

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, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on April 24, 2002.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature  
Doug Sutherland - Aide to Legislator Carpenter  
BJ McCartan - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna  
Ed Hogan - Aide to Legislator Nowick  
Terrence Pearsall - Aide to Legislator Lindsay  
Rosalind Gazes - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Joe Muncey - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Joe Michaels - Deputy County Executive  
Bill Faulke - County Executive's Office/Intergovernmental Relations  
Alfred Tisch - Suffolk County Sheriff  
Donald Sullivan - Under-Sheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Department  
John Gallagher - Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department  
James Abbott - Chief Deputy Commissioner/SCPD  
Phil Robilotto - Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department  
James Maggio - Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department  
Bill Rohrer - Suffolk County Police Department/Public Information  
Dave Fischler - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services  
Donald Gackenheimer - Deputy Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy  
Frank Lettieri - Suffolk County Police Academy  
Leslie Price - Suffolk County Police Academy  
Robert Kearon - Suffolk County District Attorney's Office  
Kristine Chayes - Department of Civil Service  
Debbie Epple - Department of Civil Service  
Mike Sharkey - Deputy Sheriff's Benevolent Association  
Nancy Manteiga - 2nd Vice-President/Association of Municipal Employees  
Brian Watts - 3rd Vice-President/Association of Municipal Employees  
Ruth Cusack - Suffolk County League of Women Voters  
Elie Seidman-Smith - Director/Community Service Program/ARC  
Valerie Burgher - Newdsday  
All Other Interested Parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(\*The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M.\*)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Would everyone please rise for the pledge of allegiance led by Legislator Bishop.

### Salutation

Thank you so much for being here at our Public Safety Committee meeting. This morning, at the request of the Presiding Officer, we are going to have a State of the Public Safety of the County in the wake of 9/11. We are joined this morning by the Presiding Officer, Paul Tonna. Legislator Tonna.

P.O. TONNA:

Thank you very much, Madam Chairman, Chairwoman, Madam Chairwoman. Especially in the wake of September 11th and terrorist threats and attacks, after talking with the Chairperson of Public Safety, we felt that maybe it was time to give an opportunity for the law enforcement agencies and departments of our County to talk a little about where we are with regard to public safety in the County. And so this is an unprecedented first step. And I want to just thank very much Legislator Carpenter for putting this together with the Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, FRES and the District Attorney's Office. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. And to the members of the committee who have always been so supportive of the public safety component of our County. Just let the record reflect that Legislator Lindsay was not able to be here this morning, but his aide is here observing what's happening.

So without further ado, we will begin with the Police Commissioner who got here bright and early and got all set up to seize the opportunity to go first. Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Good morning. I will be brief because I know there are other speakers, and mainly because I have someplace else to go, but I couldn't think of a better place to be than here right now.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, gosh.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Just to give you an overview of the department, the state of the department since the year, in order to give you a status of how we stand in terms of the events of 9/11, post 9/11, I thought it would be best to show how we stand in the overall.

We took a snapshot on April 1st and these numbers already have changed; they change almost daily, the numbers of officers that you have actually, you know, assigned to the department because people are retiring, resigning, going on sick, you know, sick leave or not able

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to be functioning as police officers almost on a day-to-day basis. But as of April 11th we had 2,621 sworn officers, 568 civilians. In 2001, 118 officers had separated from the department in one form or another, that's resignations or retirements or officers who died on the job. In 2002, we estimate the separations to run at about 100.

In 2001, we put an academy class through of 134 officers. But it's always good to remind I think especially members of this body that when you talk about academy classes and those numbers, you have to always look at what's the net gain. Of the 134 that became police officers here in 2001, the net gain to the department was 16 officers, the rest were in effect replacements one for one. In 2002, we just swore in a class yesterday or the day before of 110 officers. Under the Civilianization Program in 2001, we replaced 35 positions in the department from police officer to civilian; in 2002, that number will be 22 positions making for a total of 35, 45, 55, 57 positions. These positions are always, you know, somewhat lengthy, our replacement process is a lengthy process because of the need to vet every candidate for a civilian position in the department, they have to go through a background check, and so sometimes it takes time to get these things done. But we are doing them with the caveat that I put to the County Executive's Budget Office, that all of these things will be done if and when -- each of these replacements is done if and when we have the replacement in hand; in other words, I'm not taking a police officer out of a job until I know I have a civilian to put in the job, because it just doesn't make sense the other way. We used to do that in the past and you wound up having to put the police officer back in the job when the civilian was not available.

On September 11th, 2001, and for several months thereafter, members of the Patrol Division, with some assistance from the Detective Division, assisted the New York PD with operations at the World Trade Center site. In the first days after September 11th, we assigned literally hundreds of officers to patrol, they were assigned to security at the direction of the New York City Police Department and at their request. At one point I think at the high water mark we had 300 officers working in New York City. That did not last very long. We stayed in as long as we were needed and when the city indicated to us that we were no longer needed to assist in patrol, that was throughout not only at the World Trade Center site but throughout really the Manhattan -- the borough of Manhattan, we withdrew and we remained only at the site, the World Trade Center site with a cadre of officers from K-9 and Emergency Service. They did state on for several weeks and even into months because, again, the nature of what they were doing was at the request of the New York City PD. K-9 I think probably was the first to withdraw.

Emergency Service and Crime Scene personnel. Crime Scene personnel were assigned to the site at the relocation of the debris site over at Fresh Kills in Staten Island also for examination and investigation of evidence at that site.

The overall cost to us for assisting the city at this time of need we have estimated at \$1.4 million. I can break that down further if you need, but also we expect -- we're anticipating some reimbursement from the Federal Government for that cost.

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East End Aviation became another issue that the department has addressed. As you know from your own deliberations, we will be at the east end airport for the remainder of this year at Gabreski and then I believe subject to the County Executive signing the bill that was passed, and I have no reason to doubt that he would sign it, we will be there on a permanent basis with a helicopter stationed at the east end.

Planning. Our planning started in 1998. And I want to give credit to Dave Fischler and FRES who were the major player in getting that whole concept at a time when nobody was perhaps as aware or as concerned or concentrated on planning for emergencies, and the word emergency included terrorist attack. FRES, under Commissioner Fischler, was putting together an Emergency Planning Counter Terrorism Committee. It's co-chaired by Chief Compitello, the Chief of Patrol, and by Commissioner Fischler from FRES. We take a proactive approach providing equipment and training for first responders to terrorist activity, terrorist incidents. We have been I think somewhat -- quite successful really in getting grants and Federal support for the equipment and training.

Our training is ongoing, it is really never ending in the emergency service section for these kinds of events. We have a direct electronic link that has been established by the New York State Office of Public Security, I think one of only about 12 agencies around the State that have a direct computer link to the State Office of Security. We have been working and improving information flow and coordination between the agencies, we continue to do so. We have a liaison with the New York State Office of Security from our department.

We have in terms of response plans to incidents, probably -- I shouldn't say probably, just by going around the State and around the country even, we are probably one of the lead agencies, one of the lead counties in having formulated response plans to emergencies. We do the exercises, we do the various table tops that Commissioner Fischler usually operates out of his office. And in addition to that, we have been linking -- the whole issue of emergency planning really is not -- it's not in a vacuum, it's not a 9/11 event that has, you know, cropped up, we have been working on this, as I said, since 1998. I see as linked in my mind the need for planning to be a proactive involvement with any area where you can have -- where you have to plan for an unforeseen emergency.

For this reason then, take Project SAVE which is Safe Schools Against Violence and Education, that's state legislation that was passed two years ago now. Under that project we have gone out, met with the schools, met with them in seminar fashion, you know, as an organized meeting and then gone out school to school. We have computerized floor plans for 86% of all the school districts that we serve in the Police District. We have 100% of plans for all districts, 83% of them have been put on to JPEG, what they call a JPEG disk and can be actually operated right out of emergency service or a sector car, the computer technology that's in these cars. One hundred percent of them have submitted plans, the others that are not yet on the disk we're working on putting them on the disk, they have submitted floor plans,

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stack drawings of floor plans. This was a result, if you remember the Columbine incident, a result of Columbine, an attempt to find out ahead of time exactly where we would be going and what we would need to do.

In addition to the plans, we have actually done video tapes in coordination with the Suffolk County Schools Superintendent's Association, video tapes for school administrators and for teachers on how to respond to emergencies in your school, emergencies of whatever

nature, whether they be a Columbine-type attack or a terrorist attack; the same basic plan would work. Those tapes have been distributed and have actually been the basis of planning at schools throughout the Police District. Those tapes, I might add, I brought those to a Major City Chief's Conference and at least 35 to 40 of the cities throughout the United States asked me for copies of the tapes. They were so impressed with the work that we did out of our AV Section in the Police Academy in putting those tapes together. We did that with the cooperation of Longwood School District.

Gang interdiction efforts. As you know, we just announced yesterday the development of a comprehensive plan which, in association with the District Attorney's Office and several other police agencies on both the Federal, State -- all levels, Federal, State and local -- will be tracking and analyzing what's going on with gangs in the County. Our own intelligence, Criminal Intelligence Section will be the repository of intelligence information gathered about gangs. The agencies that are cooperating read like a who's who of law enforcement; the District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, Probation Department, Riverhead Town Police, Southold Town Police, Amityville Village Police Department, Nassau County Police Department, Nassau County Sheriff's Department, Federal Parole, New York State Parole, New York State Police, New York State Court System, New York City Department of Corrections for gang intelligence out at the jails in New York City.

So I think with this initiative which we started yesterday, which is going to be ongoing, this is not one of these task force concepts with a limited shelf life. We had 150 officers from our department at a seminar yesterday, they will form the cadre of, I hope, the entire department's uniform staff. The patrol staff and even some of the plain clothes officers also will be, you know, charged with an ongoing interdiction of gang activity. It's the kind of thing that you don't let up on, you maintain that presence and that pressure consistently and constantly.

We have developed a crime analysis and enhanced intelligence coordination operation and strategy in the department whose services include crime pattern detection, crime event mapping and recidivist data bases in conjunction with the Probation Department. I just gave you like a template up there, it's -- I don't want to show you a detailed description of the neighborhood by neighborhood, the raps that we do do, that crime analysis does do with overlays of known offenders versus known burglaries, you know, report burglaries in an area, that's one way it's used, known offenders versus other types of crimes that we just track and see if we can link the dots, connect the dots. I think so far it's been working.

I think crime analysis is in its infancy stage. As far as I'm

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concerned in this department, I want to see it get a lot more sophisticated and a lot more predictive of criminal trends. It's linked into what is commonly called, you know, in police parlance now has become a common term of art, it's called comstat where you bring everybody together to look at a problem, you know, you bring all the resources you can. Yesterday the gang initiative was a form, or the gang program announcement by the District Attorney is a form of comstat. Everybody that you can that has resources to bear you bring them into it and you say, "We're all sitting down together, we're all going to look at this problem together." It was modeled after the New York City program and this is another example of how we're going to

use crime analysis, it's a comstat type model.

We have had several operations. I have always -- as I think I have indicated to you before, I have always considered this -- every Police Department has its own culture, its own ethos and every department has to deal with crimes that are, if you will, crimes of prominence to this department. In my case, I have always looked on the traffic enforcement. We kill more young people on our roads than we kill in drug dens anywhere in Suffolk County. I mean, the weekend and daily reports of motor vehicle fatalities just, you know, leave me sometimes just sick. The way drivers in this County sometimes become instruments of death, especially youth driving -- inexperienced drivers driving without the ability to handle the vehicles that they're given with a license at age, what, 17 or 18.

So we have started the Suffolk Intensified Traffic Enforcement, that was in the summer of 2001. Over a 12 week period we issued over 3,100 summonses for serious moving violations. The idea of Suffolk Intensive Traffic Enforcement is to reach out to where the violations are not minor but serious, you know, passing red lights where the light is -- you know, it's turned red and the presumption on the other driver's part is that he or she can proceed. Intelligence gathering -- by the way, that resulted in over a 22% decrease in the number of fatal accidents as compared to the same period before we had this Operation SITE in the year 2000; in the year 2001 we had a 22% percent decrease. Now, you say why don't you keep that up. Well, it's intensive and it costs -- it's not cost effective for me to be able to keep it up permanently. But Operation SITE will continue to pop up as we have the resources available to us where we will, you know, do an intense enforcement effort at known intersections, known road surface locations where we know we have high accident rates.

(\*Legislator Caracappa entered the meeting at 9:59 A.M.\*)

Intelligence gathering. Designated officers have been trained and process intelligence and initiate precinct based crime analysis in each precinct. We want to bring this down to the precincts taking advantage of technology that the precincts now have to identify crime trends and patterns.

In the ID section of the department we have live scan fingerprinting which is operational now in the 5th, the 6th, the 7th precincts and at headquarters. It makes a big difference, it saves time, officers can return to their patrol duties quicker, they can do a live scan print,

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they can take the print and transfer it over livescan. Our next generation will be live scan photo imaging which we're working on.

We have a mobile range, a firearms range that was put into operation just recently. We purchased this, it can train three officers at a time. It's perfect -- let me assure you, it's perfectly safe, it's not like you're just shooting at a target inside of a box, it's a highly developed, operationally safe shooting range. It will be moving around from precinct to precinct under the auspices of training our officers better, it gives them a chance to retrain on their firearms more frequently than they did in the past because of the cost factor in bringing them to the range out in West Hampton. They can now go to this mobile firearms trailer and they can exercise firearms, they can do firearms exercise on their own, they can do malfunction drills and

other kinds of drills that they can now do more frequently. And I think it's going to make for better trained, better disciplined in a firearms training officer. The unit will also be available to east end departments and any other departments within the police district or actually within the County that want to use it.

Our mobile data computer technology has been increasing. We can now put messages out on terrorism alerts over the data system right into the sector cars. We can do digitized images; we're working on that, I wouldn't say we're ready for that absolutely yet.

E-911 for wireless phones has been something that's always been of interest to this department because it's a plague to us. When a wireless phone or a cell phone calls in, we cannot do the same thing we can do with Enhanced 911 when you call from a land-line, we cannot trace exactly where you're calling from. They're working on that technology to provide call back information and location for cell phone callers. Often a cell phone caller who calls us is an out-of-towner who is not sure where they are asking for assistance. And right now more than half of our calls to 911 are emanating from cell phones. So it's a technology that's been a problem throughout the country, but I think we are -- I understand we're progressing rapidly towards being able to do the same Enhanced 911, identifying features with land-line phones for cell phones. And that's it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much, Commissioner. Does anyone have any comments or questions? Well, thank you very --

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes, I have a question.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, okay. Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

I can't believe nobody else did.

LEG. POSTAL:

Well, we knew we could count on you.

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Our designated inquisitor.

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Commissioner. Good morning, thank you for coming. Just two basic questions and then I have two more specific questions.

The last several meetings I have been requesting information regarding plans for foot patrols; do we have that here today? And what will it take for me to get this information or the committee to get it, since it's only been asked for three consecutive times.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Let me ask Chief Robilotto.

CHIEF ROBILOTTO:

We were in the process -- and I apologize -- am I live?

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes.

CHIEF ROBILOTTO:

The problem has been that we don't have the numbers of people we're going to have available for the summer, we didn't have the class set up, we have that. What we are planning to do is a very similar program to the ones we did the summer before last where we did the walk concept, the walk and ride out of the COPE Units. Barring the unforesee, we will do that, I will promise you I'll get them to you.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

If we could, I know -- if you don't mind me interrupting. Our next meeting we were supposed to have the update on the Medevac and of course that was taken care of at the last Legislative session. So perhaps at the next Public Safety Committee you can have that formalized information for the committee on the foot patrols.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Yeah, we'll get you the detailed information. You have a commitment that we will have foot patrols this summer.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, I know, you had said that and we believe you.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

But next committee meeting.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

We'll put it into detail precinct by precinct for you.

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Continue, Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

The crime rates in major crimes, where are they at today as compared to last year and five year trend?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

In the most generalized terms, I'd say it's pretty flat.

LEG. BISHOP:

Will you have that for us at the next meeting as well? We used to get that periodically, I'm not quite sure what the period -- I think it was quarterly up until about a year or two ago and it was a good practice.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

We can give that to you monthly because we receive it monthly.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

The major index crimes which are the crimes reported to the FBI, we can do that on a monthly basis for you and show you that crime rate monthly, yes.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Yes, that's right, we used to provide that information to you.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right, that's what I'm saying.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

And then when you stopped asking for it I said, "Don't give it to them anymore." But I will give it back.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Here we are.

LEG. BISHOP:

The comstat initiative I applaud you on and it's something that I think the committee would like to see a demonstration of an action; is that possible? One of the -- along with the traffic/vehicular enforcement initiative, SITE?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

SITE, Operation SITE.

LEG. BISHOP:

One of the principles that I've been pushing over the last several years is that information that the government has should be more readily available to the public now that we have Internet technology,

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information about the level traffic enforcement would probably be very helpful in road calming. Because we always say that we're going to send a unit out there to write tickets in the hope that that's going to calm traffic down and of course it does calm traffic down for the 20 minutes after the officer leaves, you know, there's recognition that there's been enforcement there. But if the public could see the amounts of tickets that are written, where they were written, I think you'd get a better response to the initiative.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Actually, yeah, that's a very good point. I never thought of that, to actually make public the results of these operations by intersection and by road surface.

LEG. BISHOP:

You have a very -- unfortunately or better or worse, you have a large element of the public that's completely cynical and then another element that's doubtful and very few true believers. So if we can prove to them that traffic enforcement is being enhanced and it's actually occurring and here's where we're writing the tickets, that would make our job a lot of easier. Because I'm sure we're all hearing it from our constituents that we need to do more and you say, "Oh yes, they're out there writing tickets. Where were they? We didn't

see them." That type of thing.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:  
Okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
Very good point, Legislator Bishop. Thank you.

LEG. BISHOP:  
And then the comstat demonstration also, that would be equally --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:  
Yeah, we don't yet have a comstat nor do we envision a comstat process that perhaps if you had any --

LEG. BISHOP:  
Visuals.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:  
-- visuals of New York City where you have a big auditorium and somebody in the hot seat, that's not --

LEG. BISHOP:  
Not that dramatic, okay.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:  
Under Commissioner Abbott we are doing our approach to comstat which is like a focusing of all resources on a particular problem. We can invite you to those meetings as they take place.

LEG. BISHOP:  
No, I -- I guess what -- I suppose what I'm interested in is the crime trends in my precinct, and I think that's what probably Joe is

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interested in in his and right down the line. So if --

CHIEF ROBILOTTO:  
We can give you and bring literally the working documents that we use which are computer generated. The little graph, the diagram that the Commissioner put up on the one page with the streets --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:  
It doesn't show the streets in the model I put up, but the ones we have will actually show you street by street, sometimes even house by house.

LEG. BISHOP:  
I suppose what I'm asking is can you direct your Precinct Commanders to make -- to meet with the Legislators at their request to go over -- to share this information with us. Is that something that's going to --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:  
Mr. Abbott?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ABBOTT:  
Legislator Bishop, just on the comstat issue as we're perceiving here in Suffolk County, it's an integration of both statistical analysis which we can readily present to you whether in closed session or here,

you're invited to see it. The other aspect of Comstat is how the department is going to develop and direct and analyze and disseminate its flow of information relative to crime patterns, infrastructure protection, those types of things which is at beginning of a long developmental process.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay, so not yet is what you're saying.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ABBOTT:

Yeah.

LEG. BISHOP:

That's fine

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ABBOTT:

We can show you what you're asking to see in a statistical analysis that I think will suffice in the short-term pending the development of the overall program.

LEG. BISHOP:

If you had something that was new and unique and would be helpful to us then we want you to share it with us, that's what I'm saying.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ABBOTT:

You'll see it.

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LEG. BISHOP:

If you're still working on it then we'll be --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

As the Chief suggested, can we get back to you outside of this meeting and call you and work -- what we have to do is work out how we would do the presentation.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

You know, depending on what kind of intelligence we have available to us. I mean, some crimes, intelligence analysis on some crimes, you know, it would be unfair to share it because you're dealing with hearsay evidence.

LEG. BISHOP:

And one last one back to traffic. Accident locations, is there a way that we can put up on the Internet for the public to see where accidents are occurring? This is another -- I think it would be --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

You mean on our website, on the Police Department's website?

LEG. BISHOP:

Do we gather the information and organize it in a way that we could do that; and if we don't, can we change or adjust to do that?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I know we have developed some technical glitches with the website literally after the World Trade Center.

CHIEF ROBILOTTO:

911, yeah, we didn't put it back up yet.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay. But I'm

CHIEF ROBILOTTO:

We weren't secure in the interaction with the public so we took the site down.

LEG. BISHOP:

Fine. What I'm asking is if I called up and said Straight Path and Wellwood, County Road 3 and 4, over the last year, how many accidents; do we organize the information in a way that you can say 26 accidents, one fatality?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

It would be -- it could be a raw data run that you would get. What I would rather be able to show you is like based on the week to week basis, if that's a site location that we have computerized and mapped out. I mean, I can give you statistics at any given time. We can say, "Look, for the past 18 weeks this is number of MVA's we've had at that intersection or along that strip of the road."

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LEG. BISHOP:

Actually, it's been my experience where I've made those phone calls and I've been told that's a massive manpower undertaking because somebody physically has to go through the reports for the last year to pull them out. So I'm not asking to look backwards, I'm saying as we move forward, and I was intrigued by this traffic enforcement notion and this merger with the technology that we could do something like this.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Yes. Operation SITE is partially based on computerized, statistical data as to where the high accident sites are, yeah. So obviously we've gathered it for ourselves, I don't know -- it will probably -- yeah, probably they're telling you it would be a problem to share it street by street or intersection by intersection. But when those intersections where we know, it's just like an any other crime, we know where the criminal -- where the activity is highest and we can tell you where the activity say in your district as far as MVA's and fatalities is highest. We may not be easily able to retrieve a specific location, a street where it doesn't show up on our high analysis map, but we can give you that information.

LEG. BISHOP:

All right. I know I didn't discuss this with you in advance, so what I'll do is I'll commit my thoughts to writing and perhaps --

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

That would help.

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes, we can on something for the future.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

So we'll know exactly what we're trying to come up with by way of a statistical analysis for you.

LEG. BISHOP:

I appreciate the answers. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Legislator Caracappa.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I know back in the 80's, Legislator Bishop, I think through a policy or resolution by then Legislator Mahoney, they used to -- we used to have black dot areas.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Black spot.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

And we have the signs in high accident locations; whatever happened to that I don't know. And in fact, those locations that used to have the black dot signs in the mid to late 80's, they're gone now, I don't know what happened to that policy.

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LEG. BISHOP:

Maxine has the last one.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I think there's one in Bay Shore too.

LEG. POSTAL:

Can I just --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Postal, please.

LEG. POSTAL:

Yeah, I think -- I know I have one, I didn't know it was the last one. But, you know, they're really -- I think they're far more effective than having that information on a website, because I think that as you're driving, when you see that and you know that you're approaching a high accident intersection, I would hope people would think twice. You know, sometimes people don't plan ahead, but the information is good for us.

I have actually gotten the information with regard to Straight Path, about the number of accidents, because that's a particularly problematic stretch of road. But that's a good question, Joe, whatever happened to the black spot areas.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Because I recently was in North Carolina during the Easter holiday and they had the signs up posted on their roadways and they were eye grabbing to say the least. As I was driving along just as a passenger, I saw it and you can't not see it and I thought it was a great deterrent. So we should start looking into that again and see what happened to it, if there was a policy deadline, I don't know what it was. Maybe Counsel, a sunset or just widely ignored as other

policies?

MR. SABATINO:

I will double check, but my memory of it was that when Legislator Mahoney sponsored the bill it generated a lot of interest and controversy and the bill itself was defeated because of opposition, as my memory serves me. But I think the compromise was that administratively it was going to be done maybe in a piecemeal basis. But I don't think the legislation ever got enacted, that's my recollection of it.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Perhaps Legislator Caracappa who is the Chairman of the Public Works Committee, it seems that a initiative like this would have to work in cooperation with the Public Works Department. And perhaps through your committee and the Commissioner and the Police Commissioner and this committee we can look at resurrecting that policy. And perhaps not just the black dot but, you know, some information on the sign, you know, saying "High Accident Location", because most people, you

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know, may not know what that represents. And if there's any data that would show what the accidents were prior to some locations where the black dot was installed and if there was a benefit after it was installed. And that is going back a while, I don't know if we can get that, but it certainly is something that I think is worth looking at again.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

I'll do that through my committee, and I'm sure I'll work with you and the other people.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Good.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

I think we've stumbled upon something here; thanks, Dave. My original question was going back to your E-911 with wireless calls. Recently my office inquired to your office and Chief Robilotto, his office was very helpful in getting the information with relation to bomb threats to schools; unfortunately there have been too many over the last calendar year. In certain instances you have been able to trace where the call had come from, in most instances land lines. You are still unable to trace most cell phone calls, in fact some of them are -- but it's contradictory because some of the officers on scene at the schools have said, "We know where the call came from, it came from one of the 9/11 phones that are distributed through the programs for either a senior citizen or domestic violence, " but then when I called your office you said they're untraceable. So where are we now with tracing wireless phone calls that are making these bogus claims of bomb threats and crime accusations and whatnot?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

The only thing I can think of, the comment made by an officer would be a conjecture. Because right now the technology is not available anywhere to trace a wireless phone. We're working on that. In fact, we have made a tremendous amount of progress, you know, nationally on

that. ABCO, which is the association that deals with wireless communications for public safety purposes, there's been a lot -- the basic problem, as so many times, it's a dollar problem, it's getting the phone suppliers to actually underwrite the cost of being able to imprint into the phones a traceable chip when the phone is used for a 911 call.

I really don't think that we know, we can tell from a wireless cell phone, we can't tell where that call is coming from, not yet. We can get a general -- we can tell -- I think the only thing we're able to tell is what cell transmitted, what site transmitted the call, but that could be -- you know, all that tells you is it's coming out of Suffolk County or something like that.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Once you perfect the technology for the E-911 with wireless calls, will you be able to do that tracing calls that come in making bomb threats or something similar?

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COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Yeah.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

But I want to stress, it's beyond our capacity, it's beyond any one department's capacity to make this happen. It's a national system that has to be tweaked and worked on and that's what's being done really with support for Washington and the Federal Communications Commission. I met with FCC Chairman Powell over several issues at one time representing the Major Chiefs about a year ago. And that's exactly one of the things we're asking him to do, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, was to support financially this drive that we're putting together as law enforcement to be able to trace these wireless cell phones. But you have to get the companies that make the cell phones, you know, they have to come on board to encrypt into the cell phone a way of tracing where that call is being made.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

How long off do you think that will be before we have it implemented here in Suffolk County; there's no way to tell at this point in time?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I have no way of telling. It's not around the corner, I know that.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Okay. You brought up that up FCC which just brought on another question from me to you.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

I'm sorry.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Yeah, I apologize. But recently I've also received calls from residents in my district that have complained about phone booths, pay phones, and the amount of what they say is certain illegal activity emanating from those locations. They asked me to just, you know, "Do

what you can to get rid of them, there are too many, " and they went and they actually counted them in a square mile or along the strip of Route 25 through Centereach and Selden. So I did some homework on it and of course they're protected, these phone companies, they're mostly fly-by-nighters phone companies under FCC Rules and Regulations or whatever; the Precinct Commander is keeping a close watch with his units on the certain locations that were pinpointed. But what can the police do in cooperation with the FCC with relation to if there is a location where there's, let's say, drug trafficking going on from a pay phone, what can you do as a department administratively to get rid of that location, if anything? I know it's a wild question but it's legitimate.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

You know, short of petitioning the phone company, I don't know that there's anything we can do. Because that same phone could become a useful location for someone who needs help, you have to look at it

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that way, too. It's a private -- it's also a commercial enterprise, a private enterprise. You know, you can't shut them down because illegal activity takes place around that particular phone. I mean, I don't --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ABBOTT:

If you don't mind, Commissioner, what we could do is we could address the illegal activity. If you can give us a list of those questionable booths, we can put either narcotics people there if that's the issue or surveil the booths themselves and if there's illegal activity -- we can certainly address the illegal activity. Getting involved between whether the phone booth should be removed or not, I don't think that's something we can enter into.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

That was my question. But what you said Inspector Rau is handling in the 6th Precinct, they're doing a fine job. So thanks.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Legislator Nowick?

LEG. NOWICK:

Commissioner, I was just curious, when I ride around my district in the Smithtown/St. James area, there are intersections that are perceived dangerous. I don't know whether they're dangerous because people are breaking the law, whether people are driving too fast, I don't know what the reason is, but I get the calls from my constituents and they say, "Look into it, you're in the County Legislature now," and this is Public Safety and this might not even be but the right forum. But then I go there and see that they're State roads and my immediate reaction is what can I do. Would the Suffolk County Police Department, if I needed backup, would they get involved in helping me remedy a situation like that, go to the State and just kind of back me up if I needed help?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

What we can do is give you the accident information, we can show you -- you know, give you a run of information data that shows what kinds of accidents took place at that particular intersection, the

number and the frequency, or we could probably give you a summonses summary, too, of summonses issued at that intersection. But what -- I was just going to say, what you're talking about is really an engineering problem. If it's a dangerous intersection because of some of the physical location of the intersection, physical layout of the intersection. We work with our own County Department of Public Works, their Traffic Division, to talk about -- you know, they keep track of statistics just as we do and there are things that, you know, someone mentioned traffic calming, that's one of the things we try to do is work with them on where we see a stretch of road that's become a real problem to us, we'll ask DPW to go out and do an engineering survey. And sometimes the result of that, like on Deer Park Avenue I know there were some traffic calming elements put into the -- traffic calming is a term of art now about lanes, specific lanes to do turns, to calm down traffic trying to make -- you know, so that they don't

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have to dash out into an intersection to make a turn, create arrow -- you know, lights with arrow signals for turning. So all of that, that's on the engineering side. In the case of State roads, it would be the State Department of Transportation that you would be dealing with, too.

LEG. NOWICK:

So if you went to the State Department of Transportation and I needed a little backup, I could still come to you as well as the engineering?

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Yeah, we can do that.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much, Commissioner, we appreciate your thorough presentation.

COMMISSIONER GALLAGHER:

Thank you.

While we are waiting for the Sheriff to come forward, Counsel has some information on the black spot situation.

MR. SABATINO:

We pulled the file. What happened was the original proposal to actually compel certain sites and locations for the black spot, black dot sign was not successful. But a compromise version which is I think what Legislator Caracappa was referring to was the creation of a five member site selection committee which had 120 days to come up with a pilot program for sites where the black dot or black spot sign would be designated and that was done in 1985. That committee came up with a list of recommendations and whatever you saw on the roads is what that committee designated, but that's as far as it went.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Perhaps you can share copies of that resolution with myself and Legislator Caracappa, I would appreciate that. Sheriff Tisch, thank you very much for being here, I appreciate it.

SHERIFF TISCH:

Thank you again for inviting us down. As you know, we were here about three weeks ago, four weeks ago, and we made a presentation to you on what we found in the Sheriff's Department when we came on board and some of our visions. I know that you had asked me not to make mention of any steps that have been taken by the Sheriff's Department as a result of the 9/11 debacle. We did not touch on those issues at that time and I have asked Under-Sheriff Sullivan who is the Under-Sheriff in charge of our Enforcement Division, to address those issues at this time.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much.

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UNDER-SHERIFF SULLIVAN:

Madam Chairwoman, good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. On September 11th last year the Sheriff's Department and their personnel responded the way virtually every Police Department and emergency responding organization in the region did, they sent lots of people immediately and for a long time. Over the course of about a month and a half, over 60 Correction Officers responded to the scene and over 160 Deputy Sheriffs. They performed all kinds of functions, from traffic control. They needed a lot of uniforms downtown Manhattan in the days immediately afterwards, just folks with badges and uniforms to control the situation which was, as we all know, chaotic.

Correction Officers fulfilled a role that that probably no one would have thought of before such an event, it never came up before. There were lots and lots of K-9 Units from all over the region, from as far away as Upstate, New York and Southern New Jersey who responded and those dogs got into a lot of trouble and were injured and were contaminated and covered and cut, and our Correction Officers set up units to help the veterinarians, the volunteer vets that came down to care for the dogs and literally cared for these dogs, washed them off, got their boots on them, did things that, as I said, nobody would have even thought of before September 11th.

Since then -- because every outfit responded like that in the region on those days. Since then, the Sheriff's Department has joined with other regional law enforcement organizations as an active participant in the New York State Committee on Counter-Terrorism set up by Governor Pataki and chaired by former FBI New York Director Jim Calstrom. The entire state has been divided into counter-terrorism zones and since we are the southern most counties, Long Island and Nassau comprised Zone 1 of the New York State Counter-Terrorism Committee. The committee is comprised of senior members of local Long Island law enforcement organizations. We meet regularly to develop a coordinated approach to the very difficult to appreciate threat of terror in our region.

I am a member of this committee on behalf of the Sheriff's Department and the committee is chaired by Inspector Mark White, Suffolk County Police Department. It includes virtually every Police Department in the Long Island region, Sheriff's departments. Its initial efforts were focused on communication. What became clear after September 11th was that although there were many emergency responders that had lots of -- and many law enforcement organizations that knew a lot about investigating crime, there was no regional communication system to talk about and to appreciate terrorist intelligence. Before September 11th, I guess in law enforcement, this was mostly considered

a national problem. Whether or not someone was going to attack the United States didn't seem to be the problem that was on every Sheriff and Police Commissioner's desk in the morning when he got to work. Well, again, like so many other things, that changed on September 11th and regional law enforcement realized and through the Governor's Counter-Terrorism Committee statewide, realized that everybody with a uniform and a badge has to get involved in the situation. That we need the cops, the Deputy Sheriffs, Correction Officers, everybody that's on the street in a marked or unmarked unit to become aware in a

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way that American law enforcement has never had to become aware before. That's actually beginning to work.

What has occurred is the State Office of Public Safety, OPS as Commissioner Gallagher mentioned, they funded and created a Statewide Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Computer Data System. This was up and running, all of us that know government, in surprisingly short time. They actually delivered the computer station to the SCPD for our region about two months ago. The last meeting that I attended which was three weeks ago, virtually every corner of the State of New York had now been hooked into at least a regional version of this communication system.

In our committee which, as I said, comprises Nassau, Suffolk Police Departments and Sheriff's Departments, we worked out pretty effectively a way to transmit terrorist alerts which go from the general and you couldn't possibly react to it down to some specific things to get that information disseminated on a practically an instantaneous basis from, in our instance, the Police Department and directly from the Office of Public Safety to each constituent, Police Department and Sheriff's Department that is on the committee. We now have in our department in our communication system a dedicated fax reception system and we get from the PD anything that comes over their computer system, as I say, almost instantaneously. That is -- that information is then vetted through our Chief Deputy's Office, again, almost immediately and we decide on a case by case basis what do the folks in the cars need to know about. They probably don't need to know about a generalized statement about a threat coming out of Afghanistan, but they do need to know things such as it's easier to falsify a South Carolina driver's license than it is a New York State driver's license and this is what to look for if you pull somebody over and you're not sure what you're looking at. We have gotten several of those, pictures of children's teddy bears except they're loaded with homemade bombs made out of propane and BB packets. Things like this we now put up there and put out there, as does the Police Department to the cop on the street, the Deputy Sheriff on the street.

And again, it's an education process. Police Officers weren't used to, before 9/11, having to look at teddy bears and wonder or not whether it was a teddy bear, unless they were a narc at the airport. Now law enforcement, the men and women on the street, like all of us, they have to have a new pair of eyes as to what they look at and what they perceive from what they see. It's still very nebulous. It's hard to know how to tell a cop on the street, "Okay, go out and fight terrorism." "Well, who do I go get and," you know, "how do I write that up on a traffic ticket?" You can't. It's a process of getting information which occasionally is national, is frequently vague and general, and vetting it out and getting it down to officers at street level and raising their awareness, to be aware and to look at things

in a different light, as we all do since September 11th.

The next big issue in the Counter-Terrorist Zone Committee that I serve on deals with or will be dealing with regionally coordinated emergency response in the event of an attack, God forbid.

Fortunately, long before September 11th, in the Long Island Region, much very effective work and planning was done, not in terms of what

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if we get a terrorist attack, no one conceived of this before last fall, but what if we have a catastrophic event. Commissioner Fischler with FRES, the Police Departments, the Sheriff's Departments, already had in place a lot of good, fundamental planning in terms of how to respond to a catastrophic event. The scope of the event of September 11th has caused everyone to start to reexamine whether or not our plans are sufficient. This is also being addressed again on this regional basis in the Counter-Terrorism Committee that comprises senior officers from every Police Department in the Long Island Region, Nassau and Suffolk. Because if something like this did happen again here, as we learned with the ad hoc response of every regional law enforcement organization on September 11th, it's not going to be about the Southampton Police Department or the Suffolk County Police Department or the Sheriff's Department, it's going to be about everybody in the entire region and how we handle that kind of mass coordination.

These conversations are ongoing and that kind of coordination is up and running. The State Office of Public Safety is advisory in nature, they can't order a local police department or a local government to do or not to do anything with regard to coordination. So this has to be and has been, fortunately, perhaps because of the shocking nature of the events of last fall. I have seen a lot less of the internice scene turf attitudes that you might see amongst law enforcement. There's a realization that planning into the future is going to have to be collaborative because everybody remembers the horrible images from last September.

On one much smaller but related topic, the Sheriff's Department has taken over the security patrols at Suffolk County Gabreski Airport since last November. We have set up what we think is a very effective and regular security perimeter patrol and examination of the -- and constant examination of the physical layout at Gabreski. Fortunately we haven't had any terrorist events out at Gabreski Airport. We have had the occasional trespasser, we have had a few DWI and's a couple of general aviation pilots that got yelled at because they had the radios off and didn't identify themselves in time and scared the hell out of everybody until they landed and said, "Why is everybody mad at me." But we're confident that uniform presence there on a 24/7 basis has certainly enhanced the security of that County facility and it's working well.

In terms of law enforcement, whether it's the Police Department or the Sheriff's Department, the only thing we can do is to be vigilant. The only thing we can do as administrators in law enforcement is to try to keep the level of vigilance up in our uniform forces. If you're going to put a Police Officer or a Deputy Sheriff and they're driving that marked unit back and forth across this County on a day-to-day basis, the same as any other human, they fall back into the normal patterns of the previous life. It's difficult to keep in mind that you have to look at everything you see there with these new eyes that everybody in

the nation got on September 11th. That's our job. We pass this information down to our forces constantly, regularly, and we try to keep their vigilance up as high as we can. We don't want the vigilance only to be boosted when there's another event.

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I want to bring up one other issue, especially since Commissioner Gallagher mentioned it. I guess it's not classic terrorism but it's terrible and it's closer to home here in Suffolk County, gangs. I won't belabor the point, but we actually have really stepped forward in the Sheriff's Department on this issue. We have set up a new Gang Intelligence Unit. With the cooperation of the County Executive's Office, we were able to promote three Correction Officers and a Sergeant who are experienced people inside the correctional facility and set up a brand new, totally newly focused Gang Intelligence Unit.

Gangs are real, they're young, they're dangerous, they're casually violent. Any of you folks that have ever -- I don't know if any of you have seen the terrible photographs, I gave a presentation yesterday at the gang training seminar that went on at the academy with the Police Department, the District Attorney's Office and other agencies, photographs of that young girl who was slashed in the South Shore Mall in a gang initiation last week; just horrible, just beyond description; and that was casual violence, they just picked a victim out at random because she happened to have a piece of red clothing on.

These events are coming this way. We're used to not living, you know, our folks live at home, you speak to mom, "We don't have gangs here in Suffolk County". Well, that's not true, the gangs are here, they're growing. We're fortunate that we are able to learn from the experience of other law enforcement organizations over the last literally 30, 35 years, and the thing that we have heard over and over again is don't get behind the issue. You get the behind the gang issue and the gangs get out in front of you, you're going to have a much harder job trying to recapture portions of your geography, portions of your law enforce.

Our new gang unit was set primarily to keep our folks safe in that correctional facility and keep the inmates safe from one another. And number two, we're beginning, and it's really beginning to work, to capture real, hard intelligence on who gang members are, where they're from and where they're going. And we're in a very new collaborative reality with the Police Department, they're getting that information now daily out of the Suffolk County Correctional Facility. We want to know who these folks are when they're inside our jail to protect our Correction Officers and to protect the inmates from these people and we want to tell the Police Department who they are when they walk out our door and go back in to the community.

That is something that we put at the forefront at the beginning of our administration. I am pleased to say that we got resources to do it and it seems to be working so far. We'll keep you posted. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. Is there anything anyone else would like to add, any comments or questions?

LEG. POSTAL:

Can I ask a question?

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
Legislator Postal.

LEG. POSTAL:

I am sure that you're aware that over the past years we have provided mobile data terminals for some of our -- most of our police cars, and I recognize that's a major expense in an year that we're struggling financially. But one of the responsibilities that we're all aware your department has is the serving of orders of protection in domestic violence situations.

SHERIFF TISCH:  
Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:

And I'm wondering whether -- I'm thinking to myself that it might be important for a Sheriff who is serving such an order to have access to the information that would appear about the person on whom he's serving the order when he or she goes to that location. For example, information that might not appear on the order of protection about whether there are weapons in the house, you know, that perhaps this individual has had a police -- a criminal case involving weapons possession or maybe there have been other issues that would be helpful in kind of fore warning and forearming the Sheriff who's going into that house. If you could just comment on that? I don't know if you are prepared to do that today.

SHERIFF TISCH:

I will tell you this. I mentioned it when I made an appearance here last time, that that is one of our things on our need list, it's not on a wish list, it's on a need list. We are recognizing that, we have requested it, we've requested funding for it and we're going to be more specific. Obviously the first focus that we have is to put mobile data terminals into the vehicles that are doing just what you said, DVU, Domestic Violence Unit, as well as the Warrant Squad. It's very, very important that current information be available to the Police Officer when he approaches someone's door, for their own safety and for the safety of those people inside the residence.

You probably are aware that we do seize firearms when we are aware of them. We also do exclusions. In the event that the party who has obtained the order of protection has the person from whom they wish to be protected residing in the same residence, its our job to remove that other person, that's called an exclusion and that is a very very dangerous task for the officer to be performing. So instantaneous that could be available on a mobile date terminal would be very, very helpful. Don?

UNDER-SHERIFF SULLIVAN:

Another issue. It's not only -- it not only makes things safer for that Deputy Sheriff, for that victim who got the Order of Protection, for that family that we don't know if there's a gun in the house before we get in the door and there's a group of people in there, it's cheaper; it's not cheaper this year but it's cheaper. Technology are cheap dollars.

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We are a County-wide agency, we go from Melville to Montauk. I have

Deputy Sheriffs drive back and forth that 90 miles with paper in their car. They have to come back to Islip, they have to come back to Riverhead and get more paper and check paper on warrants, on domestic violence warrants, on orders of protection, on orders of eviction which nobody likes to think about, you know, it's not a popular topic; happens to be one of the events where we get hostage situations every single year. You're going to evict somebody, you're in a hostile situation. Are there guns in that house? Has this guy got a criminal record? Is this order of eviction still in place as of right now when we're about to throw these people out? We now move that information around with 19th Century efficiency and I run people back and forth from Melville to Montauk to get data, to make them safe, to make the community safe.

And it is expensive. I know it's a budget item to go out and buy this technology, but I cannot -- and I don't have the numbers to back up this opinion, but I would take a large bet on it. It is -- they are cheap dollars. The Police Department has it. We don't need them in every car but we need them badly.

LEG. POSTAL:

You know, it is a budget item and I would just imagine that if we were talking only about the cars that we used for service of orders of protection, even though that would be just a small number of cars compared to all of the personnel out there, I'm thinking that other than approaching the subject against whom there's an order of protection to serve it, they also -- I mean Deputy Sheriffs can stop a car that's speeding, for example, on the road, stop a car that's suspicious in lots of ways or doing something that's wrong. And even though we might not be able to afford providing those mobile data terminals in every car, at least it would give those cars which are equipped the access to information that would be helpful for those other things that kind of happen and come up.

But I wanted to ask, Sheriff, you said that you've made that request; is that in your Capital Budget request that was made to the County Executive?

UNDER-SHERIFF SULLIVAN:

Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:

Could the committee have a copy of that at some point?

SHERIFF TISCH:

Absolutely, we'll see to it that Chief Otto provides it to you.

LEG. POSTAL:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I think -- I'd like to pick up on where Legislator Postal is going with this. I think the theme of what we've heard so far this morning and yesterday at the Gang Initiative is the sharing of information. And I think perhaps if the committee would be in agreement with just

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starting with the Domestic Violence Unit, we might be able to do something in this year's budget with a budget amendment, and I know next month is the next opportunity that we have for amending the

budget. Legislator Postal, what do you think?

LEG. POSTAL:

Yeah, I would certainly support that. I'm wondering whether that would be a Capital item or Operating. If it's Capital, then we wouldn't have to wait for the window of opportunity, you know, we could find an offset in the Capital Budget and move ahead with it. I guess Paul would be able to tell us that, and I guess it depends on --

UNDER-SHERIFF SULLIVAN:

I believe it's the Capital Budget, but I can't be certain as I sit here, I was unprepared for this question. But I'm pretty sure it's in the Capital.

MR. SABATINO:

I was about to say, it sounds to me like it's Capital. And Legislator Postal is correct, we have about two-and-a-half million dollars in that infrastructure account for offsets that we could use to do it immediately as opposed to waiting, plus there's less money available in the Operating Budget. So I'm fairly confident that this would fit into the Capital. I don't know what the magnitude of the expenditure would be.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah, all right.

UNDER-SHERIFF SULLIVAN:

I guess if we were asked priorities, I would say DVU, then Warrants, then Civil.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

How many vehicles are there in the Domestic Violence Unit?

UNDER-SHERIFF SULLIVAN:

I think about 16, but if you want --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

That was the number I had.

UNDER-SHERIFF SULLIVAN:

I was unprepared to come in here and discuss mobile data terminals and our needs, I can easily get you that kind of data very shortly.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. For the benefit of --

UNDER-SHERIFF SULLIVAN:

I don't want to be badly wrong by pulling numbers out of thin air

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, that was the number I had thought, 15, 16, so that sounds about right. But I think then as a committee we'll proceed to work with

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Budget Review and see about having a budget amendment to do those for the Domestic Violence Unit in this year's budget. Legislator Bishop, you had a question?

LEG. BISHOP:

I don't know about this year's budget.

LEG. POSTAL:

Through the Capital Budget?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

With the Capital, yeah. Yeah, we just said that.

LEG. BISHOP:

Good morning. How many prisoners are currently double-bunked?

SHERIFF TISCH:

That changes hour to hour. We have a change in population, as you're aware, and our population has differed on a daily basis in the last six weeks by say 200. Up until two weeks ago we had both halves of the gymnasium full of people. We were then able to shut down one half of the gymnasium, then we were able to shut down the other half of the gymnasium and two days later we had to reopen one half of the gymnasium.

The double-bunking is in areas that are permitted by the Commission of Corrections. As you're probably aware, at the time the correctional facility was constructed, the size of the cells were not large enough to accommodate double-bunking. However, since they are close to being large enough, because there is an ongoing construction project which is in the Capital Budget which we're going to be very, very interested in moving forward with, the State gave us variances to allow us to put people in some cells in double-bunks. The classification problem is a difficult one for us. You can't just take a population of 1,600 and say, "Well, we have enough room, we can put two in this cell, two in this cell, two in this cell." We have limitations on who can be double-bunked. If a person has a psychiatric problem, can't be double-bunked. If the person any kind of sexual abuse or any kind of history of sexual crimes, that person cannot be double-bunked. And so the population in those double-bunked areas changes.

We also have permission to put some people on cots in the day area which is the area outside of the cell doors but still within the gate. On almost a daily basis, this is being evaluated and reevaluated. I know that Under-Sheriff Denzler is constantly working with Deputy Warden Murphy on tweaking and changing and moving and trying to fit all these pieces together.

Approximately February 25th we had come upon a crisis. We were at a point where there was no more room at the inn. We undertook a program to try to reduce the jail population on an emergency basis.

Under-Sheriff Denzler met with people from the Division of Parole to speed up the parole processing, to get those people who should be in the State system out of our facility in an expedient fashion, they agreed; it has worked, we have reduced the population significantly through their efforts.

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We had a meeting with the District Attorney, the Board of District Court Judges and the Probation Department to reevaluate the possibility of people being put into day monitoring programs pre-trial rather than being put in the correction facility pre-trial; this has been working. I know that in instances where there are alternatives to the person being incarcerated pre-trial, people are thinking about it and helping us in that regard. However, we will be presenting to

both the County Executive and the Public Safety Committee and the Legislature a projection, and we will be producing this for you within the near future, as to over the last five years how the general population of Suffolk has increased and our how our jail population has increased. We're full up now, five years from now we have no room at the inn. We have no alternative, either we provide the facility for people within our County or we have to ship them out.

At the time we were thinking of moving people on February 25th, we found out exactly what it was going to cost. Just for the lodging, if we had to move 35 people it was going to cost the County for the remaining ten months of the year \$1.5 million in costs that we would have to pay to the other facilities throughout the State where we'd have to move people, and that's only 35. That does not take into consideration the cost of transportation which would have been done on Deputy Sheriff overtime.

We also have a situation where because of specific concerns within the facility, we don't have the adequate room to have mental health and suicide watch people in that facility being properly observed because of the limitations. We have to redesign facilities for the future taking into consideration the fact that we have inherited the problem from the closing down of all of the psychiatric centers with the assumption that people could be medicated and mainstreamed into society; well, they don't medicate and they wind up in our facility. At one time within the last three weeks, we had four tiers full of mental health observation people.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much, Sheriff, and Under-Sheriff.

LEG. BISHOP:

That's some answer to a small question.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah. All right, if there are no other questions or comments, then I would ask our next presenter to come forward. Thank you very much, appreciate it.

SHERIFF TISCH:

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

LEG. POSTAL:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

I think I've had two great warm-up teams.

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

You certainly have. And a lot of praise passed in your direction, too.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Thank you. I think it's one of the things that you did here this morning that Suffolk County is approaching our response to the terrorism issue as a team. It's a team approach involving what we've heard from the Police Department, Sheriff, Fire Rescue, District Attorney's Office and other town, village, State and Federal agencies.

I would like to say, we have been recognized in Suffolk County for our response to terrorism. And we feel compared to similarly situated counties, that we're far ahead of most similarly situated counties, yet we know that we have a lot more to go and we feel at times that we're so far behind.

The events of September 11th had great impact on the Fire EMS Services and on the operations of emergency management in Suffolk County. Not only did we reach out to support our brother and sister emergency responders in New York City, we also had to be aware of what our capabilities were, what our responses would be in the event that something else was going to happen and that would happen in Suffolk County. So we wanted to support our neighbors, we also knew we had to maintain a services integrity of our response, agencies within Suffolk County. And to everyone's credit, we were able to accomplish both, supporting New York City and maintaining our operations in Suffolk County.

Initially the events, we immediately activated our emergency operations center and called a meeting which County Exec Gaffney chaired at 11 A.M. the morning of September 11th. It brought together all our County agencies as well as the local village and town representatives, Fire EMS communities, State agencies and some Federal agencies, so we could share information and assure that we had a plan of action that we were taking appropriate steps for protection within Suffolk County and what information -- in reviewing that information we were getting back from New York city.

Due to pre-existing mutual aid agreements, New York City reached out early on in the event to request assistance from Suffolk County. There's a Statewide Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan that was implemented which allows basically any fire department agency to go anywhere in New York State on a mutual aid basis. That plan implementation initially occurred around 10:30 in the morning where New York City requested ten engine companies, six ladder companies, two heavy rescue companies, four technical rescue response teams and ten ambulances to respond to the city. Throughout the day, those numbers were increased. Some of those agencies were deployed right to Ground Zero, particularly the technical rescue teams to assist in the initial digging at the pile. And then the other ones units were deployed to a staging area, the ambulances up at Shea Stadium, the fire apparatus initially at Cunningham Park in Queens and later relocated to Belmont Raceway. From there we deployed the units to cover empty firehouses in Queens and for the next approximately 36-hour period, New York City fire apparatus was responding along with

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fire apparatus and EMS units from Suffolk County. And that went on until I would say approximately 36-hours, two days later that program, we brought our units home.

We've maintained units throughout -- in New York City throughout the next approximately six weeks. Fire units were called in on a periodic basis to perform various functions, primarily security functions in terms of lighting areas up, doing some ladder company work and clearing debris out of the way adjacent to Ground Zero and doing EMS work in terms of supplying ambulances at the rehab center for all the workers at Ground Zero, supplying ambulances at Ground Zero for anybody in that area who merely got injured and also handling some 911 calls in lower Manhattan, this was done by the volunteers of Suffolk

County.

Staff from our department -- with me is Chief Gackenheimer from the Fire Academy. The Fire Academy staff became intricately involved in the early days of the EOC operation, supplying support people in our EOC operations. Through agreements that we've had regionally and we've been meeting over the years as a region with New York City and Nassau County, we have developed these arrangements and relationships that they reached out early on and asked for assistance in the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management. We supplied that for approximately six weeks where we were an intricate 24-hour part, 24-hour, seven days a week part of the command system in New York City. We and Nassau basically ran the logistics branch for that operation at Ground Zero and throughout the city.

Additionally, for four weeks we had a representative 24-hours a day in the combined Police/Fire Command Post located a few blocks from Ground Zero. That helped us coordinate the activities of our agencies, it also allowed us to receive the information back that we needed to receive back. So as you can see, it was a coordinated effort, that's because we've been working on these plans and relationships for many years.

The terror -- you heard from preceding speakers about our Terrorism Response Task Force. It is an active task force, we are working on many different plans from our chemical response plans to our biological response plans, explosives, so that we are prepared. We've been -- because of our aggressiveness in the County and, you know, before I mentioned we work as a team, not only the Emergency Response agency but you as Legislators are part of that team as well as County Exec Gaffney who have been really leading the way. Particularly I have to comment, your support of the terrorism activities of this County has been greatly noted by all the responders in you supplying us the funding to go out in our Operating Budget this year to buy the additional equipment that's needed for our response communities and to do the work that's necessary in preparing our agencies to respond. And we do appreciate all your efforts and we look for that continuation of those efforts, because we can't stop at this point. We will need to commit more resources, more funding to the preparation of terrorism activities.

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One of the things that was noted and one of the things that we'll be looking for in the Operating Budget is an increase in our Fire Academy funding. I think we gave to -- Doug, were those handed out?

MR. SUTHERLAND:

Yes.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

You have in front of you a graph of what we've seen since September 11th, particularly starting January 1st. What has occurred was -- and this is for two reasons. One, because of an active recruiting effort that this Legislature has supported over the last three years, people were aware that we were looking for volunteers. September 11th made people reevaluate their participation in their communities and we have had a substantial number of people come forward and say, "I want to do something. I can't sit home now and watch my ball game, I want to participate in my community and be there for them." We realized that in October we saw we had the problem where a fire instructor walked

into a basic Fire Fighter I, the first class that the new fire fighters have and he had 136 students, something we have never seen before. And the numbers --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
What was that number again, Dave?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:  
One hundred and thirty-six was our first class in October. We realized then what was occurring, that people were coming in and they wanted to become members of the Fire/EMS communities.

In addition, the Fire Academy has developed additional courses that were needed for the equipment we were getting, the donning and doffing of encapsulated suits, the monitoring, EMS issues in terms of taking care of victims and supporting those victims, again, through decontamination, a whole decontamination training program. So programs, they became more developed, new programs to address the terrorism issue. But obviously the funding, because we were already through the budget cycle, was not there for them to, you know -- they have had to look to take money from other programs. In fact, our training programs are almost filled for the rest of the year. We don't have any more capability to do training courses, and the few at the end of the year are probably still open. But we have never filled up as much as we're filled up because of the new members who have come aboard and the additional new courses that were put on-line related to the training, terrorism in particular.

So therefore, this year in the Operating Budget there will be an increase requested in the Fire Academy's budget to meet those training requirements as well as continue -- we can't forget, we still need to train, continue our normal training efforts, so I think that's important to recognize. Chief Gackenheimer, would you like to make additional comments on that?

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:  
Thank you, Dave. Really just to add one thing to it, what you see on the first page of the handout that I supplied to the committee. The

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numbers you see on that first page will carry over into other training programs, it doesn't just stop with the basic Fire Fighter I or Fire Fighter II attendance, it goes on to all the programs we offer. So we're seeing a market increase, if you look on page two, we're seeing a tremendous increase in our student contacts in all our programs. So it's not something I think that we can say, "Yeah, it's going to go away next week or next year," it's not, it's going to be around for a couple of years.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
Thank you. And thank you very much for this graphic presentation, it really helps give us the message that we need to hear. Do you have a ball park figure on what that increase in funding might be?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:  
No, we were obviously preparing the Operating Budget now.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
All right. If you could share it as soon as you do have it, that would be helpful.

## COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

As soon as we have a final number, we'll be able to tell you what it will be. In addition, Suffolk County, because of our aggressiveness in working as a team, has been recognized for our efforts because we've been successful recipients of Federal grants totaling approximately \$800,000 from the Department of Justice. In addition, we have received FEMA Grants as well as the efforts of this body which put in a lot of money to terrorism response. Our new decontamination unit that the Legislative body was the initiative with the resolution has been placed into service. The equipment that we are in the process of purchasing of bringing up our EOC with computerization and allowing all our response agencies to tie in, and it will also allow Hospice to tie in to our EOC, to get the latest information during a terrorism event is so important. We're in the process of going -- doing those purchases now.

Our training, we received a FEMA Grant for training. We did two major table tops last year, as I mentioned, and we will be bringing that down to the local township and precinct levels. I think that's important that we understand that that's going to be an ever continuing process. It isn't going into one precinct or one township and saying, "Okay, we did the training here because the numbers of people that we have to train within the law enforcement fire/EMS community is tremendous." So that will probably be a program that will ever be continuing. We don't know what's going to happen this year, we don't know what's going to happen next year, five years from now, ten years from now, but we can never let our guard down. And we need to keep continuing preparing, building for that day that we may be the targets or we may be asked to respond to assist our brothers and sisters in adjacent County or in New York City. So it's important that we look at that.

With that in mind, my department, as you know, is a small department, but I think I need to expand. I need some additional support staff in our Emergency Operation Center and Emergency Management because of

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these additional workload that's been placed on us. I am committing Fire Marshal personnel at the sake of taking them away from their other duties; I only have eight Fire Marshals. We have a full plate on our table and I cannot afford to keep taking from little components at the sake of sacrificing other work. So I will be asking for additional staff to -- not large numbers but two, three people plus what we've submitted in the past, you know, to this body during our budget operations. We need to do our planning, we need to expand on our planning. You heard the preceding speakers talk about the planning process that is occurring. We serve as the emergency management, the alternate seat of government in a disaster, we need to have those planning people in place. So we will be asking for that.

Other things that we will be looking at in the future is to expand and really become a fully functionable computer aided dispatcher system in our Fire Rescue Communications and build in capability, which I've heard already this morning, of allowing fire departments and ambulance agencies to have mobile data computers in their vehicles. Not that we would go out there and buy one for each of those vehicles but that we have the capability for them to tie into our system so they have the information for hazardous material responses, floor plans, building plans, the information they need to make themselves safe. They are

first responders, many times they're the first ones on scenes, they need to have that information going in to any scene, not only for terrorism incidents but just for their normal safety going into buildings today, you know, so that we need to start looking at building those capabilities.

The other thing that will be coming down the road, there's a migration away from our current fire radio frequency, many departments are looking to grab any frequency they can. The Federal Government has a project to move the fire service to a 746 to 806 Megahertz which is just adjacent to our current 800 Megahertz System. Our EMS agencies will be moving over to that 800 Megahertz System probably toward the end of the year and that will only leave the fire service outside that system. It's being looked at in the year 2006 that the Federal Government will allow that to occur, with their rules and regs. We need to start looking at how we're going to do that migration of the fire services over to those new frequencies and it will probably be somewhat of a substantial project. The one thing we do lack today and it's recommended throughout the country -- not recommended, it's needed -- is an interoperability capability that all emergency response agencies have some common frequencies that they can speak on; the way we are today we can't do that. It's something we need to look to enhance our responses to make it safer and to share for all of us.

So basically that's where we stand since September 11th in terms of department of operation, where we'll be going, what we'll be looking for. At this point I'll take any questions if anybody has any.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Commissioner, thank you very much. I appreciate the fact that as always you and your department seem to be ahead of the curve in everything that people are talking about. This is something that you've been involved in for a number of years. Are there any comments or questions? Thank you very much, both of you.

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COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Thank you.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Thank you, David.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And our last speaker from the District Attorney's Office, we have Bob Kearon. And Bob said he was only going to need a few minutes, so that works out well because we need to get to the agenda, we've got an 11:30 meeting starting.

MR. KEARON:

Thank you. Thanks for inviting me. Tom Spota asked me to come over to the --

MS. MAHONEY:

Is that on?

MR. KEARON:

Is it on now? Okay. Tom Spota asked me to appear today because I share

somewhat of a unique perspective because on September 11th I had the honor and privilege of working for Pat Mahoney in the Sheriff's Department. And as you know, many of you know, since January 1st I've been with Tom Spota in the DA's Office.

I don't want to rehash what's been said about the involvement of the Sheriff's Department on September 11th, but I can tell you that the response of the Sheriff's Department I thought was tremendous. Pat Mahoney by September 12th had authorized the utilization of 10% of our uniformed Deputy staff to go into New York City and assist in the recovery effort. I can tell you that from time to time we talked with the city managers about cutting back on our deployment, but because of our ability to put in Deputies on a 12 a day shift and also bring in cars, which was a very valuable commodity at the time, we were asked to continue on for weeks and we did. The cars were necessary because we were assigned to the Office of the Medical Examiner and our Deputies were literally transporting from the scene of the attack various forensic evidence including body parts back to the Medical Examiner's office, and I can tell you the Sheriff's Department provided a critical component to the recovery effort.

The District Attorney's Office, as you know, its primary responsibility is to prosecute arrests that are brought into the criminal justice system by the law enforcement agencies. And post September 11th, as you may recall, we had numerous anthrax scares. The Office of the District Attorney prosecuted an individual who falsely reported placement of anthrax at the Tanger Mall in Riverhead and that prosecution was successful. But what perhaps you don't know is the involvement of the Environmental Crime Unit's work from the District Attorney's Office with respect to events following 9/11.

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We have a unit there that has three Detective Investigators and two Detectives from the Suffolk County Police Department. That group is highly trained, it works with Dave Fischler's people, they are trained in preventing and detecting and responding to bioterrorism events and our unit in the District Attorney's Office responded as the primary responder to 50 incidents of suspected anthrax distribution in Suffolk County alone. In addition to that, they also responded and assisted the Police Department, both the Arson Unit and the Emergency Services Unit, in handling other incidents involving suspected anthrax.

Since taking office, Tom Spota has hired two veteran prosecutors, one from the Queens District Attorney's Office and one from the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, who head up our Environmental Crimes Bureau Unit. Their responsibility will be obviously if there's any similar incidents as to what happened on September 11th, to be immediately involved in that, but also we are going to be aggressively enforcing any environmental crime violations that we find in Suffolk County. And as you know, over the years, unfortunately, there have been several, and most recently we're looking into something involving the Town of Brookhaven and the Pine Barrens area.

I think, if I can say, this committee should be very confident that we are as well prepared I think as any County in this country to respond to a terrorism incident. Unfortunately, being able to respond is not enough. What the Federal Government has to do is lead us in the prevention of these kinds of incidents, and with what I've seen, I'm hopeful that that -- we're taking major strides in that area. But as far as responding, this County I think is most capable of responding

effectively.

As I think Ms. Carpenter can attest to, we had a terrific response yesterday to the gang initiative that Tom Spota started. And I think what you're going to say for the first time in a long time in this County is a very coordinated effort among law enforcement agencies to handle any systematic organized crime activity, be it terrorist or a gang. We're all working together and we're going to work very effectively. And I know you have an agenda to attend, so that's all I have to say.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. And I, too, have to agree with you, besides this body having that kind of comfort level, I think the public should have that same kind of comfort level that this County is very proactive, even before September 11th with the Terrorist Task Force that the County put in place in '98. So I thank you for stating that for the record. Legislator Caracappa I believe had a question.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Yes, I do. Thank you, Madam Chair. Bob, first I think we have to get you over to Fischler's group this way you can do all four agencies and do this next year for us, because you've been with the Police Department, now the District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, so --

MR. KEARON:

I could save a lot of time with this appearance.

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LEG. CARACAPPA:

-- we just have to get you to EMS now and this way we can get it all done with one speaker.

LEG. BISHOP:

Administrator Bob Kearon.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Right. So we'll get you to EMS by next year and this way we can only have one speaker next year for this even. My question is how is the District Attorney going to handle or has handled those people who have been arrested, indicted, whatever you want to call it, going through the criminal justice system that are not here legally, that have maybe overstayed their visas or are a high risk of flight once bail is made for them; how are you handling those cases since September 11th?

MR. KEARON:

Well, one of the things that we're seeking to do by this collaborative effort that's been discussed in terms of all the agencies, we're going to use every resource, including the INS, to exert whatever leverage we can on individuals. One of the things that we've been insisting upon and all -- we found a great reception to with all of the law enforcement agencies is to develop a network with respect to informants.

Developing informants is the life blood of all law enforcement agencies. And one thing we can utilize in doing that is if we come across an illegal immigrant, besides obviously dealing with him with respect to what Penal Law violation he may have committed, we can also bring in the INS -- and they have indicated that they will cooperate fully with us and every other law enforcement agency in this County --

in taking whatever appropriate action may be necessary with respect to that individual in order to deport him. At the same time, however, if it is felt that that information or that individual can provide information that may be valuable, then INS at the same time has indicated that they may be willing to work with that individual with respect to legitimizing his status in this country. It would be something that's handled on a case by case basis, but we will definitely bring in the INS if we have an illegal immigrant. Not only will we prosecute him to the fullest extent of the law, but then after he does his jail time in the correctional facility we expect to see him leave the country.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Who makes the judgment of high risk of a flight; is it the District Attorney's Office or the Judge?

MR. KEARON:

It's both. We do our own independent evaluation and on the record when we arraign an individual, we'll put on the record those factors that we think are salient in the Judge's consideration of the high risk of flight, but ultimately the question of bail is the Judge's province.

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LEG. CARACAPPA:

And obviously in your answer you're saying that it's been heightened since September 11th.

MR. KEARON:

Without a doubt. I mean, not only there's risk but, I mean, one's concern about the likelihood that there might be repetitive conduct committed by the individual should he be let out on bail, that's a significant factor.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. I appreciate it

MR. KEARON:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, we've got five minutes before the next committee starts, I would like to get to the agenda. We have one card; Cliff Heimowitz, if you could come up and briefly share your thoughts so we can get to the agenda, I'd appreciate it.

MR. HEIMOWITZ:

Okay. It's an issue that I brought up before, it's about bicycle helmets.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right.

MR. HEIMOWITZ:

And I haven't really had any feedback, so I just wanted to give a suggestion. The Office of Handicapped Services has a volunteer patrol that goes around and identifies people parked in illegal handicapped

spots, I'm suggesting that a similar project be set up for identifying areas where youth congregate that don't have -- that are not wearing helmets and they brought to the attention -- I think that the school boards should be asked to cooperate in it also. As I said to the Deputy Chief on his way out, I think that just by stating a policy of how some of these can be implemented to enforce this great rule that you put into effect would be a deterrent itself. The fact that there is nothing out there that is saying how this law that you put into effect is going to be enforced, it creates -- you know, it detracts from the impact of the law that there's no set plan on how to implement it. So that's what I have to say.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right. Cliff, thank you for your comments. And today with us we have in the audience -- and she'll be coming back at a future date to make a presentation because we are the Public Safety and Public Information Committee of the Legislature -- Debbie Eppel who heads that division. And Debbie, perhaps you can get some information from Cliff and get a copy of the legislation that was passed here on bicycle helmet safety and this is something else, another piece of

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public information that the office can get out to our residents. So thank you.

Let us move to the agenda.

#### Tabled Resolutions

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

LEG. POSTAL:  
To table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
Motion to table, second. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
The resolution is tabled (Vote: 4-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Caracappa - Not Present: Legislator Lindsay).

IR 1191-02 - Amending the Adopted 2002 Operating Budget and transferring funds in connection with the extension of Medevac Helicopter Services from Suffolk County Gabreski Airport on a 12 month basis for 2002 (Towle).

LEG. POSTAL:  
We did that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
Oh, right. This was not withdrawn, that's why I left it on the agenda, but we did this at the last meeting. So I will make a motion to table subject to call.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second by Legislator Caracappa. That is tabled subject to call  
(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Lindsay).

1251-02 (P) - Adopting Local Law No. 2002, to expand SCOPE of County  
Forfeiture Law to cover driving while impaired (Towle). I believe the  
department was researching that.

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So we have a motion and a second to table.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Opposed to table.

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CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Tabled (Vote: 4-1-0-1 Opposed: Legislator Caracappa - Not Present:  
Legislator Lindsay).

We'll move to Introductory Resolutions.

#### Introductory Resolutions

1469-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating 100% additional Federal  
Pass-thru grant funds from the New York State Division of Criminal  
Justice Services for the STOP Violence Against Women Program and  
authorizing the County Executive to execute grant related agreements  
(County Executive).

LEG. POSTAL:

Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion by Legislator Postal, second by Legislator Caracappa. That is a  
100% grant so that will be on the consent calendar. All those in  
favor? Opposed? Approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator  
Lindsay).

1473-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of  
\$70,000 from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services  
for the Suffolk County Police Department Watch Your Car 2002 Program  
with 100% support (County Executive).

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

That, too, is 100% grant, so that would be --

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

-- a motion to approve and put on the consent calendar. Motion by Legislator Postal, second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Lindsay).

1474-02 (P) - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$140,000 from the State of New York Governor's Committee to fund special patrols targeting DWI Enforcement and DWI Scofflaws with 91.72% support (County Executive).

LEG. NOWICK:  
Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
Motion by Legislator Nowick, second by Legislator Bishop. All those  
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in favor? Opposed? Approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Lindsay).

1479-02 (P) - Approving the appointment of Janet M. Cassidy to Detective in the Suffolk County Police Department (County Executive). I guess this is in the requirement of the anti-nepotism. Do we have any questions of Chief Robilotto?

LEG. POSTAL:  
She's got a relative?

LEG. BISHOP:  
Yeah.

LEG. POSTAL:  
We received something saying her relative is Sergeant --

MR. SABATINO:  
Police Sergeant Edward Kopp, this is the wife of that Sergeant.

LEG. BISHOP:  
So he's not superior.

LEG. POSTAL:  
He's not in the high rank.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
No, no, exactly. So we have a motion by Legislator Postal, second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Lindsay).

1485-02 (P) - Amending the 2002 -- we're a little ahead of ourselves with that date that's on the agenda -- Mandated Operating -- we do have term limits, we won't be here -- Mandated Operating Budget in connection with two new positions in the Sheriff's Department (Jail Cook (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Postal, second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Lindsay).

#### Sense Resolutions

We have Sense 28-2002 - Memorializing Resolution requesting the State of New York to strengthen procedure for placement of detention and family support centers (Alden).

LEG. BISHOP:

Explanation.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Explanation, Counsel, if you would. This is a motion by Legislator Alden. We have a couple of cosponsors on it, about detention and family support centers in communities.

MR. SABATINO:

This was legislation that's an outgrowth of an incident or an event that took place in Islip last year with regard to the placement of a

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juvenile support facility in a particular community. This is asking -- without any prior knowledge by the community. This is asking the State of New York to put into place a licensing process so that -- as a result of the licensing process there be a complete analysis of the specific sites with public hearings to be held in the community so there would be public input to avoid what took place last year which is something happened by surprise in a community without the public knowing.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much, Counsel. That actually was a juvenile detention center in a residential neighborhood. I'll make that motion, second by Legislator Postal. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved (Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Lindsay).

Meeting is adjourned on time, Legislator Caracappa.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

I wouldn't say on time, just in time.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, we're right in time, we're ready for you.

LEG. POSTAL:

Just right on time.

(\*The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 A.M.\*)

Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson  
Public Safety & Public Information Committee

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically