

**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 **March 08, 2005**.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Angie Carpenter • Chairperson

Legislator Pete O'Leary • Vice•Chair

Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Legislator William Lindsay

Legislator Lynne Nowick

Legislator Elie Mystal

**Members Not Present:**

Legislator David Bishop

Legislator Michael Caracciolo

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**Also In Attendance:**

Presiding Officer Joseph Caracappa • District #4

Legislator Allan Binder • District #16

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Alexandra Sullivan • Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Doug Sutherland • Aide to Legislator Carpenter.

Linda Bay • Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Nicole Wachter • Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Maria Ammiratti • Aide to Legislator O'Leary

Paul Perillie • Aide to Minority Caucus

Kevin LaValle • Aide to Legislator Losquadro

Ed Hogan • Aide to Legislator Nowick

Carl Yellon • Aide to Legislator Kennedy  
Terry Pearsall • Aide to Legislator Lindsay  
Lisa Keys • Aide to Legislator Caracciolo  
Colleen Ansanelli • Intern to Legislator Bishop  
Jim Spero • Director/Budget Review Office  
Jim Maggio • Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Ben Zwirn • Assistant County Executive  
Allen Kovesdy • County Executive's Budget Office  
Jacqueline Caputi • County Attorney's Office  
Donald Sullivan • Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Alan Otto • Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Joe Rubacka • Deputy Warden/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Richard Dormer • Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department  
Roger Shannon • Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department  
Tim Motz • Special Assistant to the Suffolk County Police Commissioner.  
Ed Webber • Chief of Patrol/Suffolk County Police Department  
Robert Moore • Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department  
Aristedes Mojica • Inspector/Chief of Department's Office/SCPD  
John McElhone • Chief of Support/Suffolk County Police Department  
Kenneth Rau • Chief of Detectives/Suffolk County Police Department  
John Abernathy • Sergeant/Suffolk County Police Department  
John Desmond • Director/Suffolk County Probation Department  
Joe Williams • Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services  
Debbie Eppel • Public Information Office  
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Donna Catalano & Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographers

Minutes Transcribed By:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

**(\* The meeting was called to order at 11:45 A.M. \*)**

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. We will begin the Public Safety Committee, and I would ask Legislator Caracciolo to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Salutation**

Thank you. All right, we have two Legislators who are in the back with a group of students and will be here in a couple of moments and I know that they would definitely want to be here when the Police Commissioner is up in front of the committee. So, Commissioner, if you wouldn't mind, I just want to wait until all the Legislators can join us, it will just be a few moments.

And in that regard, we had two other presentations, so maybe we'll •• if anyone's presentation is, like, under five minutes •• Hope is here from the American Red Cross, is that the case with you, Hope,

**MS. COLLAZO:**

(Inaudible).

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, I don't think we're going to have •• we're going to keep it brief, so why don't you just come forward. Hope Collazo is the Director of the American Red Cross Community Service Program. Legislator Lindsay in particular thought it would be a good idea to have her come forward and just give us a very brief overview, and I'm sure there'll be minimal questions. Go ahead, Hope.

**MS. COLLAZO:**

I can do that, very briefly. As you know, my name is Hope Collazo, I am the new Director of the American Red Cross Community Service Program. Under the Community Service Program, we have a juvenile and adult divisions. Our adult divisions last year had referred to us 845 clients to which we accepted 836 into our program. Our juvenile division had 277 referrals and they had 232 placements for the year. Both of our programs work to ensure that instead of going to jail, people who have non-violent crimes can go and pay restitution for those crimes.

Our adult division total County and State savings was two million•four hundred and sixty•six dollars •• \$200,466,790, and our juvenile savings was \$93,130. Minus the cost of what it takes to run the two programs, we probably saved about a million and a half dollars for the State and the County. Our programs run throughout Suffolk County and we are expanding more and more where we're getting clients referred from out east as well.

I know that the Legislators wanted to ask about the previous audit that was done to Community Service, and we have taken action to correct a lot of the problems that were found in the audit. So if you have questions.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, thank you very much, Hope. Legislator Lindsay, you had a question.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Well, I think that the biggest thing we want to know is has there been any •• any changes made to the program to address the deficiencies that the Comptroller identified in his audit?

**MS. COLLAZO:**

Most of the problems that were noted with the audit were not outstanding problems, they were just program deficiencies in the way they were looking at data, interpreting data and handling that data. So we had to remodify how data was taken in, we had to ensure that proper documentation of all clients was insured, and we had to fix it so that each staff member understood what their job description was and to work along that job description as well, and those things have been handled and are being handled right now.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

And the other question, if I might; does Red Cross oversee any other community service program besides the contract with the County?

**MS. COLLAZO:**

The Red Cross does have an additional community service program that's not part of the program that's under Probation. It's a pre•plea program, and I can't really describe that program to you because I'm not really under that and I don't really understand the full functioning. Our program basically goes under the Division of Probation and we monitor most clients who have probation, although we do get clients who are discharged from the court with

the condition of community service.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Is there any cross in personnel between the pre ••

**MS. COLLAZO:**

No. The two programs are totally separate, we don't even share information. If a client is referred to the Pre•Plea Program, we have no information on that client unless that client gets referred to our program and then they have to fully go through our whole program and our intake process.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

How does the Pre•Plea Program work?

**MS. COLLAZO:**

I can't fully tell you how the whole program works.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

What is it, does someone, in anticipation of being sentenced by a judge, say, "I'll do community service now"?

**MS. COLLAZO:**

Usually before •• they work out a deal with the DA to do community service in lieu of being sentenced, and then they are referred to the Pre•Plea Program and they do their community service. Usually with the Pre•Plea Program, those are people who do not have a high number of hours to work off.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

And how is that funded?

**MS. COLLAZO:**

The Pre•Plea Program?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yeah.

**MS. COLLAZO:**

How is it run?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

How is it funded?

**MS. COLLAZO:**

They pay. They have •• if they have an attorney, private or legal aid, the two will determine how much that individual has to pay for.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

So the individual pays ••

**MS. COLLAZO:**

Yes.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

•• to work community service.

**MS. COLLAZO:**

Yes.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

That's unusual.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, thank you. Are there any other comments or questions?

Hope, thank you very much for coming down and good luck on your new position. And I would assume that the tradition of working closely with the various Legislative offices, especially with that graffiti removal, will continue.

**MS. COLLAZO:**

Most definitely. And we're also trying to set up a yearly calender, so if people have major jobs

or things they need to do throughout the year, they can contact us and have us add them into our calendar so we know what's scheduled.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Terrific. Thank you very much.

**MS. COLLAZO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I would just like to formally welcome the students that are here from the West Babylon School District at the invitations of Legislator Bishop and Legislator Mystal, and it seems Legislator Binder, too.

It is the 12th Grade, Ms. Shellby's class, and if you would all stand and be recognized.

**Applause**

Thank you for coming down, and to your teacher especially for engaging you in this exercise in how government really works here in Suffolk County. Thanks for coming down.

Next on the agenda we have the Police Commissioner who is here with us today. I had invited him to be down here because we've missed you the last couple of meetings. So if you would come forward to the table and whomever you would like to bring with you. There were a couple of things that we wanted an update on, namely the •• I'll kind of wait for everybody to be listening •• an update on the pilot program in Huntington and also the legislation on the alarms and any other questions or comments that the members of the committee have; I'm sure you're ready, willing and able. So thank you for coming down, we appreciate it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you very much. Good morning. And I really appreciate this opportunity to speak to the Public Safety Committee. And before I get into the 2nd Precinct redeployment initiative, if I may, I would like to mention some of the initiatives that we have initiated in 2004; and if you would bear with me, please.

In January of 2004, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy appointed me as the Police Commissioner. Thirty years in the Police Department, I decided to come back, at the behest of the County Executive, and take over the finest Police Department anywhere. At that time, I was unanimously appointed by •• or voted on by the Legislature 17•0, and I'm very proud of that fact and I want to mention that as we get into these details.

I knew that the department was the finest Police Department in the country; I also knew we could make it better. During the first year of my administration, actually the first eleven and a half months, I established two simple but ambitious goals; enhance our relationship with communities we serve and allocate our personnel to maximize crime reduction. Our primary mission was to make Suffolk County a safer place to live, work and visit. Under our new and innovative management team, some of them are sitting here behind me today, the department has been reorganized to improve the quality of life for all citizens. We have challenged our officers of all ranks to work harder and smarter. These dedicated men and women have answered the call and their hard work has resulted in a much safer Suffolk County.

In that eleven and a half months, I want to mention some of the initiatives and enhancements that we implemented working together with the men and women of the police Department. We created an Identity Theft Unit in the Detective Division, the first in Suffolk County and, I should say, emulated by police departments west of us, Nassau and New York City. This unit has been very effective in protecting our citizens from this heinous crime.

A Major Crimes Unit was created in the Detective Division. We eliminated some units to create this special unit to handle felonies, long•term investigations that couldn't be done by the Detective squads. We initiated a Schools Resource Officer in each precinct •• actually, there are more than one in some of the precincts •• to reduce violence, gang activity and to assist school administration deal with the disorder in their schools.

In the 7th Precinct, when we came on board, the precinct was not properly staffed, we added 25 police officers from the class that graduated in 2004. We added a Deputy Inspector to the command staff, and we added two sectors, one two•tour and the other one full three•tour. We also had the ability to do prisoner booking at the 7th Precinct which wasn't done before which saved patrol time in transporting prisoners to other precincts.

We initiated a Field Audit Unit in Headquarters to monitor sick and injury time. We recovered

during 2004, in the eleven and a half months, 4,000 eight-hour shifts, officer tours, over 2003, for a saving of \$1.6 million. We redeployed officers during the summer months from special units to beef up the precincts during the critical time when everything is busy in the precincts. We assigned and trained detectives to process juveniles in the Detective Division. A few years ago they did away with the juvenile unit in the Police Department, we knew that we had to pay particular attention to the youngsters in Suffolk County. Working with the Family Court and Judge Freundlich we created this new Detective initiative to handle juveniles; it's being very successful.

We created the Terrorist Response Unit with a chief in charge, a new Homeland Security Bureau in the Chief of Department's Office, increased terrorism training for Suffolk County Police Department and other Suffolk County agencies; some of you Legislators have attended this presentation by Chief Mark White. We felt that this was important enough to have a special bureau handling this very critical safety issue.

The retraining of all Headquarters and support unit officers in patrol procedures. We redeployed these officers to the streets to reacquaint them with the operation, and we did this by •• and gained 2,630 hours of patrol time. The officers now are better prepared to respond to an emergency. Some of these officers, by the way, I should mention, hadn't been on the street in 10, 15, 20 years; they got reacquainted.

We took officers from behind desks and we put them on the street to do the job they were hired to do. We initiated a new schedule in the Patrol Division. Officers in Patrol were working 8•4/4•12; we changed that to 7•3/3•11, and there was a reason for that. When I came in, I asked for statistics on held-over calls, especially in the morning time period, and I found out that there were 50, 60 calls held every morning waiting for the 8•4 tour to come on duty. These were not priority one calls, but people were waiting for a police response. We looked at the statistical data, the data indicated that the calls for services starting peaking at a quarter to seven in the morning. We changed their shifts to 7•3, we're now down to one, two, three calls held over. Customer satisfaction, response time by just changing one hour of the officer's shift. By the way, we could do that without the acquisition of the PBA, we didn't need their permission to do that.

We, during the summer, increased foot patrols in the downtown areas by 118 days of foot patrol. We put foot patrols in downtown areas that hadn't had them in years. We commenced the process of accreditation, and I'm happy to say that this year, in 2005, the Suffolk County Police Department will become accredited.

Additional gang units in the precincts. We beefed up the western gang units; the 1st, 2nd and 3rd. And then the 5th and 6th didn't have a gang unit, so we combined the 5th, 6th and 7th and created one gang unit to handle gang activity in these three precincts.

Command staff. They attend monthly training sessions on risk management, sexual harassment, racial profiling and other administrative issues that the Police Department must deal with in this complex society.

All officers, from the Chief of the Department who's sitting behind me in full uniform •• in a new uniform, by the way, and I'll get to that in a second •• has summonses, traffic summonses. From Chief of the Department to police officers are issued traffic summonses, first time in Suffolk County Police Department history, and now issue summonses when they see something egregious happening in front of them. The Chief of Detectives, who is also behind me, issued summonses a couple of months ago because he witnessed a violation of the Vehicle and Traffic Law that endangered people's lives. We are endeavoring to reduce traffic crashes, accidents in Suffolk County. You probably know that over the past five years, 866 of our citizens have been killed on the roadways of Suffolk County, 30,000 have been injured; that is a horrendous statistic. We felt, the Police Service, that we could do something about this, so we're endeavoring to reduce these numbers and save lives.

We changed a 40 year policy on the issuance of summonses at traffic crashes. Now a police officer that responds to an auto accident can issue a summons based on probable cause, even though they didn't witness the violation. So if somebody drives through a railroad crossing with the gates down and gets clobbered by a train and lives, the officer can respond and give them a summons for violating that part of the Vehicle and Traffic Law; Court of Appeals has ruled that this is legal and that we can do it.

A comprehensive selection process was implemented for the Detective, Crime Section and COPE Officers. Input from supervisors and commanders were made part of this process. With the County Executive's approval, special drug teams were formed in the summer to address street

drug activity. In Huntington Station, under Directed Patrol Task Force, 174 arrests were made; in Gordon Heights we made 40 arrests. The communities are asking us to do something about this street activity, we did it; two Directed Patrol Narcotics Units. We created an Asset Forfeiture Unit in the Detective Division to concentrate on major criminals and their ill-gotten gains. We are very successful with this. We never centralized this operation before, and you really have to because it's a paper trail and it takes a lot of extensive personnel hours to gather information.

During the summer, we postponed the training of police officers to ensure more of them stayed on the streets during the summer, and then we did the training in the fall and the winter. The nay-sayers at that time said, "You'll never get the training done"; well, we did, a hundred percent because of the command staff that I have behind me who made sure it was done.

Bosses in the precincts. When I came on board, they were working Monday through Friday, 9 •5. Well, they're not working that way anymore, they're working nights and weekends. When the activity is at its highest, at nights and on the weekends, we have one of the three bosses in the precinct working.

Problem-oriented policing, problem solving. Our COPE Officers were trained in problem solving, utilizing the SARA Model (Scanning, Analysis Response and Assessment). We issued a Racial Profiling Directive •• again, a first for Suffolk County Police •• directed all our officers that biased-based policing had no place in Suffolk County, and we continue to impress on our people that we're committed to this.

We appointed the Reverend Dr. Beresford Adams as a Special Assistant to the Police Commissioner, a highly respected minister and a leader in the NAACP community, a terrific asset to me as a Police Commissioner and to the communities that he serves. We initiated a closer working relationship with the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission. Now we share disciplinary information with the Human Rights Commission which was not done previously.

We have commenced ethics training for our command staff. They've had one session, and they are going to have continuous sessions in ethics. We instituted a COMSTAT process to direct our officers to hot spots; again, we never did this in Suffolk County. You're probably all aware of COMSTAT in New York City. Criminal crime data is utilized to direct officers to where the

problems are.

Highway Patrol Bureau Interdiction Unit. In line with our Homeland Security requirements, we increased the numbers of officers in the Interdiction Unit and added K•9, two K•9 with handlers to assist with the interdiction of explosives and drugs on the highways. So now when you see Highway Patrol with the trucks pulled over at the rest area, they'll have sniffer dogs working with them, a first on the eastern seaboard.

With the help of the County Executive, our relationship with ICE has improved. ICE is Immigration and Customs Enforcement, it has improved dramatically. We now have enhanced our ability to keep dangerous felons and sexual predators out of our community. In the last week, we just had a sweep with ICE where illegal predators were rounded up from the communities of Suffolk County and hopefully will be deported soon. We reduced index crime in the County •• index crime is the violent crime and property crime combined •• to 9.2% reduction, three times the State average. We reduced felony crime in Huntington by 20.7% in the Year 2004.

Assaults on police officers in Suffolk County went down 11.5% because of training that we have introduced through the year, and we are very proud of the fact that less officers are getting injured. We reduced crime in Huntington Station, just that one hamlet of Huntington Station, which, by the way, was being terrorized by people shooting weapons. Using directed patrol and anti•gang initiatives, shootings went from 30 to zero. During 2004, we reduced •• and of course, I'm not to take credit for this •• but murder/manslaughter, which is very •• not very susceptible to police patrol, went down 12 and a half percent, rape went down 6.4%, robbery went down 13.4% in one year. Burglary went down 13.2%, larceny went down 6.58%, and larceny auto went down 12.1%.

We initiated Operation SAVE, Suffolk Aggressive Vessel Enforcement. And for the first time since 1980, we didn't have a fatality on Suffolk waterways.

Unlicensed contractor enforcement, along with Consumer Affairs and the District Attorney's Office. These are people, by the way, who are not licensed by the County and prey on workers by not paying the proper wages or benefits. We gave out, in that initiative, 154 summonses.

Warrant Reduction Initiative. We have thousands of unresponded•to warrants. We have

created, in the Detective Division and the Patrol Division, a warrant initiative to get these people in to the court, Thousands of them; we're working with on that as we speak.

We pursued an Aggressive Civilianization Program in the Police Department, 67 positions were identified that we are in the process of civilianizing. We removed 137 take-home cars used strictly for transportation in the Police Department •• a terrific number of cars, by the way •• for a savings of \$513,000. Now, all of these initiatives, by the way, were accomplished without costing the taxpayers of Suffolk County an extra nickle. I should also mention that without the support of County Executive Steve Levy, we would not have accomplished everything I just mentioned in such a short time.

Our 2005 goals, if you could bear with me a second. And I think it's very important that you understand where we're going in 2005. Reduce crime and disorder; we're still going to concentrate on reducing crime. We're going to review our statistical data utilizing directed patrol task forces to respond to hot spots, using the COMSTAT process. Precinct Commanders come in every month and have to report on their commands, based on statistical data, from A to Z, and have to defend what they're doing to reduce crime and disorder; that's COMSTAT.

We're going to increase officer safety through training and proper deployment. Accreditation process, as I mentioned before, will be reviewed by professionals from outside the Police Department this year, and hopefully we'll become accredited before the summer. We're going to create something new, a TRAFFICSTAT, it's like COMSTAT, where commanders have to come in and, again, talk about their traffic statistics; how they're dealing with fatalities and how they're responding to the problem traffic areas in the County. We think that this is going to help, again, save lives.

We're going to utilize COPE as a directed patrol task force to concentrate on persons who drive without licenses. In Suffolk County, we have thousands of people who drive without license and insurance, we're going to concentrate on them, so COPE is going to be tasked with this. It's going to be a task force initiative, we're going to identify where they live and work, and we are going to be watching them to see if they're driving their vehicles. We're going to assist at-risk schools to combat violence and disorder; as I mentioned, previously we did that in 2004. We are planning a school summit with school superintendents and principals and ask them for their input into ways to reduce school violence both during the school day and after school hours.

This is very important that we do this.

We're going to still continue to concentrate on the underground economy; bootleg gasoline, unlicensed businesses, bootleg cigarettes. This is the underground economy that's flourishing in Suffolk County and stealing millions of dollars in tax revenue from this County and also, also, negatively affecting legitimate businesses who are trying to compete with this type of stuff.

A false alarm reduction, and we want to talk •• we'll probably talk a little bit later, if we have time, about the false alarm initiative. We have to make sure that our officers are not being utilized for useless endeavors.

Reinstitute a teleserve process. If somebody calls the Police Department today to just report for insurance purposes, they have to get a patrol car to their house. When I left as Chief of Patrol, we had a teleserve service, 33,000 calls were handled over the telephone. We're going to reinstitute this, we can do it[.|.|.] So if somebody needs a report for insurance purposes, we'll be able to take the information and give them their CC number so they can deal with the issue.

Name tags for all uniformed members of the department will be issued this year, a first in the history of the Suffolk County Police Department; every officer, from police officer to Chief of the Department, will be wearing a name tag. I think that this is a community relations issue, it's a professionalism issue, we should have done it long ago.

A Paperless Patrol and Paper Reduction Program. Right now in the 4th Precinct, we're initiating a paperless patrol operation. Officers will put it into their computer at the scene and then download it at the precinct into the IRS system; nobody is going to handle it. Supervisors will have the ability to review it from the MDTs, these are the computer terminals. We're also looking at in the department where we can reduce paperwork that is now generated other than through the computers; we have a committee that's set up looking at this. We, again, see this as a savings and an efficiency.

We're going to expand our digital camera system into patrol vehicles, into the precincts. We have them in Highway Patrol right now, they were in Highway when I was in the police business a numbers a years ago. We're now going to put them in to the patrol cars. Again, we think they're a safety issue and they're going to assist the cops on the street and also assist the

community.

We're going to create a new bureau, Recruitment and Community Outreach Bureau. We are concerned about our recruitment efforts in this department, especially as it relates to minorities. We have to look at a new way of doing this. We're going to create a new bureau, it will be Recruitment and Community Outreach which will include our school's outreach through PAL and all •• and the gang units and the violence reduction and all that kind of stuff will be pulled in and centralized so we'll know what's going on and be able to direct it properly.

We're going to hire a recruit class this year. The information I have at this time, and some of you may have this information, is that we're proposing that the March class be postponed until September •• that's the 50 officers from March 31st •• and the October class, which was scheduled for this year, be brought forward and they all go in together in September; we were looking at September 12th. And economy of scale tells us that putting a hundred cops or 120 cops through at the same time costs the same if you put 50 through, we've got to have the trainers there. These officers would be on the street in the summer of 2006. If the March class went in right now, it would come out for the holiday period. They would be entitled to days off during the holidays, because they build that up when they're in the police academy, so we really wouldn't reap any benefits at that time.

Doing this this way, we think, is the right thing to do.

Cultural awareness roll•calling will commence in the precinct, this is for 2005, where we have minority community leaders and speakers come into the precinct and speak to the officers about culture and about behavior, where immigrant communities come from. It may be a lot different than our officers are used to. We are starting that this Wednesday in the 3rd Precinct, Salvadorian culture will be presented at roll call, and they're very short sessions, about an hour. We think they're going to be very beneficial.

We have issued safety uniforms to all our command officers from the rank of Lieutenant to Chief of the Department. They now wear blue. Since I require them all to be on the streets dealing with the issues that occur on the streets, a white shirt doesn't do it anymore. They're all working cops, from the Chief of the Department, all the way down to the sector operator. They're now all wearing the same uniforms. It's a safety issue, and we think it's the right thing to do since everybody is working very hard to keep the streets safe in Suffolk County.

I want to mention one more thing, overtime. Our overtime budget that was submitted by the County Executive has •• it could be, I'm not sure if the initiatives will go through •• but could be reduced by almost a million dollars as we speak. Eight hundred and thirty thousand dollars was taken out by the Legislature to hire 20 extra police officers from the Police Department overtime budget, so we're \$830,000 short if that money is removed.

There was a proposal made by Legislator O'Leary for \$49,000 for a substation in Mastic taken out of the Police overtime budget. Now, I have to tell you, and probably there will be another • other initiatives as we go through the year/ if these monies are removed from overtime budget, you can understand how it's going to restrict my operation, so I would ask you to be very careful how you do this. Since you're the Public Safety Committee, I would think that this would be a number one priority that you keep your Police Department properly staffed. Are there any questions on these particular issues?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Where do we start?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Where do we start? Okay. I actually ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

By the way, we'll have a handout •• I'll have a handout later with all this stuff written down so that you can take it home and read it.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Good, perfect, perfect. Yeah, I did take a few little notes. But one thing that you mentioned in your initiatives about redeploying from special units to the precincts during the summer; what special units did you redeploy these officers from?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Every Headquarters and support unit went to the streets during the summer.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. So ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Everybody of the rank of police officer. Do you need names of the units?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

No, I don't ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Like the police academy for one, the police academy went back to the street for a week. Every officer put a week on the street. Also, the commanders went back on the street, but they didn't go back for a week, we put them back for a number of nights. We worked midnights, that included the Police Commissioner.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. So, part of your accomplishments, you talked about an increase of 2,630 hours of patrol time reacquainting these officers with the street.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I didn't want to say retrained them, but actually that's what it was.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

So how productive was that really?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It was terrific.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

If you had someone who you said •• and I think your words •• you know, years and years that they had not been on the streets, and you take them from the function that they were working in and you throw them into a sector car and you put them on patrol in an area that •• did they go with another officer or were they by themselves?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

They went with another officer, because we couldn't ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Did they go with another officer who normally would have been by themselves?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no, we have a lot of double cars. So instead of hiring a cop, we put them in the double car and they rode along with the double officer. And we just didn't throw them out there, because we understood they would have problems.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

But just think about that if we have a disaster in Suffolk County. And by the way, if we have a disaster, all these cops are going to be on the street; they better know what do to, they better be able to respond in a patrol car. And I don't want them learning when we have a disaster, I want them learning when they have time to sit there with another officer and get reacquainted.

So if we have a hundred officers or 50 officers or 20 that haven't been on the street and we have a mobilization for a disaster, these officers are going, they're part of our mobilization plan. And I'm sure you agree with me that they should be able to •• they're fully paid, full •service officers, they should be able to function on the street because that's what they were hired for.

Their functions, by the way, we weren't unmindful that they had to be performed, but the County didn't fall into the brink. There was no major disasters. They came back, went to work, caught up with their paperwork or whatever, and we had a better trained officer. By the way, a lot of them mentioned to me, "This was terrific. It was great to go back to the street." In fact, some of them were mentioned in the newspaper as saying it was a good thing because now they felt like cops again, doing the job that they were hired to do.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

One of the other things, Commissioner, that you stated, that during the summer there was 118 days of increased foot patrols added to downtowns that hadn't had them in years; could you get

a list for the committee of what downtowns or do you know offhand what downtowns you're talking about?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I don't, but I have the list because the Chief of Patrol gave it to me. And I can tell you, one of them is East Northport, my hamlet.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Uh•huh.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

There hasn't been a cop there for years, and it wasn't because I live in East Northport that they put the cop there.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Oh, we didn't think that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, but I don't want anybody else thinking that. I saw a cop walking in East Northport. And by the way, the business owners in East Northport, or any other hamlet during the summer, are very happy to see a police officer walking around; that's what they pay their taxes for. So we thought that this was a good thing, 118 extra days. I mean, that's dramatic in the first year, just for the summer; when people are taking vacation, by the way, I'm talking about police officers.

So we made sure that our summer patrols were increased when people needed them, and I think we proved that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, I would agree with you, that people pay their taxes and they want to see their police officers not only on foot, but in cars, too. You said that you're going to increase officer safety through training and proper deployment; do you want to explain what you mean by proper deployment?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I'll explain. The 2nd Precinct, by the way, we increased officer safety by putting two cars on the 4•12's when it's the busiest and most dangerous time of the day in the police business, the evening hours, and we took them off the graveyard shift and put them on the busiest time where backup was needed and response time is usually slower because of traffic and backed up calls. So that's officer safety.

The other thing, redeploying, we want to concentrate on hot spots; drugs, guns and gang activity. And this is done through task forces where we direct our officers to concentrate on a specific location dealing with a specific activity, and this is the way the police business has evolved. And we proved this in 2004, that the task force concept works.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

So when you talk about proper deployment, you're talking about using the task force concept and that's going to increase officer safety.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, if we take these gang leaders and these •• like we did in Huntington Station, we took •• shootings went down from 30 to zero because we took care of these guys. Does that increase officer safety? I think it does.

And also, also, that community, by the way, I get calls from that community thanking us for making the community safer for the children and for the families. I think that's an obligation of a Police Department to respond to citizen requests. Thirty shootings. And I would say to you, how would you be if you had 30 shootings, and I'm not talking about 30 people killed now, I'm talking about shots fired; if you had 30 shots fired in your community in six months, would you be clamoring for police action?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Whether it's my community or any community in Suffolk County, I would expect that we would have the proper response and the proper action and the proper coverage.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, that's what we did. We responded, the Police Department, because we identified that location through COMSTAT and other locations in Suffolk County, which we're working on as we speak; and I'm not at liberty to say where we are, but you'll probably be reading about it in the

coming months and weeks.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

When you talk about this cultural awareness presentation in the precincts as a goal for 2005, and there's going to be a one hour presentation at roll call, how many officers are going to be involved, and would these be officers that would be getting into their cars and going on patrol?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, and it depends on the number of officers working, it could 20 to 30 officers.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

All right. So 20 or 30 officers are going to be held back from going on patrol because they're going to have a one hour cultural awareness presentation.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no, that's incorrect.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, that's why I'm asking you to explain.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Oh, okay.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Because that's how it was ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I thought you were making a statement.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

No. I'm asking you to explain, because what you said was at roll call, there was going to be a one hour presentation, so I'm ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Every evening, every evening in the precincts, for seven days, there's a two hour overlay; that means that there's a 3•11 shift and the night shift comes in at 9 PM, so there's a two hour overlay where you have double the numbers of officers. The officers that come in from the midnights go in to roll call, or they can go into the cars at nine o'clock when they come in and the 3•11 people can come in for roll call, so we can catch two squads; of course, it will be done on different nights. Does that explain it, that we have a two hour overlay?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

It explains it. It explains it, but what I just want to make sure we all understand is that this presentation, this cultural awareness presentation, is going to be done when these officers would normally be in the patrol cars on the street; is that not correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no, no. They •• there's an old ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Oh, because I see people in the back nodding yes and you're saying no, so explain.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, they're on the street but we're going to have them come to the precinct. The cars stay on the street, the sector cars. They're •• the sector cars are covered with the 3•11 shift, they work til 11 PM.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

But wasn't the purpose of the overlay to have more manpower on the streets during the times when you had more crime?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, that wasn't my understanding, it was to do training. It was to train. And we •• on a Wednesday evening •• on a Wednesday evening, I mean, what's the option, that we don't train them in cultural awareness? This is not going to impact public safety at all.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I'm not suggesting you not train them, I'm just asking you to clarify what you said as part of your goals and making clear we understand that the hour that the officer is sitting in the

precinct listening to a presentation is one hour less that, you know, they have patrol function in the communities.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I would rather he sit in the precinct listening to a lecture than sitting in his car at the relief point waiting for the sector car to show up or sitting in a firehouse waiting for the sector car to show up. I want them getting trained. They don't always go into the sector car and double up. These sector cars are busy in a lot of instances. They do not get back to the relief point. That officer, a lot of times, sits around waiting, we want to utilize that properly. And we felt that the training, I'm talking about the commanders felt, they expressed this to me, let's utilize this down time for training. By the way, that's when we do the roll call training, they've been doing it for years. We are just expanding on the subjects that we cover at this roll call training. Nobody is taken off the street.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. You did say you would be training the officers and you said he; I would assume that you're training female officers, too, not just male officers and recognize the fact that we have both.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I think that's pretty obvious.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, I just wanted to mention that. You talked about the COPE ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I know; I'll take that under consideration. I don't think that was necessary for this discourse. I know that we have female officers and male officers, okay.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

No, and I know you know that. But I also know as a female that sometimes we speak in the generic "he" and I just felt that I would use that opportunity to remind you that we have both male and female officers. And I hope that you didn't take it the wrong way, and if you did I apologize.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay; accepted. Accepted.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I have another question for you on your goals. The COPE Task Force, you're talking about them targeting those who are driving unlicensed vehicles, uninsured vehicles; how do you see this functioning? How does this differ from what the COPE Units or what we've been used to having the COPE Units do in our communities? The community-oriented policing which we all have embraced and are all very, very supportive of.

And by the way, I'm •• you know, you said you were so proud of the fact that you were unanimously supported by this Legislature to be the Police Commissioner, and I know for a fact that part of the reason you were was that you were very, very much supportive of the fact that we would be maintaining COPE, COPE as we know it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I never said we were doing anything with COPE, I just said we're going to expand their role. COPE does traffic enforcement right now; high accident locations, citizen complaints about speeding, passing school buses, they engage in that kind of activity. They do sting operations with the school bus. This is an expansion of their mandate. It's not the summer. We think that this is a good time to do this initiative with the five •• we call them 511's, with the unlicensed operators. Thousands of them out there, by the way, driving without insurance, and a lot of them cause ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And I don't disagree with you, I have a bill on the floor about unlicensed drivers.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I know you agree with me. But I just wanted to say that this is a good time for COPE to do it. This is not a busy time of the year for COPE, let's get them doing this now. Let's get the biggest bang for the buck that we can out of them, a return on investment.

So I would say that COPE, who have a lot more freedom in the precinct than the sector car, can concentrate on these violators, and maybe we can reduce the numbers and reduce the

accidents and reduce the number of people that are driving without insurance which, by the way, drives everybody else's insurance up. As you know, Suffolk County has one of the highest insurance rates in the State. And I'm very mindful of the fact that a lot of people are unlicensed and we have to do something about it, so we've started this initiative 2005 and we think that COPE is the •• they're problem solvers, you know, we've given them that extra training so that they become problem solvers; that's something new.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. Well, I certainly don't disagree that this is an area that we need to look at, I just want to make sure that we maintain COPE as we know it and have all supported and embraced it. I believe other members of the committee have questions. Legislator Lindsay, and I'll keep ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Could I ask a question, if I may, please, with all due respect?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Sure.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I have commanders sitting behind me here who have worked very hard for a year; believe you me, they have worked hard. And is there anything in there that you would praise these people for for the Year 2004? I think they might like to hear that you appreciate what they did.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Me personally or ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

•• you're asking me to speak •• you know, there's no doubt in my mind that •• and I think those in the department that know me know how much I appreciate the efforts of everyone involved with the Suffolk County Police Department, when they are, in fact, moving forward in the direction that we all support, and that is protecting the safety of the citizens of this great

County of ours. But I think rather than hearing from me, we need to hear from more members of the committee; Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Commissioner, I don't know what kind of vitamins you're taking, but you're really jacked•up this morning.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I've been very quiet for eleven and a half months, 12 months.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I want to compliment you on your report.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Your report was very thorough and I applaud a lot of the initiatives that you're taking. Especially I wanted to say about the CO's being on all shifts, I think that's very progressive and it's something that needs to be done. But my question specifically is you talked about the unlicensed drivers, and Legislator Carpenter alluded to a bill that's in the packet that we're going to vote on that I think would probably enhance that ability; do you agree with that?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I didn't see the bill.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

She has a bill in that would confiscate the vehicle of unlicensed drivers.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I think it's a good thing. We do it with drunks right now.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Uh•huh.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I'm looking at it from a practical, administrative point of view. We have to impound these vehicles, there's a procedure that we go through, it ties up police officers, we have to store them some place, so that's an issue, but I think we can deal with that. I think it's a good thing. I think that we have to stop this carnage on the highways.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

What I always liked about the impounding of vehicles, it reverses the whole •• the whole •• you know, you take away someone's vehicle, now they have to fight to get it back instead of, you know •• yeah, I do, yeah, I really do. Well, I think it's un-American, too, for people to be riding around without a license and without insurance and having accidents with law-abiding citizens that do obey the rules of the road and there's no consequences.

The other thing, in our packet is another bill about establishing a policy for unmarked police cars, Legislator Cooper is the sponsor; are you familiar with that bill? I guess it's in response to that incident in Nassau County.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, I'm familiar with that. And Legislator Cooper was advised that we were adamantly opposed to that, the Police Department.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Could I ask why?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, we think it's taking away the initiative from our officers to do the job properly. And I should point out, by the way, that there's a difference between unmarked cars and cool cars. Cool cars are the units that are used for DWI enforcement, they'll probably be utilized for aggravated unlicensed enforcement. They have no racks on the top of the vehicle, but they have "Suffolk County Police," on the side, they're operated by officers in full uniform, Suffolk County uniform; these are what we call the cool cars. This is a tool that we have to utilize to, again, reduce the carnage that occurs on our highways on a daily basis. The unmarked cars are utilized by the detectives and plain clothes officers. These officers, by the way, do not normally enforce the Vehicle and Traffic Law. In fact, my directive to them directs them not to enforce the Vehicle and Traffic Law unless somebody's life is in danger, they're in danger of life or limb,

then they're obligated to take action. They're also, in my advisory, told that people may react in a certain way if they're getting pulled over by an unmarked vehicle, such as a Detective or a plain clothes officer, to let them respond to a lighted area, you know, don't •• unless it's a danger to the rest of the people on the roadway, don't take any action, call a marked unit to the scene, that's part of the procedure. So they'll get on the air and call a marked unit to respond so that they can make the stop. We think that that's prudent.

You know, that unfortunate incident in Nassau County, this happens, unfortunately, not just with car stops, but people breaking into homes and businesses by identifying themselves or falsely identifying themselves as police officers and showing a badge. People do it in all sorts of situations, and we can't overreact to this. We think that with proper direction to our police officers, we shouldn't have major problems with this. And we can't take this tool away from the Detective Division who may have to make a stop at night for an investigative purpose, that they have to do this. And this would certainly, certainly impact on our ability to do police work 24/7.

We think our officers are going to be properly directed and properly trained and cognizant of the fact that people are nervous out there. They have already received this at roll call training, there's a directive that was issued in the department outlining exactly what I just told you. So the unmarked cars are not going to be going after people for red lights and for, I guess, stop signs, this kind of thing. Only if somebody is driving like a maniac and they're endangering people's lives, then they're obligated to do something and we don't want to stop them doing that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. I just would like to recognize, we've been joined by the State and Local Government Class from Suffolk County Community College, the Michael Grant Campus, Steve Schrier's class; if you would just stand and be recognized.

**Applause**

Thank you for coming down here today and witnessing first-hand your government working for you.

Next committee member, Dan Losquadro, Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you, Commissioner. I couldn't agree with you more about the unmarked vehicle situation. In fact, traveling on the Cross Island Parkway, I saw New York City Highway 3 has a vehicle that is a New York City Taxi, completely decked out with lights. I don't suggest we go that far ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

•• but I do agree it is an important enforcement tool and one that needs to maintain in place for our officers to do the job properly.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

As far as recruitment goes, I heard you talking about trying to expand the County's recruitment efforts. I know back some time ago when I was in college, I had looked in to taking the police officer test and to my recollection, there were over 40,000 applicants at \$100 a piece that we currently get. I think our outreach in the recruitment effort has been very successful; every time we put a class up, we get a tremendous response. I'm not sure as to the mechanisms that are in place right now. I know you were talking about expanding minority involvement, would that require •• being that we get such a large number of applicants, we only really take the cream of the crop of that, you know, simply because, you know, a law of large numbers here. Would there be an effort to put in some sort of affirmative action efforts to try to increase minority involvement? I mean, I don't know how we would do it being that our recruiting efforts have been so successful up until this point. Could you elaborate on that a bit?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, you know, I don't know about affirmative action, that's not what I'm ••

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I know. Well, I mean, the only reason I ask is I don't know how we would go about it ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay? Well, here's my ••

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

•• being that we get such a large number of applicants already.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah. Here's my thinking on this. We have fewer blacks in the Police Department today than we did when I left the police service 12 years ago. And we've had recruitment, by the way, extensive recruitment, because we're still under a Consent Decree, the Federal Government Consent Decree. My feeling is from talking to people in the minority communities, talking to people in the Police Department and County government, is that the only way we're going to increase minority recruitment, especially blacks, in the police service, is to increase the numbers taking the test.

You mentioned it, it's the numbers game; you've got to have the numbers there to get people on the list. We don't have that right now. So looking at what we've done over the last 20 years, we haven't increased black representation in the Police Department; we only have about 64 blacks in the police service out of 2,700 today. So Hispanics and women are represented pretty well in the police service, white males and white females are represented very well in the police service. So we have to sit down and look at this and see how do we get more blacks taking the police test. And that's why we think that we have to look at the recruitment effort that has been done in the past. If you can't learn from history, okay, then you're not learning anything. So we think that maybe targeting ••

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Those who do not learn history are condemned to repeat it; exactly, sir.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Exactly. And we're going to target, maybe instead of a shotgun approach, a shotgun approach, we're going to do a laser approach.

But I need some input from minority communities, from radio stations, from high schools, from the media that's in the black community to see if they can help us in this recruitment effort, to

see if we can increase the numbers, and let's see where that goes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, I think it's always a good idea in any marketing campaign to constantly reassess the demographic that you're targeting. So I would hope we're not just using the same campaign over and over again, that it's something that we reanalyze and adjust to meet our needs. I believe Legislator Carpenter wanted to interject a point?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Just on that point. In your list of goals for the year you did talk about recruitment, but specifically I did not hear you mention the Cadet Program; is that something that's on the table for consideration?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, that's always •• that's always on the discussion, you know, ways to get more minorities into the police service.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Because I happened to be over at the Dennison Building for the Black History Month celebration, and the County Executive was there, naturally, as the speaker, and he did say that he wanted to bring back the Cadet Program. So that was why I asked if ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, we have discussed it. We wanted to make sure that it's constitutional, that it's done fairly. It has to pass constitutional muster. It's certainly being discussed. I mean, we discuss a lot of things and, you know, looking for ideas on this; if anybody here has a viable idea, we certainly look at it.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I'm sorry, go ahead.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, that's all right. And actually, if I could just offer a suggestion, I have a friend who worked in marketing for the US Army Recruitment Campaign, and I know the Army has been very

successful in targeting members in the minority community and talking about the benefits of service. So that may be a model that we would like to explore and look to their success as a possible model for our own. We've gone through that point enough I think. I just •• all the other points you touched on, I appreciate the update.

I just wanted to bring up something that was not part of the discussion that you just presented to us, it was about the former 6th Precinct building. And I am not on the Space Management Committee, but to my understanding, in the Space Management Committee, alternative uses for the old 6th Precinct building have been discussed. Now, I remember conversations we had specifically at past Public Safety meetings and you said that it was your desire and your intention to keep that building within the Police Department •• that space was always a problem for the Police Department, I think were your exact words •• and you agreed with me as to the community's desire to maintain a police presence in what •• I'm not trying to pick out any •• you know, unfairly target any community, but what is realistically a high crime area directly across the street from the old 6th Precinct building.

Members of the community, I represent the entire community to the north of 25, are greatly concerned about the police presence in that area that the precinct in its old location afforded them. What are the intentions for the Police Department for that building? Will we maintain some sort of police presence? Are there units that are currently in need of space? I know some of the discussions about Highway Patrol not being practical because it was too far off a major roadway, but I'm sure there are other units within the department where space is at a premium for them that we could relocate into that facility to maintain a police presence. Because I have to tell you, I do a lot of outreach in the community that I represent and this is of grave concern to them.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I agree with you that, you know, we should be able to utilize that building. I don't know •• I should mention, by the way, DPW indicates that a lot of repairs have to be done on that building before anybody ••

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

We already allocated half a million dollars for renovations in the Capital Budget; correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And I think it would be appropriate to have police presence there, and we would •• we would like to do that whenever the building is renovated and we can talk about it and see what we can do there, but I would like a police presence there.

We've talked about that in the Police Department, we think we can do it. But who it would be, I don't know at this point, but the building has to be repaired first and then we'll look at it.

Taking the whole building over may not be an option because I don't make that decision with it, Space Management, as you mentioned, makes that decision. But we think a police presence in that community would be appropriate.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, I'm very heartened to hear that. And I know •• at least, I would hope that your view as Police Commissioner is taken into account, taken very seriously here and that your recommendations are what is followed. I know that the County Executive has taken your lead, he has given you high praise for the initiatives that you put in place. So this is one area where I hope he follows your wants and your desires for that building. So thank you, I appreciate it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Commissioner, I want to thank you for your very thorough report on your year in office as Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I thank you.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And I also want to thank your •• the people, as you say, that sit behind you because without them, obviously, you can't do what you do.

Just real quickly, because I know time is getting short, you mentioned that you reduced index

crime •• and from what I just learned now, index crime is burglary, theft •• and I just want to know how you do that; how do you reduce theft? You mean County•wide you've reduced it?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah. Well, it's down County•wide, and there are a lot of factors involved here, some of them that can't be explained, I've got to be honest with you. Crime is down all over the country.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yeah, I understand that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

But I've got to tell you that the investigative arm of the Police Department, which is functioning at a high level, has a lot to do with the reduction •• the figures that I gave you, these serious crimes. Because the people that commit these crimes have been arrested by the Detective Division and are in the justice •• in the system now, and that reduces a lot of these crimes by being aggressive, by being proactive, by making a lot of arrests. If you arrest a burglar, it's not the first time they did a burglary. They've usually done a lot of them. So when you get one or two burglars, you in effect take a crime wave off the street.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So what you're saying •• just so I can understand, what you're saying is the reason •• the way that you've reduced crime is that you have been arresting the burglars and there •• and that's why there is not as much?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, the Detective Division arrests these people.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. And just for my own edification, does economy have anything to do with less burglary, or is that not part of it?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, it does have something. There's a lot of demographics involved in this thing, and I would never say to you that it's completely the Police Department's efforts, but they do have a big part in it, and I think we all know that. I mean, if we didn't have a police service in Suffolk

County today, if it discontinued, crime would go up, all these crimes would go up and the disorder would go up. So we know that.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So it's a joint effort between the Police Department and it's the arrests and ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, yeah, but I think •• you've got to understand the way we operate under this COMSTAT system. We can look at hot spots on a daily or weekly basis and then concentrate on that, so if we have a burglar working in an area of Smithtown, that shows up very quickly. If there's two or three burglaries in a residential area during the day time, we saturate that area with undercover people. We know where they're operating because our crime statistics are up•to •date, so we get them before they do a hundred burglaries. When we burglars today, there are usually eleven, nine, eight burglaries. Years ago, you would get them for 50 or 60 because you didn't catch them until there was a crime wave. So this COMSTAT response is very, very effective, and it's proven in a lot of Police Departments throughout the country.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, I just want to know how that happened. And I really was curious as to whether or not the economy, which seems to be on the up swing, has anything to do with it, and you say that you believe it does. Okay, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Next, Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Good afternoon, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Good afternoon.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Just to get to the one point, during your presentation, you did happen to mention my name with respect to an initiative I put forward ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

•• citing the offset being police overtime. That was addressed •• just for your edification, that was addressed in Budget & Finance and I asked the County Executive staff people to perhaps come up with a different offset to address the concern that you've articulated.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I thank you for that, that helps.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Although I'm very encouraged by some of the reports I've seen that there's been a reduction in overtime with respect to some of the deployment that's going on in that •• in that pilot project that's going on over in Huntington.

But firstly, I would like to ask you what you read from there earlier, are we going to receive a copy of that; and if we are, would you be receptive to responding to some of the queries that we might have with respect to the information that you've put on there? Perhaps in writing, we can send it to you in writing and maybe at the next Public Safety Committee meeting you may come before us to address those queries?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I'll certainly respond. If you have a question from •• we'll hand this out, by the way, so everybody has this. If you have any questions on any item in there, I would be glad to respond as best I can.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Thank you, I appreciate that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah. No, I think that's appropriate.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

And I couldn't help but take note, when you were going through all of your initiatives in '04 and

your proposed initiatives in five and even into '06, that a lot of it had to do with crime prevention and investigative Detective Division activity, etcetera. And you know, I learned a long time ago that you're not going to ask a question unless you pretty much know what the answer is going to be, but I am going to ask you this question so we can have it on record. All these initiatives, you draw from what source for purposes of manning the initiatives that you put forth?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You mean for 2005?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

And six and going forward.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I have ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I mean, the answer is that you draw from patrol; is that not the answer to where you get the personnel ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

•• to implement these initiatives that you speak of?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, not necessarily. Some of these initiatives are Headquarters initiatives, if you will, some of them are patrol, some of them are detectives. I mean, it's the whole Police Department, everybody's involved in this.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

So then you're not going to draw from any patrol personnel for purposes of fulfilling these •• implementing these initiatives that you speak of?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Oh, I don't know if I'm going to be •• I'm not sure.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, you know, that ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Patrol is going to be involved in them.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. Well, see, that goes to the point of concern that we have in our Public Safety Task Force for Police Staffing, that I take note of the fact that you have not been very cooperative with respect to our requests, but that's for some other conversation, perhaps today, perhaps right now.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, could I answer that briefly? I'll make it briefly.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes, would you, please?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I've assigned a Deputy Commissioner to that committee and he was appointed •• designated as the Chair of that committee, he speaks for me. I want one voice speaking for the Police Administration. I'm well aware that the ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, that's good for you that you want one voice, but we wanted more than one voice and we didn't get it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Oh, no, I understand. Yeah, I understand what you want, but I have to run a Police Department and I think that I've responded appropriately. You understand, too, that I've been on the

record that I think this staffing committee is inappropriate, I think it's union•driven, I don't think it's public safety driven.

My responsibility as Police Commissioner is to utilize the resources I have, to ask for resources that I need based on my analysis with my Precinct and Bureau Commanders and Chiefs. And my view, and I could be incorrect in this, is that there may be minimum staffing that will come out of that committee, which I think is inappropriate, I think that's an item for negotiation between the County and the union and it shouldn't be mandated by a committee. So these are the concerns that I have about that committee, in that I may have or may be told to do things that are really not in the public interest.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. So that's the reason why you're not adhering to some of the requests that we've made to have Commanding Officers come forward for purposes of ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, if I may, I could address that, if you have time right now, I don't know if the rest of the Legislators want to hear it.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

We have time.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

If I may. I'm the policy maker in the Police Department, not the Chief of the Department, not Precinct Commanders, not Bureau Commanders. Everybody in the Police Department that reports to me is an advisor, they're not the policy maker.

I have put mechanisms in place for advisors to communicate with me.

I include pulse meetings, that means I put my finger on the pulse by meeting with cops all the way up to Chiefs, e•mail, frequent command visits, open•door policy, advisory boards and non•police advisors. Only a Police Commissioner can decide on the direction the department will take as it regards staffing. Micromanaging and macromanagement. The precinct is a microcosm, if I may. The Precinct Commander's job is to focus on the group within the precinct and manage that group, that's microcosm. Commanders are held responsible for managing the

resources that are made available to them. The commanders are in competition for limited resources in the Police Department. These resources are personnel, supplies and equipment, financial, overtime funds. The Precinct Commander decides how to utilize the resources made available to him or her. They are not always aware of the impacts or repercussions filling these needs will have on other areas of the Police Department. Someone must take these impacts and repercussions into account and decide how resources are to be distributed. This is a function of the Police Commissioner, not a Precinct Commander, and I am not going to give up that responsibility as precinct •• as Police Commissioner.

The allocation of resources stays with me, I'm the policy maker. They are not policy makers. So a Commander asking for A, B and C is done in the context of his or her command. When I look at resources, I look at it from the whole, from the whole Police Department, from County budget, from tax repercussions, from all the areas that impact on our budgets and public safety.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Are you finished, sir?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Will we be supplied a copy of that statement you just read?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It's notes that I got •• I'm not sure if I can give you that, I have to think about that.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right, fine, fine. They'll be read in the minutes anyway.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That's fine.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

You made mention of the fact that you are the policy maker for the department. I mean, you are certainly aware of the fact that we're the policy maker of part of that process for the County, and the department is within that County. And what we're attempting to do is an information gathering process that we're attempting to find that information whether or not •• whether or not the public is being adequately serviced in police response for calls for service; that's one of things that we're looking to do in this task force. And I must tell you, the information that we've gathered is circumspect as to whether or not that is the case. You or your representatives have presented to us various statistical data that flies in the face of other statistics that we're receiving from other sources. So ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You're receiving them from the union.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I'm not finished. I'm not finished. So one of the things that we're trying to do is to determine •  
• one of the focuses of this particular committee is to determine whether or not when the public makes a call for service, that there is an adequate response on the part of the police with respect to their call for service. A lot of the initiatives that you just made mention of has nothing to do, nothing to do with response for police service to the public, nothing whatsoever. And my concern is that by minimizing the number of sectors available for calls for service, that you're doing a disservice and a misinformation to the public regarding those response times.

Now, for example •• and you are certainly •• I'm certain that you're aware of this. One of things that we inquired about was when the call comes in by the public for a police officer to respond based on their call for assistance or service, and we received those numbers; it took a while, but we finally got to what we think we were looking for. And contrary to what I've seen published very recently, the numbers are much higher in response time than you might think. When a call goes out to a car on a priority one issue, we have reason to believe that that car on average is unavailable for service for 45 to 50 minutes; are you ware of that?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I don't know where you're getting these statistics, so you're just making a statement. I have no idea what you're talking about.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

You have no idea what I'm talking about?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no. A priority one call ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Doesn't your representative ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Just on its face, if I may.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Does not your representatives brief you as to what's going on with the task force?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, you asked me a question. You asked me a question, if I may; if I may, with all due respect. A priority one call, which is the highest priority call in this County, somebody needs oxygen, they're having a heart attack, there's an assault, that's priority one. Forty•five minutes waiting for a police car in Suffolk County ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No, no, no. No, that's not what I said, sir. What I said was ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, that's what I thought what you said, I'm sorry.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No, I didn't; see, perhaps we should clarify that. From the time the call comes in for assistance or service to be rendered to the time that that car puts •• makes themselves available for more calls is approximately 45 to 50 minutes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, it depends on what he's doing, he or she.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I know that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

He or she is doing.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I know that. But when you •• when he or she is doing; did you get that, Ang?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

I did.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, I'm glad to see the Commissioner is acknowledging the fact that there are female police officers. But what we're looking to do is to see whether or not, as I indicated before, that the cars are available for service on calls by the public.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, they're available. They're available.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We have cars out there 24/7 available to respond to the public.

I haven't had a complaint on response time since I became Police Commissioner.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Uh•huh.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And my •• the information I have gleamed from statistics is that our response time has improved. And I know that one of the •• one of the areas that has caused the improvement is because of these held•over calls in the morning which, added to the response time, have been

reduced, because instead of 50 calls we have one or two or three.

So that has helped.

Response time throughout the department has not become an issue for anybody. And I'm sure you know •• you know that response time, by the way, to certain calls has no impact on the apprehension of subjects or defendants, because by the time we get the call, many minutes have gone by before the police get the call. So rushing to a call sometimes is not the right thing to do. I have a concern with that where officers become injured in responding to priority calls when they should take their time because it's not going to make that much difference.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. It's been stated many times previously that one of the reasons why there's been a redeployment of personnel from one shift to another is it's to address the volume of activity on that particular shift; is that correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, the amount of calls. Yeah, service calls, yeah.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

But now today, today you make a statement that the reason why that was done is for training purposes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That has nothing to do with sector cars. I'm talking about people that are in administrative positions that needed to be retrained. If you were running a business ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No, no, I'm not talking about that. I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about the fact of the reassignment of patrol officers. I'm talking about patrol. I'm not talking about administrative officers, I'm talking about the individuals who are in the street responding to calls for service. And there's been a redeployment of personnel from, as you described as the graveyard shift, to the 4•12 shift because of the volume of activity that's been generated statistically on that 4•12 shift, or 3•11 as you say now; is that the case, is that correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, yeah.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

But just earlier you made a statement that those individuals between that two hour overlap are being trained. So in effect, there are not more patrol officers in the street if they're being trained during those two hours of the overlap.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We do training at all times of the day depending on what's ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, but to say that you ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, you don't let me finish. If you would let me finish my answer.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, you don't let me finish, too. But to say that you're deploying personnel for purposes of addressing a volume of activity on the street, then turn around and saying that those officers are not even on the street, they're being trained, you know, flies in the face of the justification of why you're redeploying personnel.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That was a statement, not a question.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

By me?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, you just made a statement.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, sure it was a statement. Yeah, it was, it was an observation.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Based on your statement earlier that you're training those people on the overlap.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That's what it was intended for and we think it's an appropriate use of our training time.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Then why then has there been statements that the reason why those patrol personnel are taken off the so-called graveyard shift and placed on the 3•11 shift is because of the volume of activity?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, but we can train those •• we have extra officers in the sector cars at that time. We didn't take anybody off the street.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. And I fully understand what's •• at least I think I do •• what's going on between the administration, the County Executive and the PBA. And each are digging their heels in, so to speak, with respect to their arguments and issues concerning where they •• where they stand with respect to the issues of patrol personnel. Wouldn't you agree, sir, that everything is focused on patrol with respect to the differences of opinion? And it's very clear, I mean, it's well publicized, the difference of opinion between the administration and the union with respect to •• does it not have to do with patrol personnel?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I should say that there are two other unions where we've moved our people around, consolidated units, redeployed, and that's in the SOA and the Detectives, without this human cry that's going on right now, the scare tactics that is permeating through the public airways, which is really disturbing to everybody, not just me, where people are now beginning to believe some of this propaganda.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Speaking of scare tactics, which coincidentally is a phrase used in a •• which came to our attention this morning, by the way •• a phrase used in a mailing that went out to Huntington residents. Are you familiar with that mailing, sir, that went out to Huntington residents?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You mean the one from the PBA calling me names?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No, the one from you ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Oh.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

The one from you and the County Executive ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I didn't send any mailing out. I don't do any mailings. In fact, I don't even write letters anymore, I do e•mail all the time.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. So you're not aware, sir, of a mailing that went out to the Huntington residents regarding this ongoing feud, if you will, between the County Executive, you and the union?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Who is the mailing from?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, you're on it. I would have to assume ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I've been on a lot ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I mean, your picture is on it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I've been on a lot of mailings and, you know, unfortunately, you know, where it's being personalized. And I don't know who put •• I don't know what you're holding; is that a PBA bulletin?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No, it's not, sir, it's out of the County Print Shop sent by ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I have no idea what you're talking about. I don't send out mailings.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. So then you didn't send this out, but yet your picture is on it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

My picture is on all sorts of things.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. All right, just for ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You know, I'm assuming •• you know, I'm assuming now it's on a billboard in Huntington some place.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

For the record, for the record, you had no knowledge of this, the contents of it?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I have no idea of what you're talking about.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. All right, thank you. So the •• how and where did the stats come from that are on this

particular mailing?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I told you, I don't have any idea what you're talking about.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay, fine. All right, perhaps we should get you a copy and perhaps you can respond to the contents of this particular mailing at a later date. You had no knowledge of it, but I have to assume it's your personnel within your department that you have complete policy control over that must be supplying some numbers here, that I question, by the way, the validity and veracity of those numbers. But that's •• that's something for another time.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Do you know if any of my personnel were involved in that? Because I'd like to know. I mean, you made the statement that my personnel were involved in this and I would like to know if ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, who supplies the statistics regarding the Police Department to the Executive's Office?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Oh, I don't know if this has anything to do with the County Executive. I supply statistics to a lot of people, both inside and outside County Government. I respond to inquiries from a lot of people, and we give them statistics where it's appropriate.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right, I •• that's for some other discussion perhaps. During your presentation, you made mention of the fact that you have placed high ranking officers in uniform and gave them directions to issue summonses; did you not state that?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I didn't direct them to issue summonses, I'm not going to do that. I suggested that they carry summonses with them and if they see something egregious, take action.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. And how many egregious occurrences have occurred since you've created that policy?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Oh, I have no idea.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

How many summonses have been issued by your high ranking ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I do not track the Superior Officers as to their activities in the area of summonses.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

When you say Superior Officers, are you referring to Sergeants and Lieutenants, or are you referring to ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Sergeants up the way •• all the way to the Chief of the Department.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. So my question to you, sir, is are you able to determine just how many summonses have been issued as a result of this policy change?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I could, but I'm not really interested in knowing. I'm not going to be tracking •• checking on my Chief of the Department how many summonses he issued last month.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, then let me ask you then what was the purpose of ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It's not something I'm interested in.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

But what was the purpose of establishing that policy?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

There was two purposes; I wanted to send a message to everybody in the Police Department that this was the responsibility of every rank to reduce the carnage on the highways, that was number one.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Number two, if they did see something egregious, they could take action.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Well, I would hope that any police officer would take action if they saw anything egregious.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

So we agree then.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I would hope that that would be the case anyway. I mean, you can always pull over a car that's committing an egregious offense and call down another car that has summonses assigned to it or the individual assigned to it, but that ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I don't want them calling another car when they can take care of it themselves.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Especially if they're out on a priority one, you want them to do that. But the •• can you tell me what you mean by directed patrol?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah. Directed patrol is where you identify a hot spot, that either burglaries, gang activity, shootings, you name it, and then you direct your resources to that in a task force response. It's like a laser response rather than responding in a shotgun approach or not responding at all.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Are the sector cars involved in directed patrol?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, they are, now. They weren't before I came on board.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Uh•huh. If they're not on calls for service, of course, that's what they're doing, they're in directed patrol, they focus on ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, their number one priority is to answer the calls from the emergency system. But when they're not answering that call, they're directed to perform certain functions, and one of their main functions is crash reduction.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. I wanted to •• you made mention of the fact that your staff should be commended for the great job they've done, and I don't disagree with that, I think there's been an effort on the part of your administrative staff. But, however, you failed to state who actually does the job, and it's the labor force of the Police Department, the police officer and Detectives, Sergeants, Lieutenants, etcetera, who actually perform these functions that you speak of, and they deserve as much credit for the success of whatever you've •• the initiatives that you've put forth as well as your staff. So I think you should commend them as well as your administrative staff.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I do it all the time.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Very good.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You probably don't see my memos.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No, I don't see your memos.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, but I'm sure you would want a copy.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No, I have no interest in examining copies of your memos.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I tell the cops all the time •• I tell the cops and Detectives all the time that they're doing a terrific job.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I have no interest for seeing your memos.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you. Then I don't have to give you the ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

But I do have an interest in seeing your statistics and whether or not they're accurate or they're being •• they're being skewed, if you will, to address a certain situation in Huntington and other areas.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I'm pretty confident that my statistics would stand up to wherever you're getting your statistics from.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. The other •• early on in your presentation you made mention •• and I'm just referring to some of the notes I've taken down, because I didn't have that in front of me to refer to. But early on you made mention of Homeland Security and the Intelligence Unit, or I think you made some mention of that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I didn't mention Intelligence Unit. In fact, I don't like to mention it in a public arena at all.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah. Well, I •• and I can appreciate that, but my question is has there been a Homeland Security Director assigned in Suffolk County yet?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I have no idea.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

You're the Police Commissioner; you have no idea if a Homeland Security Director has been assigned?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

In the County?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I assume that it's under works some place, but I haven't heard of the name. I haven't heard any name.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Okay. My question was has there been a Homeland Security Director assigned and you said you don't know.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Assigned to where?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I don't know. I think •• I would think, Legislator Bishop, that the Police Commissioner would have conversation with the County Executive on some of his initiatives with respect to putting a Homeland Security Director in charge of something within Suffolk County.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I don't know what that has to do with staffing and the Police Department initiatives.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Oh, then you want to go back to staffing?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I can handle the staffing issue all day.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I'm sure you can.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I don't know if everybody in the room wants to hear this stuff again.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, probably not. That's why I prefaced my remarks by saying to you, would you be willing to respond to queries, specific queries, made with respect to the initiatives you cited here today?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I told you yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, I know you did. That's why •• that's why I'm not ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator O'Leary, may I just interrupt for a moment?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

The Commissioner has been here before us for quite •• well, actually we're nearing two hours. And I for one am willing to stay here as long as it takes. However, I've been advised that it is snowing outside and there are some people that are concerned about getting home or getting

back to where they need to get.

I would like to know if you are willing to come to the next committee meeting so that we can pick up on this because, quite frankly, if there hadn't been such a lapse of time between visits to the committee, perhaps this dialogue today would not have gone on as long as it has.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You know, I don't mind answering questions, even for two hours. I don't mind being, you know, challenged; I'm challenged every day, so I have no problem with that.

I will come before the committee when there's something appropriate to be discussed. But I can tell you that with all this these initiatives that I have that you're going to get a copy of, we're very busy in the Police Department. And I don't want to in any way be flippant about that. If you have something specific, and I told you that, I will respond and answer the questions, but I've got to be honest with you, I'm not going to respond and sit in the audience just to be nice because I don't have time for that, I really don't.

This is a big County. You mentioned it's snowing outside, we have to make sure that police are on the streets today, that things are being responded to, that everything is safe for everybody, so it's a big job. And again, if you have something specific, and I've told you that, I will respond back again and we can pick this up again if you want to. I did have more •• I did have more information on the 2nd Precinct redeployment, but we don't need to get into that but I did want to mention one other thing, if you would bear with me? Do you have ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Certainly. Go right ahead.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Do you have a minute?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I do.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. You know, this issue with the staffing in the 2nd Precinct, in my estimation, has become

very personal and very detrimental to the integrity of the police service. I think it's inappropriate what's going on, I think we should deal with this in a mature, professional manner. And I want to •• and I hope, by the way, that the committee, this committee will agree with me on this issue.

I just want to show you something from Newsday of 2/21/05 in Our Towns Section. And the heading of this big article is "Police Unions Fault Thin Staffing in Fatality." At Exit 68 on the Expressway, we had an unfortunate incident where a young lady lost her life and the young guy with her was seriously injured when they stopped at an action scene to assist and they got hit by a car; a tragic incident. "Police Union Faults Thin Staffing in Fatality". Now, that's as far away from the 2nd Precinct as you can get, it's Exit 68 on the Expressway, the 7th Precinct.

And there's quotes in here and I'll just read part of it. "This campaign blasting County Executive Steve Levy for inadequate police staffing. Mr. Frayler, President of the Police Benevolent Association, said more officers on duty might have prevented an accident on the Long Island Expressway that night that caused the death of somebody." When you read this thing •• and people only read the headlines, by the way, they don't read it like I or you would read it. And they see something like this, they say the County Executive or the Police Commissioner caused the death of this young person, this tragedy; it had nothing to do with the accident. But again, this is inappropriate, it's unprofessional. And I would hope that this committee, okay, would denounce this type of stuff that goes out into the public ways. And people read this, our neighbors read this, and I think it poisons the water.

You're all well aware of the inappropriate T•shirt that was put out by the PBA depicting the County Executive as an organ grinder and the Police Commissioner as a monkey or an ape. Now, I'm a study of history and I thought this stuff went out in the 19th Century in the United States. This kind of depiction of public officials who are trying to do the right thing, even if you disagree with them, is highly inflammatory and inappropriate. We send police officers into schools in Suffolk County every day to teach our children tolerance for every ethnic and racial background. We do not engage in this kind of demagoguery. And I think that it reduces the police service, the professionalism and the integrity of cops by engaging in this kind of stuff. Police officers, by the way, who have talked to me about this, cops on the street, patrol cops have said, "We don't agree with this. We don't agree with this."

I would hope that this Public Safety Committee whose concern, I know, is the image their police project to the public would denounce this type of stuff. It is not •• it is not the right thing to do and it really doesn't add anything to the discourse or the disagreement between the union and the County. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

You're welcome. And certainly we're here in a very, very professional capacity ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I know.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

•• as Legislators, have no control over what any individual might say, have no control over what the media may choose to write. And I am sure that all of us, at one time or another, have had problems with the way something has been depicted in the media. In fact, if you speak to those who are reporters and write articles, the first thing they'll tell you is, "Well, we don't write the headlines," so I'm sure that that probably was the case there. But ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, if I may. I have no beef with the media, that's not my point here, okay, just so you understand. The media just writes what they get, so I just wanted to clarify that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, they sometimes write what they get, they sometimes write what they want to write and leave things out, too, and that has happened.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, maybe it was taken out of context.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Could be.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

•• and I think that maybe it should be ••

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

If I ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And I would hope you would denounce this type of activity.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

If I may, through the Chair.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator O'Leary I think wants to reclaim his time.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Because I had •• yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Right.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Thank you very much, I appreciate that.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

The second hour is beginning.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No, no, it's not. I can appreciate the fact that it's snowing out and Legislator Bishop is concerned about getting back to his district to ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Shovel.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Shovel, yeah. But I just wanted to point out to you, I haven't had an opportunity to discuss this with you concerning our task force, and I just want you to know that there is some discrepancy with respect to the statistics that your representatives are supplying to us and what we're getting from another source. And I'm assuming, though, and I make this assumption, that the source of those statistics are from the same database that you have. So I'm a little bit concerned about the skewing of statistics to benefit one side or the other, with the focus being is the public being adequately serviced by this Police Department, that is the focus. And that's all I have to say and I'm going to be sending you a letter asking you to respond specifically to a lot of the points that you raised today.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Mystal.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Good morning, Commissioner. I know you have been here for a long time.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Good morning or good afternoon, I'm not sure right now.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Yeah, afternoon right now. I wanted to ask a simple question. Recently I was in Florida and I was investigating when I was down there the alarm system thing and I had the opportunity to go and talk with the Police Department and the Sheriff Department in the County of Palm Beach. I wanted to •• I have my own idea but I wanted to hear it from you. Why is it that every time I talk to a law enforcement agency anywhere in this County •• in this country, whether it's California or Florida or Denver or Ohio, because I have been in all those states in the past year. Every time I talk to anybody from the law enforcement, because as a Legislator, when I go out I make sure I make contact with people, how come every cop in all of those states, every last one of them want to come here in Suffolk County to be a cop? If we are so bad as •• you know, if we •• if we are treating our police officers in a manner that is so egregious ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We're not, we're not.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

•• to use your term, why is it that •• and I give •• and I will give you the states; I've been in Florida, specifically the County of Palm Beach, I have been in Cincinnati, Ohio, I've been in Denver, Colorado, and I've been in California, in Santa Monica, in the past year, and every time I talk with a law enforcement person, the one thing they say to me, "I would love to be a cop in Suffolk County"; why?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I'll tell you why, we treat our cops very well. You know, the best trained, the best equipped, the working conditions are great. I mean, just look west of us into New York City, it's a tough city to police. Why do so many cops from New York City want to come out to Suffolk County? It's not all salary. I have three nephews on the job in New York City, they tell me they'll come to work in Suffolk County for the same pay that they get in the city, it's not always pay, it's working conditions. I had my nephew tell me he has four sector cars on the midnight shift in a precinct in Manhattan, he says, "I'll come out to Huntington and work with your 16," he said, "I'd love to do that. You guys got it made out here."

They know that throughout the country, by the way. We take good care of our cops, but they do a terrific job, I want everybody to know. We know they do a terrific job and we all love them, and •• but we also want to make sure we get the best bang for our buck from all our officers, from everybody in the Police Department, from the top down. And that's what I'm trying to do, I'm endeavoring to get as much out of people as I can, efficiencies, as many efficiencies as I can without endangering public safety, our cops safety.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Binder.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Thank you. The first thing I would just like to announce is that I'm going to be cancelling the Public Works & Transportation Committee because of the snow outside. So after this, if you were waiting or you're here because you're expecting the meeting to happen, we're going to cancel that.

Commissioner, first let me say, I've •• we've had a number of conversations, I respect you greatly, you're a guy from the street, you've done the job and I appreciate the work you're doing and I like you, generally.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you. Thank you, Allan.

**LEG. BINDER:**

I'm concerned about a couple of things, though. I've been listening and I've been trying to formulate some thoughts. One of the things I'm concerned about, as I was coming up there was a question about coming to the committee. I understand it's a very tough job to run policing in Suffolk County. The truth is it's tough to run the Health Department in Suffolk County, the Social Services Department which is overwhelming in Suffolk County and it has been for years. And it's important that the Legislature have a dialogue with you through it's committee system. If we don't have that dialogue then we're not informed, if we're not informed we're not doing our job; our job is oversight.

And my concern •• and maybe •• it might take a shift of the thinking because, you know, a cop from the street and you're doing security and that kind of thing and now you're in •• it's a whole different atmosphere. You're before a Legislature who has a particular job, our job is to make sure it's going well. At times it would feel like it's at odds with your job because you're the chief policy maker, you have to decide staffing levels and all those things and you say you're not going to give those up, I understand that. At the same time, you have to understand our position.

Our position is if we don't do the oversight to make sure that at your level it's going well all the

way down to the level of our constituents, then we're not doing our job. So we have to ask these questions, we have to ask •• when Legislator O'Leary asks we want Precinct Commanders to come to a committee and tell us what they're looking at, I understand you would be concerned about what they're going to say because their view is not universal like yours. But at the same time, we need to hear that. It would be as if we would say, "We're going to only listen to the Commissioner of Social Services," but I'm not going to find out what's going on in Child Protective Services, I'm going to find out from the Social Services Commissioner what's happening in Social Services or in the Health Department. I'm not going to go into the health centers, I'm just going to ask the Health Commissioner what's going on in there because that Commissioner decides everything and I don't want to hear from the Director of the health center, I want to hear from •• at our level, we need to hear from the center director and we have to take into account that they can't see the whole system of health care and how it works in Suffolk County, that's our job.

So I would hope that you wouldn't be offended by our desire to hear at those different levels and not just from the Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I'm not offended by it, but you've got to understand my position and I think you stated it very clearly.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Right, and as long as you understand ours. We will •• but you have to understand, we're going to try to hear from them. We're going to look to find and hear from them also, as we would look to hear from a health center director, I would want to hear from someone running CPS as much as I would want to hear from the Commissioner. I want to hear what's going on in the street; and I say in the street, in every part of government. Our job is oversight, and if we can't do oversight we can't do budgeting? Those are •• the two biggest things we do are oversight and budgeting. And in a sense you're saying, "Do your oversight but do it through me and everything I have to say," and I don't think we can do that. I can tell you, I'm here 16 years, we haven't done it, we're not going to start doing it now. So you have to understand our desire to get down into the street level and get information that is, you know, layers below you. So that's what we're going to be looking to do.

There are a couple of things and I'm just going to •• some universal things and then I'm going to focus a little on Huntington. Some of the universal or more overall things that I'm looking at is when you're talking about patrol and you're talking about how many hours of patrol we have and you're putting the people from Headquarters on there, are you adding the guys in Headquarters which are really kind of doing training, when you've got them doubling up in cars. Are you adding that to the overall amount of patrol? In other words, when you say patrol is up, we're doing more patrol, is that because you're adding •• and I understand, they're training, these guys are probably not really doing the street work, they're there to learn how to use the mobile data terminal and all those things. So is that what •• is that how you add up those numbers? When you get all the patrol numbers, does that also include all those •• the Headquarters guys that you're putting out on the street.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no, I just •• I had them separately. It was over 1,600 hours last year that the Headquarters people •• and by the way, if I could, Legislator Binder, and I'm glad you said Headquarters people rather than administrators. We're trying to change the whole thinking in the police service. They're all operational today, there are no administrators, we're all in this, you know, crime reduction, you know, reduction of disorder on the streets, crash reduction. That's why we have commanders wearing blue shirts today, just like a police officer on the street. So when we put people out, they're not administrative personnel, they're operational because they're actually functioning as a police officer or a sergeant would on the street. We counted that number separately and that was additional patrol on the streets. There were some numbers where the double car, where an officer took vacation, one officer takes vacation and we filled in with one of the operational people from Headquarters, okay, that was both a savings; we saved some money in our overtime budget and we got the training done. So I see what you're getting at there.

The foot posts, by putting these officers out for a week and the weeks •• not all of them went out for one week, it was staggered throughout the summer, we relieved some pressure in the precincts to put the additional 118 foot posts in operation for the summer.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Now, talking about foot patrols, when you say there's an increase in foot patrols, is any of that from cops that are normally let's say driving and they're encouraged to kind of pull over? Let's say East Northport, let's say he's normally on patrol so he stops, parks, gets out of the car and

starts walking, or are they dedicated foot patrol? I just want to understand what ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, they're dedicated foot. Walk and ride is a separate activity.

**LEG. BINDER:**

So ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That's what you're describing, walk and ride.

**LEG. BINDER:**

That's what you call walk and ride.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, but these were full foot posts.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Okay. So when you give us the numbers that you're giving us for foot patrol, that's just full foot.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

A hundred and eighteen added for the summer of 2004.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Okay. Now, I want to get •• focus a little bit on Huntington. And as you know, I've kind of taken my time, I pretty much have taken my time in thinking about Huntington, I haven't jumped out on it as maybe some others have because I wanted to understand how this works. You did come to speak with me, you know. And the knee jerk, when you hear it it sounds good, you know, the redeployment, there's logic in it and so I listen, and I've been looking and listening and I've been talking to people and trying to figure out what's going on, and over the time that I've been doing it I've gotten just more concerned about how this is working.

One of the things I'd like to ask is do you have a figure on your estimation on how much you

think you're going to save just in the Huntington redeployment and where that savings specifically will come from so I can understand that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah. The redeployment will save between 125,000 to \$135,000 a year, and that comes from the difference in night differential and the difference in hours from the night shift to the 4•12. As you know, we took it from seven days a week down to five, and we did add two hours of overtime on Friday and Saturday night to make these two officers, the two extra cars, work from four to two on these two extra nights. But figuring it over the year with night differential and the reduction in the hours of coverage between the two from midnights to the 4•12's, it's about 125 to \$135,000 depending on the pay rate of the officers that are actually working.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Are these double cars or single? These are single cars.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, they're single cars.

**LEG. BINDER:**

So there's two single cars, their night differential adds up to, you're saying the night differential that you're gaining from two officers in one year, a night differential difference is •• it's got to be 60,000, something like •• they get \$60,000 for night differential is something you're saying. Because to do that minus the overtime that you're having to pay to try to add up to 125 savings just on the night differential, it's got to be 60, 70 a piece that they're getting in night different, \$70,000 a piece.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, the night differential comes to \$3,635, night differential savings.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Per cop.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Per cop.

**LEG. BINDER:**

So that's thirty•six hundred ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. BINDER:**

•• per cop. I don't know how you get to 125,000 then.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, we'd have to •• I mean, I can make sure these figures are available to you if you would like them.

**LEG. BINDER:**

If you could.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Thirty•six hundred per cop, let's say that's talking \$7,200 savings on just the night differential minus the overtime, the overtime has got to be more than 7,200. So now we're in a negative, it's actually costing, unless you have other savings that I don't know about.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah. No, I would like to go over that with you.

**LEG. BINDER:**

If you could, I'd like •• right. I just want to know the other savings so I understand it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I can make sure you get that.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Because that's in •• that's part of the question in the weighing this. In Huntington •• there's a lot of numbers out and obviously the piece has gone out and I got it in my house, you know, I got it yesterday and I saw it. I've been doing a little checking and my understanding is that felonies just this year, let's say from January to basically almost •• you know, to almost the current day are up in Huntington about 110%, that's my understanding on felonies, just straight felonies.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, that doesn't match my figure. So I'm not sure where you got them figures.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Okay. So now what I have to •• I'd like to see if we can, you know, get together on ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I will get you the accurate figures.

**LEG. BINDER:**

All right. I had heard that there was a lack of equipment, there's a severe lack of equipment, and this goes to the question in sector car, in the question of sector cars, that there's a lack of equipment that goes on, I was told that there were 118 cars that were •• that had to be doubled up just from January to February, in a month you had 118 cars doubled. So my concern, then, first off, is there a lack of equipment, usable equipment that is up and ready to go that there's a problem, and could that add to a problem on the sector cars when you take the extra sector cars down at night when they don't have the equipment?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I'm not aware of that number of double cars, I have no idea what that relates to. I do not •• I do know that we lose cars because of auto accidents and mechanical stuff.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

So I know that happens and sometimes somebody has to be doubled up but, I mean, the number that you're giving me, I have no idea whether ••

**LEG. BINDER:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It's suspect to me right now, but I don't want to say that to you.

**LEG. BINDER:**

That's fine. No, no, if you can look into it. Whatever the number is, my concern is that it adds to the problem. And my concern, obviously, is heightened •• you know, the night after we had my hearing in Greenlawn, which I appreciate your coming to, as you know, the night after •• I made it •• I used the term perfect storm.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

That's what we have outside now.

**LEG. BINDER:**

Right, I know. Even after I'm speaking I'm probably going to be the shortest speaker on the whole list, but I just want to finish a couple of questions.

On Friday, the Friday night after that hearing •• and I talked about something called the perfect storm happening, maybe that's what's happening outside, but I did talk about the perfect storm and you weren't sure what I meant by it. But my concern was kind of what happened the next night; stabbing, shooting, things going on all over the place and now we're out trying to get other precincts to come into Huntington, which obviously response time goes down a lot once you start having to go out of your precinct.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I'm very familiar with that incident that occurred at about 3:30 AM in the morning, the first incident. We had extra cars in the precinct that night. We weren't down to 16 sector cars, there was an extra officer working midnights that night that was in a zone car, we had two Sergeants on the street at that time and a Lieutenant, so we had 20 cars when the first incident went down. Certainly not any problem with staffing because they had let the extra officers go home at three o'clock in the morning, they kept everybody over on overtime til the streets

calmed down and then, like you said, an unusual incident occurred. They were handling that incident when the second incident occurred, and then a third one, all within 35 minutes or thereabouts.

**LEG. BINDER:**

My concern is that that •• let's say it's the summer •• could happen on a Tuesday.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, if I may.

**CHAIRMAN BINDER:**

That same incident, you're not going to have 20 cars.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

If I may expand on this because I think people should understand that this is not •• it's unusual, as you mentioned, but we've had this occur in other precincts in our recent past. Wyandanch High School at ten o'clock in the morning, we called units from other precincts and Highway Patrol to respond because they had an incident at the high school. We had Islip some months ago that I was at the scene where they called four or five precincts to an incident because they needed backup. We have procedures in place to respond when you have a perfect storm, and everything •• by the way, no officers were hurt that night. One Lieutenant pulled a muscle in his thigh, it had nothing to do with any bad guys doing something to him. So they handled the thing, these three incidents appropriately, safely. The officers that were called for backup from the other precincts were called off long before they got there, most of them.

That incident, by the way, occurs in other precincts, the only thing is everybody has zeroed in on the 2nd Precinct. And as I have mentioned at one time when I was talking about this, if somebody stubs their toe in Huntington, Dormer is going to get blamed. We have incidents that go down in other precincts that are handled right around us that we never hear about.

**LEG. BINDER:**

But understand as a Legislator who is representing people in this area, my concern is this, as it gets warmer, that same incident, the kids are out of school, that same incident could happen on a Tuesday night; you're not going to have the 20 cars, you're not going to have detectives around, you're not going to have a Lieutenant around, you're not going to have the people

around. So obviously my concern is •• and in fact, my understanding is that night there was someone who had a problem breathing, some older woman that night, and it took a number of calls before anyone could even respond. Now, I don't even know, I think she's okay, but •• and by way of example, my concern in Huntington is that there can be a summer night or a spring night and you're looking at this perfect storm happening when we don't have the police officers on, they don't have the backup, the detectives are not there and what you've got are •• it's not always the crime, it could be the heart attack, God forbid, or problems breathing or whatever it is that someone dies, and someone dying because of a lack of coverage concerns me greatly. And for the amount of money we're talking about possibly saving, I'm really concerned.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, Legislator Binder, I hear your concerns. And I've got to tell you, and I don't want to be flippant about this, when we had 18 sector cars on the midnights, unfortunately somebody died. If you had 30 cars on the midnights, somebody is going to pass away. It's unfortunate that these things happen, just like I mentioned the auto accident out at Exit 68, unfortunately this young lady lost her life and the young fellow that was with her was badly injured, and you know how concerned I was that this would look like, "The Police Commissioner cut back staffing, therefore my daughter or my niece was killed"; I mean, how egregious is this? How despicable is that?

**LEG. BINDER:**

But my concern is that the percentages chances of statistically something happening goes up as there's less coverage, it has to be •• it just has to be ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

At Exit 68 on the Expressway?

**LEG. BINDER:**

Well, an example, if someone's up in Eaton's Neck, let's say, if you're up at Eaton's Neck and a cop is not up there and they're down in East Northport •• you know, that's enough.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

All right, okay.

**LEG. BINDER:**

That's fine. Goodbye.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you, Legislator Binder. I appreciate that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. And again, as I said •• excuse me. Legislator Binder, you're not a member of the committee and I apologize, I would like to give you more time.

**LEG. BINDER:**

The people in Huntington are not important enough.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

The people of Huntington are very, very important, and unfortunately I'm losing Legislators, I need a quorum for us to go to the agenda. If you want to stay till we finish the agenda, I'm sure the Commissioner would be happy to speak with you.

Commissioner, I really hope that you do come to the next meeting so that we can pick up on this to get more information on the pilot project. What I will tell you that I find problematic is that it was a pilot program, I understand that you did discuss it with some of the Legislators from Huntington that you might be doing this, but we as the Public Safety Committee were not alerted. If someone had been here, I know you had a briefing for the media that you were doing this pilot program and that was the first that I heard about it, but I think this committee in its role, whether it be oversight as •• however anyone wants to describe it, but we do have a responsibility to public safety issues and we need to be kept in the loop.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I appreciate that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We did not receive an e•mail, did not receive anything.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And I appreciate any help that this committee can do to ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, I think we need to communicate, we need to work together.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, and to tone down the rhetoric that's, you know, really not necessary or useful in this whole discourse.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I agree.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Let us move to the agenda, and we'll see you at the next committee meeting. I thank you for your patience today. And I apologize to those of you who have been waiting, but these are important issues, as I'm sure you're aware.

Let us move to the tabled resolutions.

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**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

**2059 ••** oh, by the way, the Director of the Human Rights Commission was here, Paulette, Rabbi Moss, also Michele, a member of the commission; they have the reports, they're being distributed and they'll be at the next committee meeting.

***IR 2059•05 •To prevent misuse of Volunteer Ambulance Service in Suffolk County (Bishop).*** Motion to table.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).***

***IR 2290•05 • Streamline Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coordination and improve response time (Bishop),*** Legislator bishop's bill on the EMS.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I have no direction so I assume we'll table it?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

No, I spoke with him, he had to leave.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

They're working still with PSAP Committee, with FRES. Motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).***

***IR 1003•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law establishing new standards and controls for alarm systems that require Police Department response (County Executive).*** Motion to table by myself, this is on the alarm systems, hopefully we'll have more discussion at the next meeting. Is there a motion to approve? Is there any motion on this? It fails for lack of a motion.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I thought there was a motion to table; was there a motion to table?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I made a motion to table ••

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator Mystal. All those in favor of tabling? Opposed?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Opposed, *the motion to table fails (VOTE: 2•4•0•2 In Favor: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal • Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).*

Is there a motion to approve?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

No, I just wish that we had more time to have some dialogue about the bill because I have a lot of questions about the bill.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, you know what? I'll make a motion to table subject to call and we will give the Commissioner the benefit of the doubt and he'll be at the next committee meeting, we can discuss it.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

I do have some information, like I said, about it.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I'll second to table subject to call.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

All those in favor? Opposed? *The resolution is tabled subject to call (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not*

***Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).***

***1025•05 Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law extending property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who reside in cooperative apartments (County Executive).***

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Second.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed? ***Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).***

Madam Clerk, would you list me as a cosponsor? Anyone else from the committee want to be ••

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Yeah, co.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Cosponsor.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Put the committee as a cosponsor. Thank you.

***1076•05 Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law to prohibit the use, purchase and sale of Class 3A laser devices (Cooper).*** Is there a motion?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Motion to table. I would like to know more about it.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yeah, I'll second the motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

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

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Opposed.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Opposed. The table resolution fails (VOTE: 2•4•0•2 In Favor: Legislators Lindsay & Mystal • Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).

Is there a motion to approve? Okay, the ••

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I'm not going to make a motion, I don't know that much about the bill.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Subject to call.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion to table subject to call. Is there a second?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yes, I'll second that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor of the table subject to call? Opposed?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Opposed.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have three opposed, the resolution to table subject to call fails (VOTE: 3•3•0•2 In Favor:

Legislators Carpenter, Lindsay & Mystal •

Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).

No motion to approve, so that fails for lack of a motion.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

A motion to approve, then it can go down.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

A motion to approve by Legislator Mystal. Second by? ***There is no second, the resolution fails.***

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

The lasers? I'm not making a •• I don't know enough about it.

-

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

***1113•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law to permit the seizure of vehicles to protect Suffolk residents from unlicensed drivers (Carpenter).*** A public

hearing has to be held, it will be held Tuesday. Tabled for the public hearing, second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed? ***Tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).***

***1123•05 • To establish an alternate to incarceration website to keep all stakeholders in the County Criminal Justice System apprised of these programs (Bishop).*** The sponsor of the resolution, Legislator Bishop, asked us to move this if we could. Do I have a motion to approve?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I'll make a motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to approve by ••

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

•• Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Mystal. All those in favor?

**LEG. O'LEARY,**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion to table. Is there a second?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor of tabling? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).***

**1127•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law to prohibit the use of mobile telephones by persons under the age of 18 while operating a motor vehicle (Cooper).**

A Local law, it has to be tabled pending the public hearing. Motion by Legislator Nowick, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor of tabling? Opposed? **The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).**

**1128•05 • To establish a formal County•wide policy for use of unmarked Police vehicles (Cooper).** I think we heard loud and clear from the Police commissioner that he does not support this.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion to approve for the purpose of defeating.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion to approve by Legislator Losquadro. Is there a second

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I'll second.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

For purposes of defeating, I'll second.

**MS. CAPUTI:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

There is a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

*The resolution fails.*

**1141•05 • Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$14,900 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee for the Suffolk County Police Department to implement a Child Passenger Safety Program with 100% support (County Executive).** 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: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Bishop).**

**1149•05 • Amending the 2005 capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the acquisition of IFMS Release 3.0 (CP 1782) (County Executive).**

Is there a motion?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Same motion, same second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

There is a motion to approve 1149 and a second. All those in favor?

**MR. SPERO:**

Madam chair?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, Jim, yes, on the resolution.

**MR. SPERO:**

Yeah, the next five resolutions ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I thought it was just the next four.

**MR. SPERO:**

Yeah, this one as well, the software is also a five year life project. But the next five resolutions are all pay•as•you•go projects and they're being funded with serial bonds. When we adopted the Capital Budget last year, we did not know we would be able to fund the pay•as•you•go account.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I got you. How much do these five resolutions total, Jim?

**MR. SPERO:**

Almost 1.5 million.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And we have how much in pay•as•you•go?

**MR. SPERO:**

Over 11 million.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Over 11 million, so certainly the money is there. I see the gentleman, I know you filled out a card and I apologize that you've been here so long. If you want to come forward or come back to the next committee meeting, because I have a feeling that the support will not be there to approve that with this offset, but if you want to speak to the project very quickly now or come back to the next committee meeting.

**MR. DONNELLY:**

I can speak very quickly.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay.

**MR. DONNELLY:**

I'm Robert Donnelly, Director of Information Services. I'm here this afternoon, we want to thank you for the opportunity to address you. Secondly, to seek your support for these five Capital Projects. One particularly is critical, it's the first one that you were about to rule on, the \$700,000 for "the second phase of the County financial system upgrade".

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Uh•huh.

**MR. DONNELLY:**

We're already •• \$2 million, Raymond?

**MR. GONTASZ:**

Yes.

**MR. DONNELLY:**

This is Ray Gontasz, the project manager. We're \$2 million into this program already, we were late getting that funding, it's kind of all happening. If we hold the money on this one, it just makes bigger problems.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

You know what I would like to do? I would like to make a motion •• and I hope that Ben is here or within earshot from the County Exec's Office •• is to discharge without recommendation so that we get it to the floor for Tuesday, hopefully the County Exec's Office will make the change on the offset and we can move forward with all of them.

**MR. DONNELLY:**

I thank you for that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Is the committee in agreement; are you guys listening?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

You're going to table them to the next meeting?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

No, I'm going to discharge it without recommendation because he said that they're way behind because we were late in getting going with the first phase.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Okay, we'll go along with that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We'll discharge without recommendation. Ben, I hope you heard.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I heard.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Hopefully we'll get those resolutions, those offsets changed. So we have a motion to discharge without recommendation.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator Losquadro on 1149, 50, 51, 52 and 53 with the understanding that we'll get that CN, hopefully. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolutions are discharged.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Why would we need a CN?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Because we have to change the offset at the request of Budget Review.

**MR. DONNELLY:**

I thank you all.

**MR. GONTASZ:**

Thank you.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

They're eligible to be voted on under their present ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Exactly, they are.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Right now the money is coming from the bonds, right?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Yes, and to pay•as•you•go. So we'll discuss it on Tuesday.

Okay, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you everyone for your patience.

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 P.M.\*)***

***Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson  
Public Safety & Public Information Committee***

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