

**PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

**Of the**

**Suffolk County Legislature**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Public Information Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **August 16, 2005**.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Angie Carpenter • Chairperson

Legislator Pete O'Leary • Vice•Chair

Legislator Michael Caracciolo

Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Legislator David Bishop

Legislator William Lindsay

Legislator Lynne Nowick

Legislator Elie Mystal

**Also In Attendance:**

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Alexandra Sullivan • Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Lisa Keys • Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Doug Sutherland • Aide to Legislator Carpenter

Maria Ammiratti • Aide to Legislator O'Leary

Frank Tassone • Aide to Majority Caucus

Paul Perillie • Aide to Minority Caucus

Kevin LaValle • Aide to Legislator Losquadro

Ed Hogan • Aide to Legislator Nowick

Carl Yellon • Aide to Legislator Kennedy

Kim Kennedy • Aide to Legislator Caracciolo

Barbara LoMoriello • Aide to Legislator Cooper

Jim Maggio • Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office

Ben Zwirn • Assistant County Executive  
Brian Beedenbender • County Executive Assistant  
Jacqueline Caputi • County Attorney's Office  
Robert Kearon • Bureau Chief/District Attorney's Office  
Alan Otto • Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Richard Dormer • Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department  
Aristedes Mojica • Inspector/Chief of Department's Office/SCPD  
Michael Murphy • Lieutenant/Highway Patrol/SCPD  
Matt Jones • Civilian Information Technology/SCPD  
Joe Williams • Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services  
Brad Maier • Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services  
Hope Collazo • Director/Community Service Program•American Red Cross  
John Desmond • Director/Suffolk County Probation Department  
Debbie Eppel • Public Information Office  
Vito Dagnello • President/Correction Officer's Association  
Bill Ellis • Correction Officer's Association  
Tom Muratore • Vice•President/PBA  
Maria Perez•Lent • STOP DWI Coordinator  
Douglas Death • Chairman/Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board  
Steven Moss • Chairman/SC Human Rights Commission  
Paulette Bartunek • Executive Director/Human Rights Division  
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

**(\* The meeting was called to order at 11:50 A.M. \*)**

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Good morning. I would ask everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Nowick.

***Salutation***

Thank you. Okay, we don't have any formal presentations on the agenda today, but I would ask

- I know Rabbi Moss had asked if we could extend a courtesy and bring him up because he was here at our last meeting and we neglected to get him up here in a timely fashion. So Rabbi, why don't you come forward. I know that there are two resolutions pertaining to the Rabbi's appointment to the Human Rights Commission and Chair of Human Rights. And if the committee has any questions or the Rabbi has any comments, now would be the time. Rabbi?

**RABBI MOSS:**

I certainly, once again, am honored for the nomination by the County Executive and I look forward to your reappointment to continue the work that I've done as both Commissioner as well as Chair of our Human Rights Commission, of which I'm very proud of. And if I am correct, I think this will be my 15th year as Chair, so I think I'm approaching a record, so I hope I can continue with that.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Rabbi, on behalf of the committee and the Legislature, I want to thank you for your many years of dedicated service, not only to the Human Rights Commission but also as Chaplain in the Police Department. You have really given much to the residents of this County, particularly the department. Someone ••

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yeah, I just wanted to say something.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Just to backup what the Chairwoman has said about you. I appreciate all of your service to the County for all those many years and I'm very, very proud that you're a resident in my Legislative District. And at the appropriate time, Legislator Carpenter, I would like the honor of sponsoring or making a motion on that resolution.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well ••

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Take it out of order.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I think since we're all in agreement that we appreciate what the Rabbi has done, I guess the best way we can show our appreciation is to take the two resolutions out of order ••

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

•• so that he could leave in a timely fashion. So we have a motion and a second to take both 1845 and 1844 out of order. Second? I will second that motion. All in favor? Opposed? The two resolutions are before us.

1844. Motion by Legislator Lindsay and I will second that motion to approve ***1844, approving the reappointment of Rabbi Steven A. Moss as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive)***. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstained?  
***Approved (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

All in favor on ***1845•05 • Approving the reappointment of Rabbi Steven A. Moss as Chair of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive)***. Same motion, same second, same vote.  
***Approved (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

Thank you very much, Rabbi.

**RABBI MOSS:**

Thank you very much and I'd like to say I appreciate all that you do and certainly indicated by the new Local Law that you're dealing with and have worked on, and I thank you for that. As well as if I may also say that I very much appreciate the work of our Executive Director, Paulette Bartunek and her staff, because without them I couldn't do what I'm doing. Thank you so much. God bless you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you.

Okay, I would next ask the Police Commissioner to come forward. Commissioner Dormer, I know there are a couple of resolutions on the agenda, one that you've already spoken with me about that you might want to discuss, and there may be some questions by the committee. Commissioner?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you very much. And the one that I would like to highlight, with your permission, is IR 1882, naming the 2nd Precinct Building in Huntington the Daniel P. Guido Building. We would like to honor former Police Commissioner Dan Guido who came on board in Suffolk County in 1988 when the Police Department was under tremendous stress and scrutiny and he restored the reputation and the integrity of the police service in Suffolk County.

Many of the programs, I'll mention one, COPE that he introduced at that time is still in operation, and many of the other innovations that he laid the ground work for including accreditation which we just completed, were commenced by Commissioner Dan Guido. He lived in Huntington, lived in Dix Hills; I've talked to the Legislators in that district, they have no issues with this, they think it's a good idea, they support it. And I would respectfully request that the Public Safety Committee endorse this resolution, I think that the Police Department would be well served. I thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you, Commissioner. Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Not on any specific resolution, if I might, and maybe Legislator Mystal could add to this. I have a constituent in my district that contacted me and she was one of the women that was robbed at the Tri•Community Health Center in June and, you know, I was just wondering what have we done to correct that situation? I know it isn't all on PD's plate, I know some of it has to do with the Health Department in terms of internal security, but just to ask the question.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

To answer you, we've had a couple of meetings with Commissioner Harper about the situation,

it wasn't one •• only one robbery, there's been two there, so the situation is getting a little bit scary.

We have had a couple of meetings with Commissioner Harper, he's developing some kind of a system to address the situation. I haven't heard from him •• I haven't heard back from him, so I probably will contact him in the next week or so to find out exactly what they're doing. But they have done a couple of things, they have straightened the security system just simply by being a little bit more careful in terms of screening the people who are coming in and keeping an eye on them. But I think we're going to need to do a little bit more, I think we're going to have to hire a couple of security guards to put in there, a private security guard or County security guard. I don't think the Police Department can do much about that unless they were to station somebody at the health center which is prohibitive. So that's where we are right now.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, Dr. Harper and I have been in contact with each other and they're going to purchase surveillance cameras for the building and the parking lot. We have stepped up the patrols in that area. We have had the COPE Lieutenant meet with the employees there to go over safety issues when they're entering and leaving the building and what to look out for to keep themselves safe, how to call the police immediately if they see some suspicion. So we are responding to it and I know Dr. Harper has put in a request for the equipment to make that facility safer for the employees. So it is a concern, it is a concern. We've had some incidents in that area that's being actively pursued by the First Squad Detectives, so hopefully we won't have any more incidents in that particular spot.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I just wanted to make a point of advising my colleagues and requesting them to be in support, as requested by the Commissioner, of 1882, naming the 2nd Precinct in honor of the former Commissioner, Daniel P. Guido.

But on the segway from that to another issue, Commissioner, and I apologize in advance for not having run this by you, but I have a resolution that's on the floor looking to amend the anti

•nepotism resolution, statute of the County, and my intent is to eliminate relatives below the rank of Captain in that process. Could you speak on that, whether or not you're supportive of it and whether or not it makes sense?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, we think that's a good resolution and we appreciate you introducing that. The situation under the old resolution, what we are living under right now, is that if you had an officer that you wanted to promote to Detective, an un•Civil Service rank or a Deputy Inspector or an Inspector or a Chief and they had a relative in the Police Department of Sergeant or above, it had to come before the committee to get a resolution before the Legislature and it took a lot of time and it really •• I don't think that that's what the law intended.

Obviously a brother•in•law who's a Sergeant really doesn't have any influence over somebody making Deputy Inspector or Inspector, and that was the situation under the present law. So we see that as a good thing, it's going to make it easier to manage the Police Department. And you're still going to have the nepotism law in place to do what it was supposed to do.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, I wanted to just clarify that. I did amend the resolution to include anyone who has a relative of the rank of Captain and above. Some of my colleagues were of the opinion that Captains had some influence with promotions and transfers and whatever within the department, so I did amend that. But knowing full well over the years of my experience in the Police Department, I thought it ludicrous to have a promotion held up because an individual who was being considered for promotion above the rank of Captain to a Deputy Inspector or higher had a brother•in•law or a brother or whatever under the definition of a relative, a Detective for that matter, Detective Sergeant, etcetera.

I mean, technically if an individual is a Detective, which is above the rank of police officer, and a police officer was being considered for a promotion to Detective, it would have to go through this statute. But obviously I'm happy to hear that you and your administrative officers are fully supportive of my resolution to amend that particular requirement and change the definition of relative within the PD, it's Captain and above and clearly, clearly it's those ranks that have the decision making and policy making powers of making promotions. So thank you for your support.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you, Legislator O'Leary, for your initiative on this. Because I know there have been times over the years that I can recall that a promotion ceremony took place and because of the calendar and the fact that a resolution could not be filed in a timely fashion, the particular promotion was passed over and that really is not fair.

So thank you. Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. Commissioner, I just wanted to inquire if you have any information with you or if you recall off the top of your head; has any decision been made as to what units will be •• police units will be housed in the old 6th Precinct Building? I know there has been discussion about putting Probation in a good portion of it and I'm fully supportive of that and I'm sure you're aware that this Legislature acted in a bipartisan fashion. Many who were here prior to my tenure were well aware of the agreement that was made to the community and the reason that the community did not fight the removal of the 6th Precinct from the Coram area was the understanding that a police presence would remain. We passed a bill, I certainly did not want to take an action that would, you know, seem like we were trying to be too pushy and tell you how to do your job, but at the same time I had to be mindful of the wants and wishes of my constituency and the commitment that was made to them, again, prior to my tenure.

So if you have any information that you can give me as to an update. Because I've been speaking with the Department of Public Works at length, I'm sure you're aware that building has been vandalized several times now, they have done some repairs and they're telling me they're going to commence the repair work for which we already budgeted funds. So what's the current status, after that little diatribe?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, okay. No, we •• they had reached out to us, DPW and also the Probation Department, and they wanted to know what kind of space we had required. We told them we didn't want a lot of space because it was going to be a small operation, as I think we all agreed on that, and that's where it sits. We told them what we needed and they're going to, I guess, ensure that that's going to be part of the plan for the old 6th as we call it. And then we'll sit down with the Precinct Commander and decide, you know, what units are going to relieve there or do their

paperwork or whatever, whatever they decide to do.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. And do you have any particular units in mind, maybe something out of headquarters, something that will be stationed there, or nothing in mind at this time?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, we haven't •• no. We haven't made a commitment on it yet, we've talked about a lot of things but nothing is set yet. And I'd rather not float out different units or what have you at this point because it would get around the County very quickly and then people would say, "Well, they're putting me in the old 6th," and everybody would be getting phone calls.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That's fine.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

So we'll do that when we get ready to move.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I'm inquiring. At this point, though, I'm just curious as to a time frame, because this is a process that has lingered on quite a bit longer than the people living in that community anticipated that it would, again, based on what the community was told when the 6th Precinct was going to be moving. I don't think anyone anticipated that this building would be vacant for as long as it has been.

And I know I receive •• probably the single largest number of complaints from that corner of my district is regarding this very issue. So it's something that I'm trying to keep on top of and I would like to be able to give an answer to those who call. You know, but right now we really have no time frame and it's something that's been lingering quite a bit longer than I would have liked to have seen. So anything that we can do to expedite the process, please let me know, I'll be happy to work with the Department of Public Works. Anything that you can do would be greatly appreciated.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Legislator Bishop.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Good morning, Commissioner. First I want to congratulate you for working on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council directly, I think that's a great step towards a goal that I know we share.

On this nepotism bill which you're supporting, what ranks lie between Sergeant and Captain, are there any?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah. Well, we do have discretionary ranks between Sergeant and Captain and that's Detective Sergeant and Detective Lieutenant, anything non-Civil Service. Civil Service is not included in the nepotism because that's a test and it's a Civil Service law. But if you're going to make a Detective Sergeant and the person you're going to make has a relative who's a Detective Sergeant, they come under the Nepotism Law, or they have a brother-in-law. I don't know if that was the intent of the original law, it doesn't really make sense for the efficient process here that a Detective Sergeant or a Detective would have influence over somebody going to make Detective Lieutenant or Inspector or Chief. They really don't have the influence in the department for these positions, at least from my experience anyway.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

And who •• well, not who. In your experience, has this added step been troubling; I mean, what has been the problem here?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, what happened ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I mean, it seems like they always sail through, they're not controversial, they're just ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I know. What happened is the last promotion that we did in the department •• as you know, the way the process works, you get the SCIN forms signed a week before you're going to do the promotion; it's not like you have six months of time so that you can do this. Now you have to decide who is going to get promoted because of the SCIN forms, they authorize you to hire at certain ranks. And we had a Captain who was going to make Deputy Inspector and then, low and behold, a few days before, two days before the promotion ceremony, we find out he has a relative who is a Sergeant on the job, we can't promote him. We had to bypass this man who now got his insignia, had told his family he was getting promoted and was ready to go, assigned to command, and he's still sitting as a Captain. He will make it on the next one, you know, we promised him that, but it was very disruptive.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Why couldn't •• why couldn't you just delay him until the Legislature voted?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, because the problem is that when you move somebody up from Captain to Deputy Inspector, you pull all the ranks along with you, you pull Sergeant, Lieutenant and then Captain, so there's actually four ranks involved with just one position. And you have to fill in the commands, we couldn't have a command without a commander in it, this was a critical spot and it really had an impact on where we were moving everybody.

They have done that in the past where they haven't moved on a promotion, but it's usually a Detective Sergeant, so you could hold that spot because it doesn't impact on four or five different ranks. But when you promote one Deputy Inspector, you have to have four SCIN forms signed because you promote Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and a Deputy Inspector, there's a backfill up the line. And we've always done that because we need the supervision at these ranks. So a two month wait is disruptive to hold a promotion. These are critical spots, it's not like you don't need it, that's why we promote them because we need the spots filled.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Why is it two months? We meet more frequently ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, it sometimes takes two months. We have to introduce a resolution ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We didn't realize, by the way, until he signed the nepotism form that requested do you have any relatives in the Police Department of the rank of Detective or higher and he put down his •• I think it was his brother•in•law, and that stopped him right there. And then it took a couple of months for it to get that authorized, by the time it goes through the process, you know, the meetings of the Legislature, it has to be scheduled, it did take a couple of months.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Are you finished, Dave?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Yes. You want to add to that?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes. I just want to perhaps clarify in your mind.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Please.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I mean, the whole purpose and the intent, in my mind, of the anti•nepotism was to restrict influence on the part of individuals in the County employment who might garner favors, if you will, because they're related to another County employee. The whole purpose of this, of my amending resolution is clearly •• based on my experience and I'm sure you will concur •• anyone below the rank of Captain has little or no influence on hiring, firing and promoting, and that's the whole purpose of the anti•nepotism. Certainly, the policy makers within the PD, those individuals who make the decisions to promote individuals within the department, are above the rank of Captain, Deputy Inspector and above are basically the administrative officials within the

department.

So the whole purpose of my amending resolution is to make it very clear that the individuals who do, in fact, promote others within the department are above the rank of Captain, ultimately it's you who puts your name on the teletype, on the promotion, but the concern is that relatives who are above that rank may influence others to be promoted. Certainly that would be the case if an individual was a Deputy Inspector, an Inspector or Chief, policy makers within the department. But certainly a Detective or Detective Sergeant, or a Sergeant for that matter, have little or no influence on promotions, hiring and firing; correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That's correct, yeah.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Caracciolo.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Thank you. Good afternoon, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Good afternoon.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

I guess about ten days or so I requested some accident statistics from the department, as of late yesterday afternoon I had not received a reply; is one forthcoming?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I did receive that and we're gathering the stats for you as we speak.

I do have it on my e-mail, it's opened, I didn't get back to you, I was in and out over the last week, but we're working on it.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

You're generally very responsive, so it was somewhat unusual that I didn't receive a timely reply yet.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

But along those lines ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

There was no nefarious intent on that.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

No, I know that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I did open the mail and look at it and somebody is gathering the stats.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

I know that. No, I want to repeat what I said a moment ago, you have always been very responsive.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Do you know, based on perhaps recent discussions within the department, particularly with traffic safety and highway, what is the situation in Suffolk County this year in terms of traffic fatalities?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, we have had a spike this summer. If you read the newspapers, especially the motorcycle fatalities have increased and we're concentrating on that now, we're trying to come up with a strategy to combat this carnage with the motorcycles. As far as the injury and fatalities, we're

about even, even with all our efforts to reduce these numbers in Suffolk County, and it's because of the spike in the summer. As you know, the traffic increases in the summer and then if you get more traffic you get more accidents. Our intent was to reduce the fatalities this year and the injuries, injury accidents with concentrating on accident locations. And the patrol officers are out there parked at intersections, you may see them, and they're out with the radar guns. We have purchased more radar guns to cut down on the speeding because we believe that speeding is contributing to the fatalities; the faster you're going when you have an accident, the better chance that there'll be a fatality.

This is a tough one, reducing this carnage on our highways, and we're going to continue doing it. As you know, we've introduced TrafficStat which is like ComStat. We have the commanders come in and report monthly on what they're doing to reduce the accidents, they have to report on the types of summonses that were issued, they have to be directly related to changing people's behavior rather than just numbers. We're not interested in numbers, we're interested in quality. Give out summonses to the people that are driving crazy on the highways, that are speeding, that cutting in and out; we all know who they are, we see them as we drive on the roadways. The officers are now concentrating on that. We have unmarked cars doing this enforcement effort and hopefully we can bring it down. But I just looked at the numbers that we were getting for you yesterday and it's about level with last year.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

If my memory serves me correct, I know for many years •• and that's why I requested the stats for this year, but up to recent years anyhow, Suffolk County led the State in traffic fatalities. And I guess from what you're saying, that trend is continuing, about 200 a year? I'm trying to remember the numbers.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I don't know off the top of my head, but we're •• we have the dubious distinction of being number one in the State in traffic fatalities. That's the reason that we initiated this effort last year, to concentrate on traffic fatalities because of the tremendous personal and economic consequences to our citizens. We concentrate on crime reduction all the time, we felt that this was also an important initiative or an important goal. And we're going to continue, even though we've had this spike for the summer. And I think if you've read the newspapers over the last month or six weeks you know what I'm talking about, and speed seems to be a common denominator in a lot of these incidents.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Now, in terms of the breakdown of fatalities, Police District versus outside the Police District, do you know if these numbers are constant in terms of, you know, the major •• obviously the majority of them, given just the size of the district, are in the district. But are they •• are there any change in patterns, are they taking place primarily on high speed roadways like the Expressway and County Route 111 and some of the more rural County roads on the east end of the County or are they, you know, on local streets?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

They're on local streets. You know, I've got to say, you mentioned the Expressway and Sunrise Highway is another wide open road with a lot of speed, but our history over the last few years has been pretty good on the Expressway. When I worked on the Expressway years ago, we would have 15 to 20 fatalities a year; well, that was when we had the crossovers, before we had barriers. Now, they've gone years without a fatality; one or two or three is the norm on the Expressway. Sunrise Highway, of course, had that horrendous crash a few weeks ago which obviously brought the numbers up again. The side roads or the secondary roads, they're just as dangerous, you have telephone poles, you have trees, they're not made for speed. The vehicles we drive today are made for speed, 80 miles an hour in the vehicles that we drive today feels like 30 miles an hour, people are doing 80 and it doesn't feel like it. But when something happens, an incident occurs in front of them or they get, you know, disoriented for some reason and they lose it, you have a horrendous crash. So that's what's happening.

Our youngsters are particularly at risk and we're doing everything we can to reach out to the schools, especially before graduation. We've initiated a program where we are offering our \\_EVOK\\_ training for the youngsters that are going to graduate from high school, and we're hoping that the schools will take us up on that where they'll bus the kids out to BOMARC for a half a day, we'll split it up. And we may not let them drive the police cars, but they're going to be exposed to the training that our officers get and also see the cars with the speed, they'll be put in the police cars and told how to control the vehicles. Maybe it will have an impact on our young people, maybe having police officers tell them, "You can get killed," maybe it will have an impact, we're trying that. So hopefully next year at graduation time, for that last month we'll have the schools who are interested send their kids out. And we're willing to do that, we think

if it reduces the carnage and the death rate with our youngsters on the highways it's worth it if it's only one that we save.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Within the seven precincts, do we have a dedicated Traffic Safety Enforcement Program in effect?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well ••

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Besides sector cars. I mean, obviously every police officer has that responsibility, but I don't know what the percentage is on calls for service, you know, they could be out of service many times and not available to put traffic enforcement. Where I'm going with the question is, you know, in Nassau County where I was in Highway Patrol, in the County Police District we had Highway Patrol Enforcement within each of the eight precincts. And just hypothetically, the question would be do you think that's something we should explore in Suffolk County?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, that's what we have COPE doing. The COPE officers are engaged, a lot of their time, in traffic enforcement, areas that have complaints, areas that have high crash history. So they're doing that, I mean, I see they're numbers on a monthly basis.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Okay. So we're increasing efforts but we're still seeing no reduction in, you know, fatalities and injuries and property damage it's a problem, because everybody pays for it one way or another, unfortunately many pay with their lives. And when you look at the statistics where there's a war that this country is engaged in and you add up in Suffolk County alone in the last ten years, we've lost over 2,000 people to traffic fatalities; that's something that shouldn't be ignored; and I'm not saying you're ignoring it, I know you're not. I'm saying as a society, we have to increase public awareness, we have to do more training.

I would encourage the County to perhaps undertake something our neighbors to the west have had for many, many years and that's in the elementary schools they have a program, what they call Traffic Safety Town and students in the elementary schools go through that. I think we

have to become a little bit more innovative, a little bit more proactive. And really where I'm going with this line of questioning is just before this committee meeting, in the Budget and Finance Committee meeting we looked at some significant declines in police manpower in the last three years, from December of '02 to the present we're down 183 sworn personnel.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Police officers.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Police officers; I'm sorry, that's right, that statistic is just police officers. Is that having any effect on the department's ability to address this important public area?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, as we speak right now, we have more officers on the streets, on patrol, than we did when I came in as Police Commissioner.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

And what is that primarily a result of?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, the way •• our innovations. We've done some civilianization, we're in the process of moving officers back on to the street, we put 19 officers back as we speak, back into patrol. We have our summer initiative where Headquarters officers, as we'll call them, I call them support personnel, are back on the streets for two weeks in the downtown areas, you'll see their presence throughout the summer, til after Labor Day, and that's the busiest time of the year. That's the time that we're talking about with the crashes where they increase, and that was the spike I was talking about. We've certainly, I guess, increased the expectations on our officers as far as traffic enforcement. Before it was special units that were involved in crash reduction, now we have a department•wide crash reduction initiative, from the Chief of the Department all the way down to a police officer in a precinct.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

They're carrying their summonses books, I remember your testimony a couple of committee meetings ago.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And some of them are issuing the summonses. Now, I don't get a report every month, I don't want a stat report from them, but I know that some of the Chiefs have issued summonses; unheard of in the police business, as you know. I mean, if you suggested that 20 years ago you would be run out of town; we did that. We changed the perception of our complete department on the street, from Chief of the Department down all wear the same uniforms now. If you look behind me, I have an Inspector in blue, it's the same blue that a police officer wears. There's a message here, not just to the people in the Police Department but to the public, that when they see an officer out there they're involved in enforcement. Sergeants and Lieutenants are writing summonses, but they're quality summonses, they're summonses that are changing, or we hope will change behavior. We're doing •• I think the department is doing a terrific job with what they have. In September, September 12th, we're going to swear in a class that will be on the streets for next summer, and I think that that's going ••

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

We'll also see •• at the same time we see the 100 increase, we'll also see about 70, 80 retirements, so the next gain won't be what •• you know.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, this year, if I may, our retirements are a lot lower than they have been historically. We're at 77 right now, they're usually at 105, 77 for the year and they're usually over a hundred. That's why it was always recommended that you hire at least the replacements every year. And you've got to remember that in 2004, our first year when we were under the old budget, there was no class hired that year, and we're trying to do catch•up now. It's tough to do that when you skip a year or you don't hire anybody because, as you pointed out, the retirees are not replaced, so there's got to be an impact somewhere.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Yeah. What I pointed out was a net decrease of 183 personnel, and I'd be interested in •• and maybe Budget Review can help me here •• how many sworn personnel in the department have 30 years or more service? Because that's going to \\_portend\\_ what's going to happen, you know, two, three, four, five years down the road. Because we all know when an individual reaches maximum benefit for retirement, they usually are not going to stick around much longer unless they're a Chief somewhere, okay, I mean, that's just the reality. So do you have

a sense, BRO, of what ••

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Not off the top of my head, no.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

I seem to recall a number a few years ago of 20 years or more of over 600 sworn personnel; does that number seem ••

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Yeah, I recall like 800.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Eight hundred, yeah. So Commissioner, what I'm really getting at here is we have to start thinking strategically about when these people start leaving service and I think those numbers are going to increase, increase dramatically. And I think in terms of recruitment and training and replacement personnel, you know, that has to be part of what you do and what the department should be doing looking forward.

Just getting back to traffic stats, I look forward to that information. I think it's important that, you know, we become a little bit more aggressive and try some other programs to get more officers involved in traffic enforcement, because the numbers are just, you know, going up or staying very high and that's really not anything any of us ••

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, they were down for the first five months. But as I mentioned, they spiked this summer, and maybe it's because we've had a very nice, hot summer. And we do have an increase in motorcycle operators on the highways, we have millions of drivers in Suffolk County during the summer, it really increases tremendously, you'll see it. I know you all know that from just driving on the highways and we just ••

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, just a final point, if I could. I'm sure you and the Executive or his representatives have sat down and talked about the department's needs in personnel next year. What can you tell us

you've requested in that respect?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, we've requested to hire a class of 120 in March, but then we have to discuss •• this was my preliminary department request. As you know, the Executive has to look at that from a macro view based on budgetary concerns and other issues and we'll sit down and discuss that, I don't know what the final recommendation will be. That's where we sit right now.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Okay. As you know, there is a sales tax extender bill pending here and included in that, the district could receive in excess of \$96 million a year, that's \$32 million more than they received this year which was the max, dedicated for public safety in the Police District. So it seems to me that that may not be a request that's unreasonable.

I appreciate you as a department head making the request and I look forward to working with my colleagues to try to honor that request within, you know, the confines of the budget. You should also know that the County is in a very good position financially this year. When you add everything up, fund balances, turnover savings, Tax Stabilization Fund, a quarter of a billion dollars in surplus; and you heard me right, a quarter of a billion. So I will not stand for the excuse that, "Oh, if we add personnel it's going to result in property tax increases," that is not true at all and you shouldn't accept that as a department administrator either. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Commissioner, I appreciate hearing that you did request a 120. I know that we had a presentation earlier today in the Finance Committee on the authorized filled positions and it was a little disconcerting to learn that there are 603 vacancies in the Police Department of which 383 are police officer positions. And we have not caught up, so to speak, and I think that that request for 120 is a good starting point. But as Legislator O'Leary and I both subscribe to and mentioned and recommended to the Public Safety Staffing Levels Task Force, that really we need to look at about 200 a year over the next three years to try to get to that break•even point, so to speak.

Are there any other questions or comments for the Commissioner?

Thank you very much, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, one more brief overview from FRES. Commissioner Williams, I know we have one or two resolutions on the agenda and one in particular that we discussed, and I believe the sponsor of the resolution is here who has some comments on it. If you would, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Good morning. I just want to bring up, there's a resolution Introductory today on the pilot program for ambulance and fire departments, paperless prehospital care, the PCR reports.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

It's Resolution 1924.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

I spoke with Legislator Kennedy about this. The reason FRES is involved in this, if you go back to the PSAP meetings we had earlier in the year on the data collection, and this was one of the avenues that we were looking at to get information. We have since got away from that because we found that the PCR's couldn't give us the information that we were looking for.

The only thing I mention is we have a little concern and caution with it is my talks with Suffolk County EMS has told me that they are working on a Countywide, paperless, electronic format. Our concern is that if we go off in the direction on a smaller group, the intent is very good, we need to get this done, but would that system we're looking at on a smaller group be compatible with the large scale that the County EMS division is looking at? The last thing we would want to do is create a small fraction that can't read each other.

So I just want to bring it to light. I did speak with Legislator Kennedy about it, my concerns

about it, that we eventually need to move in this direction as a County•wide thing, but the general feeling would be we look at it as a County•wide project, going through EMS which they're working on now to get that presentation done.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you very much, Commissioner, for your comments. And even though he's not on the committee, I think it would work best if we hear from Legislator Kennedy first.

But one comment I would like to make, I really appreciate the fact that you did reach out to the sponsor of the resolution, I think that is so important, it doesn't always happen with some of the Commissioners and department heads. Resolutions are just out there and there doesn't seem to be that give and take or that communication. So you've been very respectful of this body and we really do appreciate that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Madam Chair, thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to speak a little bit about this resolution. And I want to thank Commissioner Williams, actually, for the involvement with his department and his time in going ahead and putting this resolution together.

Just a brief overview, if you will. This resolution actually came out of some of the efforts that I engaged in, and many of us did I guess, vis•a•vis Legislator Bishop's resolutions earlier in the year to cull out and gather the dispatch response times and things such as that. During the opportunity •• during the time period where I met with different departments, it became apparent that •• and certainly what we saw here at this Legislature •• the fact that there were last year 110,000 paper filed prehospital care reports which take on average anywhere from 36 to 48 months to be integrated and tallied in the State Department of Health and which may or may not wind up coming back to the County. It really provides no opportunity to go ahead and give data for modeling, planning, projection, and coming from the environment that I had come from, was really \\_antifiscous\\_ of good use of planning and technology.

At that same time or during the same time, I was approached by the fire department in my own home town, Nesconset Fire Department, who had on their own done some investigation to look at purchasing software and tablets, Panasonic \\_tough books\\_ to actually perform or do the paperless PCR's. There's variety of different benefits that can come about from implementing this, not the least of which is to move towards fully completed forms. Apparently there's about

a 40% incomplete rate with original PCR's as they are submitted which then means that they have to be audited, reviewed, resubmitted back to departments, refilled out, resubmitted and it only perpetuates the delay. By use of the technology, you will •• we will, for all intents and purposes, ensure a hundred percent completeness at the time that the ambulance run is performed.

Certainly, the intent of this pilot is to work in tandem with the Health Department and with FRES. I've had ongoing discussions with Dr. Alicandro, I've also had discussions with the State Department of Health, Assistant Director of Emergency Services who is very much in favor of seeing this project go forward and who has indicated that there are similar projects that occur or are ongoing throughout the State, not the least of which is \\_Elmira\\_ which that County now actually has electronic transmission of all its ambulance reports. There's a 30 day turnaround time and the data is available and I believe would be an excellent planning tool for FRES and for Department of Health as it works in collaboration with our 105 volunteer ambulance departments. Our intention with this resolution is certainly to work in tandem with the Health Department.

I think I'll also just reference one comment that you made before. Unlike FRES, I did not get the same type of cooperation with the Health Department, not from Dr. Alicandro •• Dr. Alicandro actually on occasion, when I've seen her, has been very receptive and conversant. I have not had that same experience with the Commissioner of the administration. It's unfortunate, but that not with withstanding, I believe that we need to go ahead and do something now to move this issue to make it a reality rather than waiting for planning that may or may not wind up occurring for a County•wide level. I was told by the Health Department that this was an initiative that was sought last year, for whatever reason it wasn't supported by the administration.

So I think that the time is prudent now to go forward and certainly we want to go forward in collaboration with the departments.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. It's obvious you've done a lot of work on this issue. Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, as we had discussed, Legislator Kennedy, you know, it's a great initiative and there's support for it. The only thing that we had questioned, as you are well aware, is the funding source. It's bonded 150,000, we were curious as to whether or not you had made any inquiries of BRO, if there was sufficient pay•as•you•go monies for this particular project.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Actually, thank you, yes, and I did have an opportunity to go ahead and speak with Gail Vizzini about this again. The intention in bonding this was similar to what we anticipate sometimes when we look at road projects or other things such as that. I would characterize this as seed money which hopefully we will have a successful trial over a six or one year time period which then would lead to a desire to hopefully work in collaboration with other departments and bring the technology out there. So therefore, I believe that that would be something that would kind of play the broader bond issue and so I view it as a two step process.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Angie?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Caracciolo.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Hi, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Hi.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

The CERT Program, could you make certain that you or a representative attends the Parks Committee meeting? There's a resolution in that committee to waive County park fees, you and I have talked about it many times. And there are some members on that committee that have questions about the financial impact, they'd like to know how many CERT members there are.

Perhaps your representative can inform them as to what was the genesis of CERT and how important these volunteers are. And I don't believe the financial impact is going to be significant at all, but I think having a representative there from FRES that has oversight over CERT would be very helpful to the members of that committee.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Sure, we'll be there, absolutely.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yeah, I just wanted to weigh in on 1924. You know, Legislator Bishop's initiative last year set a time line that all departments have to comply with the reporting I think by next year, so you know, something has to happen. I would like to see a County•wide system rather than an individual department. Because although I think what Legislator Kennedy wants is where we want to go, we don't want to modify forms, we don't want a paper system, we want a paperless system and it's something that we've discussed over and over again in all the hearings and debate over Legislator Bishop's thing. But it's very important that it be the same system Countywide. If Nesconset has one system and Ronkonkoma has a different system, I don't know how we're going to manage that on a County•wide basis. So I would like to see the initiative come from FRES or EMS on a County•wide basis rather than on a regional approach.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, we have other members of the committee that need to speak, John, I'm sorry. Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And hopefully I can address part of Legislator Lindsay's question before you do. This is something that I had just spoken to Legislator Kennedy about yesterday, that I would like to work with him on this because I have some experience.

There are some large corporations out there that vie for the business of many of the large corporations throughout the United States and they are willing to design systems, lease hardware. And specifically, again, I always seem to draw back on my experience within insurance companies, but there are many companies out there that vie for the business of those big insurance companies and they're willing to design these systems, software, lease hardware, things of that nature. So I'll provide Legislator Kennedy with some of that contact information. And if it was possible for this, as he said, to be seed money to get something started up, prove that it works, get it operational, I certainly see this as something that we could move County-wide and it's something that I would be very supportive of.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Anyone else from the committee?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Well, just a final word, that I don't disagree with anything that you guys are talking about. You know, I think this is the way we have to go.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I just want the initiative to be coming from a County-wide agency, from EMS or from FRES, to get everybody to buy on to it. I don't want this to become a regional contest, that one department adopts one system and another department says, "Oh, we got a better system," and we wind up with a hodge podge system ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

That would never happen in the fire service.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

•• that we have now. You know, i agree with everything you say, if we can use, you know,

John's initiative as seed money to get some of the bigger insurance companies to buy into it, I just want to coordinate it through the County-wide agency so that we're all on the same page.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Listening to Legislator Kennedy earlier, it just doesn't seem possible to me that he would do anything but, you know, work in tandem with FRES. Legislator Bishop and then Legislator Kennedy.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I just want to go back to the Commissioner and ask how would Legislator Kennedy's initiative interfere with anything in the legislation that we passed earlier this year?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Nothing. What happened when we originally started out with that program, we were looking at the PCR forms and we thought we could get the information we needed off the PCR forms, but what they actually are patient care forms, not really response forms.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

So the bill that you passed earlier in the year, we are going to be gathering that information through FRES into EMS on a completely different scale, nothing to do with the PCR forms.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Right. I would describe it as the bill that we passed earlier in the year is really collecting data from the dispatcher, primarily.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Correct. The bill we passed is response times, you know, on the scene times, times you left the scene which we're getting from the dispatch •• these PCR forms are used as a reporting to the New York State Health Department, basically.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Right. And the problem with the PCR form, from the perspective of the bill that we passed earlier in the year, is that it has two-thirds of the information but not the complete picture.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Correct. And like I said, there's some large departments right now using these electronic forms, New York City has a scannable one. I know I attended a meeting with EMS people in a PSAP where we actually looked at that, it really didn't work for us. So that's the only thing we're just trying to bring across is that this •• it was mentioned here, that I deal with 138 agencies, everybody •• if we went across the board as a County incentive and let EMS do it, we can standardize what they're using. I know there would be cooperation, we spoke about it, that's my only concern is that we're not •• if we go into chopping it up, we're going to have •• that's where we have 42 fire truck manufacturers because everybody wants a different brand.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

So let me ask Legislator Kennedy, then. Given that answer, why would we want to get the electronic PCR's, what's the value of it?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I think the value with the electronic PCR's is that it is something that our health •• first and foremost, there's a variety of things. I think the very first value is that you give responders the opportunity to go ahead and do what it is that they're volunteering and responding to do, treat ill emergent patients. What's happening is an inordinate amount of time is having to be taken up in completing the PCR's. The PCR's must be submitted, as you know, based on a ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

So the answer is it's efficiency for the responders. It has nothing to do with my legislation earlier this year.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

None whatsoever.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

They have to do PCR's anyway ••

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Correct.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

•• this is better way to do PCR's.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Absolutely, positively.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Okay, I just wanted to understand.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And in no way, shape or form is the intention of this to go ahead and conflict with, overlap or do anything associated with responding times. What I will say to you is that assuming that we would have success with this and assuming that we can go ahead and do uniformity, and I believe that what we can do is •• it's almost like a carrot and stick approach, if you will.

Certainly we can't speak for all fire service, we can't speak for all 138 agencies. However, the agencies in my district, in the 12th Legislative District, are all expressing a desire and interest and a willingness. They've also brought forth some of the vendors that provide this software and it works off of concretes. Montgomery County in Texas is utilizing a paperless PCR system right now and it works outstandingly. San Antonia is very similar to us where it's got semi •urban and suburban departments and then somewhat more rural departments, 20 different sites utilizing a similar type of an operation and software and it's working outstandingly.

Delaware, the State of Delaware now does PCR's in a paperless form. So we don't have to reinvent the wheel, there are systems out there that operate very well.

As far as the comments for Legislator Lindsay which I appreciate very much and I agree with 100%, that there should be uniformity end to end and we certainly should not be promoting some type of regional competitions, we do have on the task force representation from the Health Department. I have engaged in, before we actually have the resolution passed, dialogue, as I had said, certainly with FRES and particularly with some of the tech folks in FRES who actually worked with us out in the County Clerk's department before. I am not a techi,

absolutely, positively. Don't know the details associated with a system, do know from a system's perspective what you see as far as working well and what relieves life savers from having to deal with paper forms that are requirements that come from the State level down to the County level. That's the compliance aspect of this, that's our involvement, that's our role, we're facilitating the responders.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yeah, I don't mean to prolong this. And I misunderstood the concept, I thought the electronic equipment that you were talking about would satisfy Legislator Bishop's, you know, bill that he sponsored and it has nothing to do with that, it has to do with PCR's. But my second question, this is like for \$150,000?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yes.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

And this is for one department?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

No, actually this would contemplate participation by two volunteer fire department, ambulance corps and one ambulance, volunteer ambulance corps, Commack. It is pricing predicated on some soft quotes from one particular manufacturer. Of course, as you know, there still would have to be an RFP process, this manufacture is on a State bid list, though. And it is my best guess, if you will, at this point, as far as the amount of money that it would take to get them up and operational with the license and the software and the installation.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

But, I mean, if we do it for two departments, are we going to do it for all 110 across the County? I mean, because ••

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, you know, here's the other thing I guess that I would say there, and this is where I really would have to call any expertise and the support of the departments. I've done some grants research work on this already and I am aware that there are •• I'm going to bundle the name now for sure, Community Emergency Services grants that originate at a Federal level, that are administered at a State level, and I have spoken with the State contacts as well. This is exactly some of the types of projects that this organization will wind up funding. So, can I say that •• I believe that there would be an opportunity there to go ahead and elicit some grant funding to go ahead and assist the departments. I also believe that the departments could go ahead and participate to a certain level as well, maybe a 50/50 match.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Well, the departments are all independent taxing agencies.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yes, they are.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

If we step in this void and buy this equipment for every one of our emergency service departments County•wide, you're talking about quite an investment by the County. I know we try and help out our local departments, you know, through member grants and stuff like that, but I don't think to this extent every department. And you know how things work around here, if you get it for your department I'm going to want it for my department.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

It seems that way, doesn't it?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yep.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

If I could, just to that point. Is it really getting it for the department per se or are you asking these various departments to participate in a pilot program with the County? So that, in

essence, it wouldn't be their equipment so much as it would be the County's and they're participating in the program.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

So we're not actually giving them the equipment.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Actually, what it is is it's an attempt or an effort, if you will, to go ahead and get real time data rather than doing decision making. You know, again, the only thing that I can reference is from whence I came. I worked on a contract for a million dollar software project out in the Clerk's Office; in a void on paper and concept, it looked very well. After much pain, angst and multiple years of implementation, there was a lot of revision that had to go into it. What I'm hoping is by getting reality in the first instance here, that will help us move forward if that's the collective decision.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you very much. Okay, I think we're going to move to the agenda.

### **Tabled Resolutions**

***IR 1281•05 • To establish a pilot program called the "Safe Communities Initiative" authorizing the expanded use of security camera systems to deter crime and assist law enforcement efforts (Cooper).*** Motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Caracciolo. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Opposed.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

**List the two opposed, the resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•2•0•0 Opposed: Legislators Lindsay & Bishop).**

**IR 1285•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law to amend Article II of Chapter 270 of the Suffolk County Code to provide further protections under the "Crack House Law" (Cooper).**

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to table by Legislator Nowick. Second by Legislator ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Me.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

•• O'Leary. All those in favor?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Opposed? We have one opposed. **The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 7•1•0•0 Opposed: Legislator Lindsay).**

**IR 1327•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law establishing responsible standards and controls for alarm systems that require Police Department response (Cooper).** I'll make that motion to table.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

On this resolution, this is to increase the penalty for false alarms, is that ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Exactly.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

All right.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

To establish penalties for.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Is it being tabled because you're asking for revisions or is it being tabled just because the majority doesn't like it?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

You got it.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Really for ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

In other words, is this thing moving or is it you just want to kill it?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We'll find out at the next meeting.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

All right, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, thank you. All in favor? Opposed? *The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).*

*IR 1583•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law strengthening the procedures and remedies of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (Mystal).*

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to table by Legislator Mystal. Is there a second on the tabling motion?

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Is there a reason for the motion to table?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

I don't have the votes to pass it yet.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Oh, okay, that's a good reason.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

So we have a motion. Was there a second on the tabling?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN BINDER:**

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

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Opposed.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

That gives us three in favor of the resolution to table fails.

Is there a motion to approve?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

What was the vote on the tabling?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Four three.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Four three.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

All right. Well, what is this resolution •• can you give me a synopsis, please? The sponsor.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

The resolution is to really strengthen the Human Rights Commission in view of the fact that most of the report and studies that came out lately about the Human Rights found that there's nothing going on in Suffolk County. When you have a case in Suffolk County, it goes to State and the State has a backlog that's as long as two to three years and we're trying to see if we can restrengthen the Human Rights Commission to give it some teeth and to really do some of the work here.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Lindsay. But to the comment that the sponsor made about a backlog of two to three years in the State, that wasn't the information I had been given. And perhaps it might be helpful, if we can, to see if we can get someone from State Human Rights to come before the committee ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Let's table this.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

•• and address that issue.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

That's why I'm trying to table it.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

No, I'm saying the sponsor •• I mean the Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

But I do believe we had called the vote, but Legislator Lindsay I think wanted to speak.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Well, the only •• didn't we do this a couple of years ago, didn't we have a resolution to strengthen Human Rights?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

What we're trying to do is to give the Human Rights Commission status. Counsel can tell a bit more about it, if you want.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

My recollection is we did this a couple of years ago, no?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

No, you don't. What you have is really •• go ahead, I'll let Mea add to this for a little bit.

**MS. KNAPP:**

This adds substantially, particularly in the area of fair housing. And to the extent that this amendment were enacted, I believe •• and I'm not certain •• that the commission could be eligible for funding as an enforcement agency.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

If I may just ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Just for a point of clarification. Currently the Human Rights Commission has subpoena power but it's somewhat watered down, it's not a direct subpoena power that they have, they have to go through the County Attorney's Office. Does this not give them subpoena power without having to go through the process that is currently in effect?

**MS. KNAPP:**

Yes.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Yes, it does.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

On that point.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

On that point, Legislator Caracciolo.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

That's the essence of the resolution, is that it would bypass the Law Department, which is our County Attorney's Office, and leave that discretion solely within the purview of the commission. And there's where I think there may be some philosophical differences over who should have

that authority and I think that's why the resolution is running into difficulty. Okay, move along.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Well, I'll reintroduce it, you know, because you guys ••

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, the motion then to table has failed and we will move to IR 1720. This gentleman is ••

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Is there a motion to approve?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

No, we had asked for a motion to approve.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Failed for lack of a motion?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

1583 you're talking about?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yeah.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Do you want to bring it to a vote?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

If the objective right now, in the committee right now is to make a motion to approve so they can defeat it and kill it, that's what it is, that's the political game being played right now, if you can see it. Okay? Open your eyes.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, wait a minute. There was no motion to approve. There was a motion to table, the motion to table was not successful. So is there a motion now? I had asked earlier for a motion to approve and there wasn't, so.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

I think Legislator O'Leary already made a motion to approve.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I didn't make a motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

No, he did not.

**MS. SULLIVAN:**

Somebody said motion to approve.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Yes.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I don't think •• it wasn't me.

**MS. SULLIVAN:**

No, I didn't have anybody's name.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

All right. Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

All right. So we have a motion by Legislator Mystal to approve. Is there a second?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I'll second it.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator Lindsay. On the motion to approve, all in favor?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Aye.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Aye.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Aye.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Opposed?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Opposed.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Abstain?

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Abstain.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I'll abstain also. ***The motion to approve fails (VOTE: 3•3•2•0 Opposed: Legislators O'Leary, Nowick & Losquadro • Abstain: Legislators Carpenter & Caracciolo).***

Okay, we will move to **1720•05 • Reappointing Dennis Magerle as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board (Cooper)**. This gentleman is out of town and will be available for our September meeting. I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

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

***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

### **Introductory Resolutions**

**1792•05 • Creating an Unlicensed Driver Task Force to protect Suffolk County citizens (Alden).**

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

We need clarification from the sponsor as to the makeup of the committee, the task force.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. We have a motion and a second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor of the tabling? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

**1844 and 45 were already addressed.**

**IR 1868•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law to amend protect Suffolk residents by permitting the seizure of vehicles engaged in unlawful speed contests or races (Cooper).** Motion to table pending the public hearing. All those in favor of tabling?

Second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

***IR 1882•05 • Naming the 2nd Precinct Building in Huntington the Daniel P. Guido Building (County Executive).***

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I'm sorry, what is this?

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

I made the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Oh, I'm sorry. Motion by Legislator Caracciolo, second by Legislator O'Leary, 1882 to approve. All in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution to approve has been passed (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

***1883•05 • Accepting and appropriating grant funds in the amount of \$250,000 from the New York State Department of Transportation for provision of dedicated traffic enforcement in the vicinity of certain highway construction projects with 100% support (County Executive).*** I'll make that motion to approve and put on the consent calendar, second by Legislator Caracciolo. All those in favor? Opposed?  
***The resolution is approved and placed on the consent calendar (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

***1884•05 • Accepting and appropriating grant funding in the amount of \$2,659,206 from the New York State Department to State for the Wireless E•911 Expedited Deployment Program with 90% support (County Executive).*** I'll make that motion to

approve, second by Legislator Nowick.

All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved  
(VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

***1924•05 • Amending the 2005 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with a pilot program for Ambulance and Fire Department and Paperless Prehospital Care Reports (PCR) (Kennedy).*** Motion?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator Nowick.

All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved  
(VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

***1929•05 • Creating a Suffolk County Stop DWI Deaths Task Force (Viloria•Fisher).*** Is there a motion?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Nowick.

All those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Explanation from Counsel on what the resolution does?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Why is this being tabled?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator •• excuse me. Counsel, if you would explain 1929.

**MS. KNAPP:**

This is basically an effort to address the problems of DWI fatalities. There is technology but •• and it's mentioned in the resolution that there might be technologies that could be employed with more frequency than they are now. In any case, the purpose of this is to create a task force that looks at the feasibility of making recommendations either for action, further action by this Legislature or for action by automobile manufacturers and car dealers.

There are six members of task force including the •• and they all obviously have designees; District Attorney, Police Commissioner, Probation Director, Commissioner of Health, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and a representative of the car dealerships located in Suffolk County.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Car dealerships?

**MS. KNAPP:**

Yeah. Part of this resolution is to look at the technologies that are out there and to determine whether or not they're feasible.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Madam Chairwoman?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No offense to car dealers, but having been around the automotive industry since I'm very small, generally I know a lot more than car dealers when I go in to discuss the cars and the technology in them.

I don't see where someone from a car dealership is an acknowledged expert in the area of automotive technology; in fact, I find in my experience that it's usually quite the opposite.

They're in the business of selling cars and they generally don't know what goes into constructing them, so.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Yeah, but it's the entire industry. You're going to pluck one person out of it, I'm sure there's somebody in the automotive industry in Suffolk County who is knowledgeable.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

As long as they don't have a pinky ring or an attitude.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

How does a car dealership owner qualify?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I think what the sponsor is trying to do is to find a representative of the industry.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Excuse me. Are we having like a give and take here?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Through the Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

From what I hear, it's almost exactly the same as the resolution that you put forward that I supported that I thought was a good idea about pool safety. We have a problem with, you know, a situation in our society that needs to be addressed, she wants the County to explore the solutions that are out there, including technology, just like you are with the pools, and wants to create a task force to report back to the public and to us; it doesn't seem like it should be controversial.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Through the Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Sure, Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I agree with you a hundred percent and I've put a lot of time and a lot of effort into researching the makeup of that task force to come up with people that I thought would best represent the interests involved, and one of those was a representative from the pool industry, not an owner of a pool •• you know, not someone who is •• you know, owns say Twin King Pools or something. We're looking for someone who is like from the National Pool and Spa Association, something of that nature.

I just happen to think that a little more effort, a little more research needs to go into the makeup of this board. I think it's a laudable goal but I do have a specific difficulty with putting a car dealership owner on there, I don't it's the right person, the right makeup of the board to have someone who is an acknowledged expert in the area of automotive technology. You and I can disagree on that, but that's my specific objection to this.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Can I just ask Counsel, can you reveal why that particular one was selected?

**MS. KNAPP:**

No, I think that •• and again, I hesitate to speak for the sponsor. The owner of the car dealership to be selected by this committee was an attempt to ground it in reality to the extent that if the committee were to recommend impractical measures, that the hope was that somebody in the business would ••

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Right. Okay, I got it. That's a good answer, I appreciate it.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay, thank you. And I think the County Executive's Office, Ben, did you want to speak on this?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah, just briefly. In the audience today are the people who work in the Stop DWI Program for the County, and you think they would have been included in the task force. They have been doing work along these lines for a long time, they keep statistics, they have regular meetings.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Good point.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

In fact, some of the statistics that Legislator Caracciolo had asked for from the Police Commissioner they have up-to-date through June which I'll make available to the committee. And actually, the good news is that the DWI deaths in Suffolk County are going down quite significantly this year already, the numbers are quite well, not great because somebody died, but the numbers are down dramatically over the last year.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Great.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Madam Chairwoman?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you very much. I think, you know, you raise a very good point. And to the makeup of the task force, it is important to make sure that you do have the right players in there. And perhaps at some future meeting we should have a presentation from the Stop DWI Task Force so that we can get some of that information and I think sometimes we forget about you and the good work that you do. Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Just as one final point. I would just like to offer, if you would like to have the sponsor contact me, there are acknowledged national organizations such as ICAR, Automotive Service Excellence, people with those certifications who possibly she could put in there who are

acknowledged automotive experts that I would be much more comfortable with.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Just the last word. I'd be happy to talk to the sponsor about it. I don't think anybody is objecting to the tabling, we just wanted an explanation. You know, one of the things is if we already have a Stop DWI Task Force, why do we need another task force on the same issue?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Good point. Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yeah, just quickly because the problem seems to be the automotive industry. I have to agree with Legislator Losquadro, the purpose of the bill is to stop DWI, so therefore there is really no correlation between selling a car and not drinking in a car, so I think that's the major problem here. And maybe if the sponsor did work with Legislator Losquadro, who seems to have a plethora of organizations on hand, that would make this more palatable.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Also, too, to Legislator Lindsay's comment, the fact that we do have a Stop DWI Task Force in the County is something that is even more important that I think the sponsor needs to communicate with before we address the bill. Okay, ***that resolution is tabled (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

That takes us to ***1930•05 • Establishing a pilot program to study the use of electronic monitoring devices for DWI offenders (O'Leary).***

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Through the Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Through the Chair, Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Just to initially advise my colleagues on Public Safety what I'm hoping to do with respect to this resolution, or to give you the acronym itself, the electronic monitoring device that will be used is called a SCAM which is a •• and I'm reading this, a Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor. And it is my hope that we can establish a pilot program to identify those individuals who have either a history of DWI arrests coupled with accidents or whatever and establishes a program for purposes of monitoring their alcohol intake.

What this particular ankle bracelet does is just that, it monitors any alcohol intake by way of sweat on the person, and it's seemingly to be a fool•proof system that's used in other municipalities, other areas. But I wanted an opportunity to sit down and discuss this initiative with the Director of Probation who we're relegating the authority to carry out this pilot program. So before I do that, I'd like to sit down with the Director of Probation to discuss this initiative as well as try to get some sort of a handle on the fiscal impact of establishing such a pilot program. As a result, I'm asking to table this until such time as I do sit down with the Director of Probation and get a fiscal impact.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. We have a motion and a second to table. On the motion, Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

The only thing that I would suggest to the sponsor, Legislator O'Leary, have you run this program through that Stop DWI Task Force? Maybe you could, you know, include them in the whole process.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I'll include everybody that should be included, and perhaps Stop DWI Task Force should be included in this proposal. I'm open to all suggestions.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. We have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution***

***to table is approved (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

***Introductory Sense Resolutions***

***Sense 55•05 • Memorializing Sense Resolution requesting in support of civil confinement to protect women and children from sex offenders (Binder).***

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Caracciolo.

All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 8•0•0•0).***

The meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 P.M.\*)***

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

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