

**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 **August 17, 2004**.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Angie Carpenter • Chairperson

Legislator Pete O'Leary • Vice•Chair

Legislator David Bishop

Legislator William Lindsay

Legislator Andrew Crecca

Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Legislator Lynne Nowick

**Also In Attendance:**

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Alexandra Sullivan • Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Jim Spero • Director/Budget Review Office.

Joanne Doering • Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office

Linda Bay • Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Greg Moran • Press Secretary to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Greg Trunz • Intern/Legislator Crecca's Office

Terrence Pearsall • Aide to Legislator Lindsay

Paul Perillie • Aide to Democratic Caucus

Adam Santiago • County Executive Assistant

Elizabeth Harrington • County Attorney's Office

Donald Sullivan • Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

Aristides Mojica • Deputy Inspector/Chief of Dept's Office•SCPD

Joe Mingrone • Detective/Electronic Investigations Section•SCPD

Rory Forrestal • Detective/Computer Crimes Section•SCPD

Jim Woods • Detective/Computer Crimes Section•SCPD.

Terrence Fanning • Lieutenant/2nd Precinct•SCPD

Louis Dini • Sergeant/Highway Patrol•SCPD

Kerri Smithers • Detective/Special Victims Section•SCPD

Stan Grodski • Detective Lieutenant/Special Victims Section•SCPD.

Debbie Eppel • Public Information Office

Warren Horst • Suffolk County Fire Marshall

Joel Vetter • 1st Assistant Chief/Holbrook Volunteer Fire Department

Laura Ahearn • Executive Director/Parents for Megan's Law

All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

**(\*The meeting was called to order at 1:12 P.M.\*)**

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

All right, we have a quorum, we will begin the meeting. I would ask Legislator O'Leary to please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Salutation***

Good afternoon. We will •• we have a presentation scheduled for this meeting, Joel Vetter from the Holbrook Fire Department. Joel, I would just ask that •• we have one card so I'm going to have that speaker come forward and give Legislator Lindsay an opportunity to get here, because I know he had asked that we bring you down here today.

We have one card, Stan Grodski; Stan, if you want to come forward. Stan, would you come forward? You filled out a card and you wish to speak.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Probably a little mistake.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

You don't wish to address the committee?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Only if I'm asked. Sorry about that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Oh, okay.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Asked by who, by us?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Why don't you come forward, Mr. Grodski?

*(\*Legislators Nowick & Lindsay entered the meeting at 1:13 P.M.\*)*

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Who would ask you, Stan, to come up here; basically, who would tell you to come up here?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

I'm just here as a source of information from the Police Department. When I walked in •• this is my first time, I apologize •• they said, "Are you going to speak," I said, "I might, I might not," she said,

"It would be a good idea to fill out a card," so I just filled out a card; I'm doing what I was told.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, I think it would be beneficial because we have some •• I have some questions of you. What's your current position within the PD?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

I'm Detective Lieutenant and I'm the Commanding Officer of the Special Victims Unit.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Fine, then I would have some questions of you.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Why don't you come sit at the table and let Legislator O'Leary ask his questions now.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Assume the position.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Good afternoon, Stan; good to see you again. On the card that was filled out there was indication to us that you wish to speak on my proposed resolution, IR 1752 and my Sense, proposed Sense Resolution S66. Now, as the Commanding Officer of the Special Victims Section,

I would like to hear your comments regarding those proposals. Have you had an opportunity to review the language of the resolution?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Mostly the •• yes, I've read both of them. The one that impacts us I think the most is your Intro Resolution No. 1752?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Uh•huh.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

I guess Section II amendment about the meetings, the procedure we have within the Police Department when we have the meetings on community notification on the Level II sex offenders.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

II and III's?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Well, the III's we automatically make community notification. With the II's, we have a meeting between a representative from the Chief of Department's Office, Chief of Patrol's Office, Legal and my office which is usually me, and then we review the sex offender's jacket and then we vote to notify or not to notify.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Right and my proposed resolution basically mandates notification on certain •• on Level II's in certain particular areas; is that correct?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Now, I've just been recently informed by the County Attorney's Office that State law prohibits notifications of Level II as it pertains to addresses and employment; is that correct, is that your understanding ••

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

•• of the current law?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

And I've discussed with Legislative Counsel this very issue and I'm of the mindset to amend my resolution to adhere and be in compliance with State law.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

And I don't want to create some sort of controversy between the State law and the Local Law, but I am also going to amend the resolution as well to include all law enforcement agencies in Suffolk County, not just the Suffolk PD. Do you have any response or opinion regarding that?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

The more people that know about it the better, as far as within the law enforcement community.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Am I to assume then •• and it's dangerous always to assume •• that you are supportive of this resolution?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

With the amendments that are in position or that will take place?

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

We get a letter from DCJS that says that we may notify and ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, this pretty much mandates that you will notify.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

It takes away the flexibility and •• what's the word I'm looking for •• discretion; it takes away the discretion of the law enforcement agency on whether they're going to notify or not, this mandates that you will notify.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. That's basically the effect of 1752 with the amendments that I'm going to make with respect to making it effective for all law enforcement agencies, not just the Suffolk PD and amending the language Level II as it pertains to notification on their addresses and employments. Clearly, if the State law prohibits that, there's no reason why we should go forward with this particular proposal to be in conflict with that.

The Sense Resolution that I'm introducing has to do with a proposed bill that's currently in the Senate in the Rules Committee and expands the length of •• currently it's a thousand feet in cities of a million that sexual offenders have to stay away from, this adds another 500 feet to 1,500 feet for other than cities with population of a million. It also adds three new definitions in the current law, that's Senator LaValle's proposed legislation that is currently in the Rules Committee of the Senate. And the three definitions that would be added are the definitions of school grounds, day•care centers and places where persons 18 years or under would normally congregate; what's your position on that.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Oh, I'm supportive of it. Right now ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, I'm very happy to hear that. That's good.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Right now I believe it's a condition of probation or parole.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay, all right. So I just wanted to •• I mean, it's important that obviously the individuals who are going to be carrying out the directions of this resolution, you know, the mandated portion of it, are in agreement with respect to the provisions at their end.

So I want to thank you for your support. And hopefully after the amended version gets put forward we'll move this as expeditiously as possible.

**DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT GRODSKI:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you very much. And thank you for filling out a card.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

You'll learn not to fill out cards when you come here, Stan; you fill out a card you get brought up there.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. I'd ask Joel Vetter from the Holbrook Fire Department if he would come forward, please, take a seat at the table. Joel is here at the request of Legislator Lindsay, he's going to share a program that they have in place on response times. Joel, whenever you're ready.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Good afternoon, Madam Chairperson, Honorable Legislators. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Joel Vetter and I've been involved with the Suffolk County Fire/EMS system for 15 years with the past eleven years of escalating experience and education leading to my current position as a Senior Flight Paramedic in Suffolk County, and as the 1st Assistant Chief of the Holbrook Volunteer Fire Department.

My formal education consists of a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Community Health Services with a concentration in Fire and Safety Services. I'm currently completing my degree,

my Masters •• my Graduate Degree in Homeland Security with a concentration in Emergency and Disaster Management. I have an extensive national, regional and local emergency service training portfolio.

The Holbrook Fire Department is an ALS Certified Transporting Ambulance Service that is fire •based with three ambulances and five first response vehicles and two divisions of membership. We provide primary service to 18 square miles with an estimated call volume of approximately 2,200 emergencies which are handled by 127 volunteers, 79 Firefighters and 22 Firefighter/EMT's, five Firefighter/Paramedics; an EMS only staff of 14 EMT's, 2 CC's and five Paramedics. All Chiefs do have minimum qualifications including EMT credentials and operate as first responders.

I have been tasked directly with the oversight and direction of our EMS service and over the past two•and•a•half years we have worked within our agency to develop and implement programs like standardized dispatching procedures, Emergency Medical Dispatching, Quality Assurance and Improvement programs, a crew call•in notification system, a customer service follow•up program and expansions in our in•house training programs; all this while actively addressing the rapidly changing emergency service community and preparedness environment we are required to. We are expected to perform in such conditions now in the changing environment with decontamination, hazardous materials and WMD response.

We have renovated what was typically known as our Fire Prevention Bureau to a Public Information, Education and Relations Program. We have tried •• further tied in the modernization and the organization of our internal and external marketing campaign. We have developed and are implementing an extensive web•based information and technology system for the public and our members.

The department's programs and agencies evolution are strongly related to the positive leadership and support. And I was fortunate to join the department during a proactive period of change and would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge past Chiefs like Joe Williams, Steve McGerty and especially Mike Timo for their major leadership and foresight to support, promote and encourage a proactive change in the service we provide. I must also identify and thank our current Chief, Chris Heinssen and my Assistant Rick Gimble, as well as the Board of Fire Commissioners for supporting me and allowing me to address the overall services we provide.

As an agency, we collectively developed and researched what we believe plagued the current

system. In May of this year we were able to sponsor a round-table discussion with the surrounding EMS providing agencies and developed the reaction paper that's of tape of that's attached in front of you today. Since then we have formed the Multi-Agency Emergency Resource Management System. This system has created a unified group with mutually held values and goals to achieve a common objective and that's answering calls. With the new Multi-Agency Response System, the four agencies are providing staffing to an interagency first responder ambulance between the hours of 6AM to 6PM throughout the week. Our long-range plan will be initially to address the specific needs of each agency around the clock.

It's my opinion that the volunteers are not failing, it's the failure of the leadership to manage the resources and the services as well as the overall lack and/or desire to educate, properly inform and promote an environment that encourages services that are patient or, shall I say, customer driven. Without effective leadership an organization is just a loosely connected group of people operating without a focus or coordinated mission, pursuing their often very different and divergent goals thus failing in many ways and sometimes in contradictory directions. These opinions can be justified from firsthand experience and knowledge. Unfortunately, in this line of emergency service, both paid and volunteer, there will be times that there is a delayed response. Agencies need to collectively address these issues proactively through creative resource management programs to minimize these occasions. My kids love dinosaurs and for me it's a reminder of how quickly we can be wiped out of the changing environment.

I would ask you to guide agencies and help them through supportive measures and achieve their basic mission and objective as well as strengthen the overall emergency service community we so desperately rely on. Instead of creating legislation that would force division, utilize your power and support agencies for the following similar programs: Enabling the FRES and EMS Office to continue with their support through proactive participation with agencies, promoting an interagency planning process; improve the quality assurance of the EMD System and the overall collection of the data; fund the rapidly advanced new Computer-Aided Dispatching System that's in the plan to bring into the field mobile terminals with tracking and mapping capabilities; fund an interoperable unified radio communication system by matching funds; increase pertinent EMS training with additional dedicated full-time EMS training staff so training can be provider-based and not agency-based; gain accreditation and affiliation with a higher education institution for undergraduate credits to increase the degree seeking opportunities as well as professional development; create an EMS Commission that is diverse

with minimum requirements with a formal Legislative confirmation process; engage and educate the emergency service providers, the public and the media about the general expectations and the vital functions that each section has to offer the community; finally, supporting public service announcements about health, safety, wellness, as well as recruitment.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to thank the Commissioners and the Chiefs of Holbrook, Ronkonkoma, Lakeland and the Community Ambulance Services of Sayville and Patchogue. Additionally, the advice and support from Dr. Alicandro and her staff for taking the time to proactively address and participate in the management system we've created.

I have to thank the dedicated volunteers that provide extraordinary service and would ask them to embrace this concept and see how this can increase the service we provide and possibly decrease the various levels of current negativity. Interagency resource management will provide care and comfort to our customers and the system. I recommend that my colleagues, both career and volunteer, would ask themselves one question; is it better to expend time, energy and funding on fighting progress or should we as agency leaders identify that the system, the environment and our span of functions are rapidly changing and can constantly use improvement. We as leaders and managers must place our time and energy and funding into providing a customer-based service that answers the calls we have and not the calls we might get.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for inviting me here today for this opportunity.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you very much, Joel. And I would presume that we will all review the strategies that you presented with your comments. I'll open it up to questions and comments. Legislator Bishop?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Those who have observed, I'm not •• over the years I'm not big on cheerleading, but that was great.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Thank you.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Thank you to your departments, the Chiefs for the leadership that you've shown. You guys get it and that's so important because you have a model here for the rest of the County.

The phrases that you use are exactly what I have been thinking and what I've been trying to get out of the system which is a collective approach, more cooperative, more proactive, recognize the problems and address them, and that's what you guys in Eastern Islip are doing and I'm working with Southampton and with Babylon Town. I know that there's a lot of resentment that I filed that bill and it hangs over like a sort of Damocles, but ultimately what we're doing here is driving a better system and you guys have been leaders in that and I want to thank you for that.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Well, thank you.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

And then I want to ask a couple of specific questions.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Shoot.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

What you're doing is you're taking down •• you're breaking down jurisdictional boundaries during the day, is that essentially it?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Our initial goal is to create this first responder ambulance. Instead of putting more first responders out there that don't have capabilities of transporting patients if necessary, this ambulance that is roving between the five districts responds to the initial call, that allows the primary district the extra time, if needed, to muster the resources to get an ambulance there; so in essence, it's somewhat stopping the club. For example, this morning we went from our district to the northern section of a neighboring district for an unconscious female, who wasn't but we were able to arrive within a very timely fashion, seven minutes, stabilize her, start taking her vital signs, things along those lines, the other agency was able to muster a crew,

show up, we transferred care, we went back in service.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Right.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

So this pilot program we started which was the first of the month is averaging a response of 12 emergencies a day in a 12 hour period, that's the average.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

And as a result there's an overall diminishment of response time, right?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

There's a decrease in response time, there's also a decrease in the amount of resources needed. So instead of bouncing calls between multiple agencies, we're able to muster the resources from the primary agency with the support service. So in some ways, in essence, we're not putting the burden on neighboring fire districts or services because other agencies can't primarily get out.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

How do you staff this roving ambulance, it's a volunteer?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

It's strictly a volunteer basis. Some of our neighbors do have paid components and the one agreement that was brought to the table is that resources rather than pay to the volunteer have to be provided. So down the road we're looking •• in expanding the services, some of the agencies have, you know, paid staff at night.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Now, is one rover during the day enough?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

No. Our long•term goal, this initial pilot program right now that will stay in effect until a permanent plan is put in place is to allow us to work out some of the problems that we're not aware of. So for example, the communication system, right now the system is fragmented

between each agency, some agencies use the County for primary dispatch, other agencies use their own dispatch, some agencies are on different bands of radios. Not all the agencies have a true interoperable communication system, so there's a time delay or a lag from notification from one agency to another. So that's something we have identified and we're actively addressing as far as unifying some type of frequency, that would be one example. Our goal would be to put two ambulances in service between that time frame, that is the cream of the crop if we could. And it would either be broken up based on the districts, either a north and south response or an east and west depending on how we pair up the agencies.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I've already referred your program to some other departments and I'll continue to do so.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

We have •• well, we've posted it on the website, we've published all these things on there, they're able to download them and we've actually sent letters out to all the Chiefs Councils of the entire County.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Thank you.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Lindsay. Thank you.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Joel, do you believe that the system that you guys are implementing, can it be emulated in other parts of the County?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Yes. What we've started to look at, we've started to look for stronger agencies throughout the County to start new seeds, as we'd call it. So our goal is at 90 days to be up and running permanently with around the clock type of programs, the primary program is during the day is

6 to 6, seven days a week and then specifically addressing each agency's special needs, we'll say, around the clock. At that 90 day mark, we're going to offer a boiler plate template for the other agencies.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Is there an ideal size that you think this concept works with?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

This concept is similar to ••

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I mean, you've combined four departments; is that the right size or does it depend on the geographical area of the department?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

I think geographics does play a roll in it but I think the key component of it is making a system that is provider based scheduling. By that what I mean is we look at, we take volunteer aid from whichever organization, we see that his most convenient time to dedicate time to the system is on a Tuesday morning but his organization is already staffed, we'll send him to another organization. So this system can be totally expanded and can and most likely, I predict, will encompass the whole County.

It's just a matter of geographically identifying primary points and secondary points. Like right now what we do •• so for example, Patchogue responds to Ronkonkoma, we think Patchogue from the bay all the way up to Ronkonkoma almost as north, their district goes up to 25, that's a good distance; even though they did it last week in eight minutes safely. It's a matter of pointing in primary and secondary, so there's sections of the outerlying areas that these primary agencies will still call a neighboring department. So Ronkonkoma might not be able to get out, the primary •• the response ambulance is responding, they might still call Nesconset or one of their neighbors to the north to try to get an ambulance there quicker. The thing is that we know that we've just laid another layer of safety netting in there and that someone is going, so instead of it being a 40 minute response it might take 12 minutes, it might take 15 minutes, but an ambulance is getting on scene.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

That won't result in duplication of responses?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

No, because what we've done with the first response ambulance is only primary staff it with two people, the majority of volunteer agencies try to respond with three or four people on an ambulance. I attribute that higher degree of staffing somewhat to not feeling as comfortable with their training. So that's •• another advantage to this program is that we're opening up a training tool here for people in the system that if you want to come and get experience in a 12 hour period, this is where you can do it. I mean, you can literally do •• you know, this ambulance will be busier than some areas of the city that I've worked in, busier than paid trucks in New York city.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

So the on•call ambulance responds as a first responder to any call within those five ••

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Correct.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

•• departments.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Yes.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

They go and try and stabilize the patient, meanwhile the local department sees if they can muster their own ambulance.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Correct, they try to muster a full crew.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

And after the patient is stabilized, if no local ambulance responds than you transport yourself?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Right, we specifically state in our response program that we will not delay the transport of any patient, rather it's awaiting another ambulance to do the transport or for an advanced life support component. That's another feature of this is the majority of these ambulances, since we've started on the 1st, there's only been two days that we haven't been able to staff it; out of the rest of all those days, the majority of the days, 80% of the days had advanced life support coverage. So for some of these fire districts that have no ALS providers or very limited resources, we're now taking another degree of level of service to those patients. An example would be the unconscious female today in Ronkonkoma, they didn't have ALS, we were able to provide that; luckily she didn't require it but if she did it would have been there a lot quicker.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, I want to congratulate and applaud the Holbrook Fire Department for taking on this initiative. As Legislator Lindsay stated, it involves four departments?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Currently it's four, as of tonight there will be a fifth added to it.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. And it's obvious that those four departments are in close proximity to each other geographically as far as, you know, the station to station response.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Well, the area is actually very broad, our most eastern boundary is actually East Patchogue and the western boundary is actually Oakdale.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Is the •• are the personnel that man the first responder ambulance that's on basically a roving

patrol type of situation, are they from mixed departments or they come from the one department?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

No, there's been some •• right now to make it simpler, because we don't have that section of the scheduling component up in our web service, it's agency•based. So we've identified a permanent liaison from each agency and what they do is they are trying to muster each crew so like, for example, tomorrow is Patchogue's day, he has two personnel where last week on Friday Ronkonkoma was able to get half and I was able to get the other half; we sent our personnel to their firehouse.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

So there are instances where there's personnel from various departments that are manning the first responder unit.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Yes. When the ambulance is •• when the permanent program is in place, that's the way the program will be run.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. Now, my question to you is how would this apply to the east end departments which have a very large geographic area to cover; would it be as effective as the pilot program that you're initiating in your area?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

I think the way that it would effect the east end specifically or any large area of response areas, that resource from the time the call is called in, so the time the primary agency gets dispatched they start responding. Traditionally, prior to a dispatching procedure, the primary agency gets dispatched and we wait a period of time based on that one agency; it might be 10 or 15 minutes, whatever that agency's policy is. Then from there they'll start the next neighboring department.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

That's a two four •• is that a two•four code?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

A 24, yeah, Mutual Aid Request. So that might take several times, you know, several agencies to come. And presently there's very limited amount of agencies that are pooling resources on a mutual aid. You'll hear agencies that might only have a driver, they'll give it away and that's it, they're done. Instead of saying you have a driver, like this morning we had a call in Sayville, there was a driver/EMT by himself, he went there, we sent one person in a car to meet him and to do the transport; so even though there was a little bit of a time delay, it's still quicker than bouncing it to the next agency and around.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, certainly, because that individual first responder unit is on the road ready to roll.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Right, that's exactly it. I mean, graphically, yeah, a system wide program like this, this is why I think it would be imperative to actually look at an EMS commission and, you know, maybe revisit the Response Committee that was formed in '85 and address programs like this and see how we can bring the stuff out to the actual care providers and educate them, more than just at Chiefs meetings. At Chiefs meetings, I'll be honest with you, they don't get things accomplished, it's a matter of getting it out to the people in the street, you know?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I spent my whole summer at Chiefs meetings.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

I go to them too and some days I wonder why.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

You made mention of a communication program, it has to be in unison with respect to all the units that are serving in this particular program?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Correct.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Does that occur within the pilot program that you currently are employing?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

What we're presently doing right now through Dr. Alicandro's office, she was able to find us the older 400 Band Frequency Radios that are no longer in service, so we've gotten them programmed pro bono by a radio shop with one frequency that was provided by Lakeland Fire District. Our goal is to program each radio room, so each of these agency's dispatchers will have this one frequency on it, it's a general talk group. So, for example, Holbrook has an ambulance call, they activate it and it goes out over the Holbrook members pagers, at the same time he transmits over this one frequency; every other fire department that's in this consortium, this management group, knows that there's an emergency in the Holbrook Fire District.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, that's the point I'm trying to make. If a call from emergency comes in to say the Holbrook Fire Department and it's the Patchogue Fire Department that's manning the first responder unit, is the communication such that that first responder unit that's on patrol immediately gets that call?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Right now, presently there is a time delay, depending on the agency it could be up to two minutes. Some agencies, for example, Patchogue does not operate on a fireground radio-based system, okay, so we have •• our dispatcher has to landline their dispatcher and then give them the directions; it's very •• there is a time delay.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah. Well, obviously for this to be even more effective the communication has to •• the technology has to ••

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Yes, there's other simple fixes. Other simple fixes that we're doing is we're looking for one common toning frequency that we're going to put into •• every agency will add it on to their activation tones and there will be one pager in this ambulance, so no matter who activates a call it will go off; unfortunately, it's going to take some doing and some arrangements we'll say.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I would think so. Thank you.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I, too, just want to applaud you for your efforts here. This is really doing the job of leveraging the resources that we have at hand and sort of doing away with some of the territoriality that has been in place at that mindset for a long time.

I know my brother before he moved was Captain of one of the companies for a local fire department where we live and I've had many of these discussions with him. And for you to be able to come up with this and hold yourselves out as a model for others to emulate, I really just wanted to agree with the sentiments that have been expressed here. I think it's a very good thing and I think there's a lot to be learned from your program. I'm sure you will continue as it's only a pilot, you will learn from your own experiences and continue to improve on it. So I look forward to seeing this move forward and hopefully have it implemented on a larger scale, so I just wanted to thank you.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Well, thank you. I do have to say, though, that the advantage of the initial, let's say, thing that pushed the envelope, the REMSCo thing, that's what's really allowed this to move forward, it's forced •• we've tried this years ago to talk with some of our neighbors and it just wasn't there; this has now brought them to the table, you know, by choice, so that's helped. And they're changing leadership skills to actually listen, that's helped too. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Joe ••

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Angie?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Certainly; Presiding Officer Caracappa has joined us and I think has a question for you, Joel.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm not a member of the committee, I appreciate the ability to ask a question. I just walked in, I was listening to your speech, I didn't catch all of it but I was so intrigued I had to come in; I'm very impressed.

My question to you, and it might be in your statements that I missed, but what other departments are thinking of signing on, especially in the Central•Suffolk area? And when it comes to ambulances, how do you •• logistically speaking, who provides it and when?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Right. Logistically what we've done is we've •• the fire districts, we'll say, actually have a little bit more available resources, so Holbrook, Ronkonkoma and Lakeland are primarily using each of their own ambulances. We're doing this through a letter of intent, or similar to a mutual aid agreement, until we're able to formally draft them.

What we're looking to do down the road will actually be a consortium purchasement, so it will actually save so we'll buy one standardized style of ambulance amongst however many agencies are in there. Right now there's two older ambulances that are out of service for Ronkonkoma and Lakeland and we're in the process of trying to renovate them mechanically and put them back in State service which requires some additional equipment and stuff like that; the advantage of that is that we wouldn't be pooling from our primary resources within each agency.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

And the other fire departments?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

The fire departments that are currently involved besides Holbrook are Ronkonkoma, Lakeland; the two ambulances that are involved actively are Patchogue Ambulance, Community Ambulance, and then as of tonight Sayville Community. Right now Sayville Community has

been on a •• they're a month behind us on their meeting calendars, so tonight they'll actually vote on it and their membership has shown strong interest. Other agencies that have started to inquire about this are the Medford Volunteer Ambulance, Farmingville Fire Department, Centereach •• I think there's one more •• Nesconset.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Excellent. Thank you.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Joel ••

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

One more question.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Sure, Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Do you envision the district, for lack of a better word, getting larger?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

There's two ways long•range in looking at the Department of Health Certification Requirements that we have to do this. Either, one •• there's two avenues with the Certificate of Need, either, one, we create one new agency that has the boundaries of all of them which would actually be a little challenging unless every agency was willing to sign on the line and pretty much give up their certificate; I don't foresee that happening. The other way that we possibly could do it is by taking each agency's current certificates and expanding their primary area of response to encompass all the other agencies; it's a way of backdooring with the Department of Health we'll say on the State level.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

No, but I think you misunderstood my question.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Probably.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

You's have four or five departments together now, pretty sizeable area; do you envision that expanding further or to create another sector with other departments cooperating?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

I would see both. I've had conversations with an east end department that hasn't, you know, started pursuing it but they probably will be a seed. And within 90 days, I can see us adding several agencies to our current consortium which would require additional, you know, resources within that time frame.

*(\* Legislator Crecca entered the meeting at 1:48 P.M. \*)*

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Although the district geographically would expand, you might have two ambulances on call.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Right, two ambulances or adding •• like some of the days we've had extra staff, what we've done is had one ambulance and then we've put an ALS provider in a car so we could utilize resources differently. It's just going to come down to the resources we have and putting them in play, putting them on the streets, going on calls instead of waiting for it to bounce around.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Is there anything that we could do to help this process?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

I think collectively, if you look at some of the ideas on there, some of them are very feasible, you know, besides maybe helping out with the radio stuff. Primarily I'd say the biggest thing that we need is maybe looking at the revamping of the way we train our EMS providers in this County. The County receives money from the State as far as reimbursement, it doesn't cost the County money to train volunteers, we actually make money, a large sum of money was

made last year. Right now the County is strapped to provide instructors, senior instructors on private contracts, so they offer classes based on their availability. Most of them don't want to teach over the summer, you know, there's only a small corps of instructors that will teach year-round. So by utilizing and maybe changing over to say adding three or four full-time staff personnel to the EMS office, we'd be able to provide, you know, full-time instruction during the week so it's convenient for the providers instead of, you know, having to change your lifestyle around the training.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. I think, Joel, you can sense from all the comments that there really is a great sense of appreciation for all of your efforts and everyone that has been involved with you. I have one question; I didn't hear any mention of any of the west-end departments.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

There has been some informal inquiries we'll say from the Babylon area, that's what it's been. The reason why it's been that way, it's just, you know, the old school, I'll say it at that. What we've done to try to combat that is we've put it on our website, some of you might be aware of "longislandpolitics.com", what we've done is instead of entertaining it in that format because that's where it started, we put it on our website. A lot of the members from these agencies are hearing about it and they're going to start downloading it and they're going to start asking their agencies, "Why can't we do something like this?"

The other thing we're actively looking at in Holbrook is we're going to take providers from other agencies. So you're a member of, you know, Montauk we'll say, and you want to come ride in this, we'll take you, we're allowed to do it through Municipal Law. We're also looking at taking associate members, so on a strictly hour basis •• you can't make the full commitment of a regular volunteer member? We'll take you on an hourly member; there's certain restrictions on you, but I already •• we posted that on the website I believe last week and I have six applicants already, two who are paramedics and the other four are all EMT's out of other departments, couldn't survive in their area, want to pitch in and do something. So there's that whole component, that component is what's going to allow us to put extra ambulances in these areas without taxing the every day volunteer member.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Without naming specific departments, the western portion of the Town of Islip •• other than

Babylon, of course, which is the Town of Babylon •• but have you had any discussions with any of the departments there?

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

No. It's a very, you know, newer program, it's made some slight conversation. With some agencies, similar to government, you know, there's a degree of time that it takes for them to come around we'll say. Islip Town Chiefs was actually the first Chiefs Council to change their feeling or their opinion on the REMSCo thing, that took two•and•a•half solid months of literally knuckle fighting at some of these meetings to get these points across. It's going to take time but they're going •• you know, it's the industry standard is what I try to tell these guys. You know, you dial 911 for a fire truck, you know, do you expect it to be there in ten minutes? I think that's a safe standard anybody would hope a fire truck would show up if your house is on fire; it should be no different. Unfortunately, it's, you know, taken some time to push the issue and take EMS, instead of it being in the background and bringing it to the foreground of the service.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. Again, thank you very much for your time.

**ASST. CHIEF VETTER:**

Thank you for the opportunity. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. There are no other cards or presentations, we will go right to the agenda. We'll start with the tabled resolutions.

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**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

***1582•04 • Streamline Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coordination and improve response time (Bishop).*** Legislator Bishop?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

What's that?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

1582, streamline emergency medical ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to table, second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

(Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, that's good to hear, I think we heard about some of that this afternoon here. **Tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

**1688•04 • Adopting Local Law No. 2004, a Local Law to establish a seizure procedure to stop child pornography (Crecca).** Legislator Crecca?

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Yeah, I would like to move for that to the floor.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

You have a motion?

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

What does it do?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Do we have a second for the purposes of discussion?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second, okay, by Legislator Bishop. Legislator Crecca.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

And actually, Ms. Ahearn was just here and I told her I didn't know if it was on today; so I apologize, she would have been happy to address the Legislature, I can see if she's still here. But what this does is much like we have a DWI Seizure Law, this would allow at the discretion • it's discretionary, it doesn't have to be done •• the seizure of property that was used in the commission or promotion of child pornography.

So I have met with two of the Sex Crimes Detectives who head up that unit and they are in support of this, they think it's a great tool to be used in some cases. And I have spoken to the District Attorney who I understand does not have any objection to it and thinks it can be •• in some circumstances can be used as an effective tool. But the bottom line is it's basically the seizure of proceeds used in a crime; am I misstating that, Counsel, is that correct?

**MS. KNAPP:**

(Shook head yes).

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

All right, we have a motion and a second. I would just ask, the hearing was closed on this?

**MS. KNAPP:**

Yes, August 10th.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, very good.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Ms. Ahearn ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

It's approved.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, ***the resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0)***. Thank you.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

That's fine. I just want to tell Ms. Ahearn that we did approve the legislation I was talking to you about earlier, it will be before the full Legislature on Tuesday. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

**TABLED SENSE RESOLUTIONS**

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you.

***Tabled Sense 57•2004 • Memorializing Sense Resolution requesting State and Federal Officials to enforce existing laws to recover lost tax revenue (Caracciolo).***

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I'd like to make a motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to approve by Legislator O'Leary. Is there a second?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion to table and a second. All those in favor of tabling? Opposed?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I'm opposed.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Opposed.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Opposed.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Opposed.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Who's opposed?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have four ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Roll call, please.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, we have a roll call request on the tabling motion.

***(\* Roll Called by Chairperson Carpenter \*)***

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yes.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No to table.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

No to table.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

No to table.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And I will vote to table. So we have four to table, the resolution •• I mean four being opposed to the tabling. The resolution is not tabled, ***the motion to table fails (VOTE: 3•4•0•0 In Favor: Legislators Carpenter, Lindsay & Bishop).***

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion to approve by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I'll abstain.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have one abstention, ***the resolution is approved (VOTE: 6•0•1•0 Abstention: Legislator Bishop).***

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**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

Okay, let us move then to the Introductory Resolutions.

**1738•04 • Accepting and appropriating grant funds in the amount of \$300,000 from the New York Department of Transportation for provision of dedicated traffic enforcement in the vicinity of certain highway construction projects with 100% support (Presiding Officer at the Request of the County Executive).** I'll make a motion to approve and put on the consent calendar, second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed? **The resolution is approved and placed on the consent calendar (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

**1739•04 • Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$85,000 from New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the Suffolk County Police Department HUD/PSN Electronic Surveillance Equipment Project with 100% support (Presiding Officer at the Request of the County Executive).** Again, a grant, a 100% grant. Same motion, same second to put on the consent calendar. All those in favor? Opposed? **The resolution is approved and placed on the consent calendar (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

**1740•04 • Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$36,500 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for the Suffolk County Police Department to fund the Traffic Safety Corridor Enforcement Program with 82.10% support (Presiding Officer at the Request of the County Executive).**

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed? **The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Madam Chairwoman, can we put that on the consent calendar? I know it's not a hundred percent, but it's ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

No, the rule has been they need to be a hundred percent.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Well ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And that's •• you know, I'm going to stay with that.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Okay. It's been the practice, in other words.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

It's been a practice and I'm going to stick with that practice. I think it will just ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

So there; I guess you're not going to try that again.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

***1741•04 • Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the Suffolk County Police Department to continue the Huntington Station Annex Program with 75% support (Presiding Officer at the Request of the County Executive).*** Motion by ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

•• Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

***1752•04 • Adopting Local Law No. 2004, a Charter Law to establish a County•wide policy for the protection of children from registered sex offenders (O'Leary).*** Legislator O'Leary, you are ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I thought you had some revisions you wanted to make on this?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes, I do.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And we have to have a public hearing.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I'm sorry, there's a public hearing scheduled I believe for the meeting on the 24th?

**MS. KNAPP:**

(Shook head yes).

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay, I make a motion to table with the understanding that at the public hearing there will be an amended copy brought forth with respect to the issues that were discussed today to include all law enforcement agencies in the bill as well as eliminating the Level II notification regarding employment and addresses.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, I'll second that motion. All those in favor? Opposed?

***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Madam Clerk, would you list me as a cosponsor?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

***1760•04 • Creating a task force to deal with unlicensed drivers and protect Suffolk citizens (Alden).***

**LEG. CRECCA:**

What about Nassau citizens?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Bishop.

I just ask Counsel, since the sponsor isn't here, to give us an explanation of this.

**MS. KNAPP:**

This resolution, my understanding from the sponsor, there's a WHEREAS that mentions the recent deaths of the two men who were on the North Service Road and there were some statistics contained in the resolution, I think it says one out of every five fatalities in this country involve an unlicensed driver. So this is a task force of, I believe, ten individuals to make some recommendations to law enforcement or to Legislators as to if there's any action that can be taken to forestall unlicensed drivers being involved in as many accidents as they are.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Round them up.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

***1786•04 • Appropriating funds in connection with an Interim Back•Up Fire, Rescue Community Facility (CP 3230) (Presiding Officer at the Request of the County Executive).***

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Motion.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed?

***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

-

**INTRODUCTORY SENSE RESOLUTIONS**

***Sense 63•04 • Sense of the Legislature Resolution requesting New York State Legislature to repeal antiquated vicarious liability laws (Carpenter).*** This has to do with the leasing of vehicles.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

We solved this problem.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I don't believe so. I have a motion ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Balloon releases.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 6•1•0•0 Opposed: Legislator Bishop).***

***Sense 65•04 • Sense of the Legislature Resolution requesting New York State and the towns in Suffolk County to adopt a uniform Mobile Infrared Transmitter (MIRT) System that identifies users (Alden).***

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

•• by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed?

***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

***Sense 66•04 • Memorializing Resolution requesting the New York State Legislature to enact S.6951•A, limiting registered sex offenders contact with children (O'Leary).***

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed?

***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Cosponsor.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

***Sense 68•2004 • Sense of the Legislature Resolution requesting judicial authorization***

***of electronic monitoring when recommended by Probation (Caracappa).***

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Crecca. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

And we stand adjourned.

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 P.M.\*)***

***Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson***

***Public Safety & Public Information Committee***

***\\_ \\_ • Denotes Spelled Phonetically***