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Postal).

MEMORIALIZING SENSE RESOLUTIONS

We have Sense 9-2002 (P) - Memorializing Sense Resolution requesting the New York State Legislature to exempt certain former Suffolk County employees under consideration for employment with the District Attorney's Office from the salary restriction contained in Section 211 of New York State Retirement & Social Security Law (Presiding Officer Tonna). We have a motion. Legislator Lindsay?

LEG. LINDSAY:
I want an explanation on that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Counsel, if you would, please.

MR. SABATINO:
This bill would allow retired former Suffolk County Police Officers to be employed by the District Attorney's Office by making a request for an amendment to State legislation. Apparently police officers from other municipalities are, in fact, allowed to participate and not be subject to this Section 211 income restriction. Suffolk County for some reason is not and this is asking the State to make that amendment.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Okay. All right, we have a motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Caracappa. All those in favor? Opposed?

72

LEG. NOWICK:
Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Legislator Nowick is opposed. The resolution is approved
(VOTE: 4-1-1 Opposed: Legislator Nowick - Not Present: Legislator Postal)

And I think that is it. I thank everyone for their patience here this morning. The committee meeting is adjourned.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 P.M.*)

Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson
Public Safety & Public Information Committee

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically

73