

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 **September 20, 2005**.

Members Present:

Legislator Angie Carpenter • Chairperson

Legislator Pete O'Leary • Vice•Chair

Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Legislator David Bishop

Legislator William Lindsay

Legislator Lynne Nowick

Members Not Present:

Legislator Michael Caracciolo • Excused

Legislator Elie Mystal • Excused

Also In Attendance:

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Alexandra Sullivan • Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Doug Sutherland • Aide to Legislator Carpenter

Greg Moran • Press Secretary to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Lisa Keys • Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa

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

Alicia Howard • Aide to Legislator Montano
Lisa Keys • Aide to Legislator Caracciolo
Gail Vizzini • Director/Budget Review Office
Jim Maggio • Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn • Assistant County Executive
Jimmy Dahroug • County Executive Assistant
Brian Beedenbender • County Executive Assistant
Allen Kovesdy • County Executive's Budget Office
Jacqueline Caputi • County Attorney's Office
Al Tisch • Suffolk County Sheriff
Donald Sullivan • Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Walter Denzler • Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Alan Otto • Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Thomas Murphy • Warden/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Joseph Rubacka • Deputy Warden/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Robert Hervan • Deputy Warden/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Dennis Carmen • Lieutenant/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Robert Hobel • Lieutenant/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Chris Black • Sergeant/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Doreen Crosby • Sergeant/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Mike Polchinski • Correction Officer/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Robert Washer • Correction Officer/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Greg Volpe • Correction Officer/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Joe Montalbano • Correction Officer/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Vito Dagnello • President/Correction Officer's Association
Greg Johnson • 2nd Vice•President/Correction Officer's Association
Charlie Sclafani • Treasurer/Correction Officer's Association.
Matthew Bogert • 1st Vice•President/SCOBA
Kurt Caminski • 3rd Vice•President/SCOBA
Scott Doherty • Graduate/Sheriff's Vocational Training Program
John Pinkall • Graduate/Sheriff's Vocational Training Program
Theresa Battista • Eastern Suffolk BOCES/Instructor
Dwight Stecker • Eastern Suffolk BOCES/Instructor
Eileen Petrillo • Eastern Suffolk BOCES/Instructor

Lewis Perlmutter • Eastern Suffolk BOCES/Baking Instructor
Jamie Moog • Eastern Suffolk BOCES/Instructor
Linda Jacino • Eastern Suffolk BOCES/Instructor
Robert Moore • Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department
Ed Webber • Chief of Patrol/Suffolk County Police Department
Aristedes Mojica • Inspector/Chief of Department's Office/SCPD
Robert Scharf • Lieutenant/Suffolk County Police Department
Kevin Kiley • Suffolk County Police Department
Brad Maier • Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Warren Horst • Suffolk County Fire Marshall
John Desmond • Director/Suffolk County Probation Department
Hope Collazo • Director/Community Service Program•American Red Cross
Debbie Eppel • Public Information Office
Maria Perez•Lent • STOP DWI Coordinator
Douglas Death • Chairman/Suffolk County Traffic Safety Board
Mary McLaughlin • Suffolk County League of Women Voters
Colleen Ansanelli • Prgm Crdntr/Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Dr. Robert Marmo • Chief Planner/Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Dennis Magerle • Nominee/Suffolk County Vocational, Education & Extension Board
Joan A. Jones • Concerned Resident
Carmen Battista • Resident of Southold
Emi Endo • Newsday
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 11:32 A.M.*)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Good morning. I would just like to welcome everyone to the Public Safety & Public Information Committee meeting and ask Legislator Nowick to please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Salutation

Thank you. Legislator Mystal has an excused absence, his Mom passed away last week and I believe he's tending to some business. And Legislator Caracciolo also has an excused absence.

We have a pretty full agenda today. We are going to •• we have two presentations and/or updates. And first I would ask the Sheriff, Sheriff Tisch to come forward, he has the first presentation, We had asked him a while ago to do a presentation on a program at the jail. So Sheriff, if you would, please.

SHERIFF TISCH:

Thank you very much, Chairwoman Carpenter. Members of the Legislature, I'm here today ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

If I can excuse you a moment, you might be more comfortable sitting at the table, especially if you have any paperwork with you.

SHERIFF TISCH:

I'll begin again. Good morning, Deputy Presiding Officer Chairwoman Carpenter, Members of the Legislature. Before I begin with my remarks, I'd like to indicate that we are here today to address an issue of vocational, rehabilitation and training, and the reason that this is so important is because of the overcrowding situation that we've had in our jail.

As you know, since the day I became Sheriff I began to address that issue and discussed it with the members of the Legislature. We have here today some graduates of our Vocational Training Program that will be addressing you shortly, we have Scott Doherty and John Pinkall. Also with me today are my Undersheriffs Don Sullivan, Walter Denzler, Warden Tom Murphy, Deputy Warden Hervan, Lieutenants Carmen and Hobel, Sergeant Black, Sergeant Crosby who's seated up here with me who's our Program Coordinator on the Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Program; Teacher Instructors Gekee Wickham, Eileen Petrillo, Theresa Battista, Jamie Moog and the Coordinator for Correctional Programs, Dwight Stecker. We also have with us the baking teacher, Lou Perlmutter who will be addressing you as well. We have here from the Correction

Officers Association President Dagnello, 1st Vice•President Matt Bogert, 2nd Vice•President Greg Johnson, 3rd Vice•President Kurt Caminski and Treasurer Charles Sclafani.

Let me begin my remarks by indicating that during the course of my service to this County as a Judge, I was very familiar with the educational programs that were being conducted in the correctional facility. During my five years as an Assistant DA and 24 years as a Judge, I worked very closely with my predecessors occupying the office of Sheriff. Obviously it was very important to me to see to it that those folks that I had the opportunity to place in the correctional facility were given the opportunity to gain some meaningful, educational opportunities. Clearly, since the State mandates a GED program at every correctional facility, that's always been present. Some of my predecessors have, in fact, begun and initiated some vocational training programs. However, because of the overcrowding situation that we were confronted with, grossly overcrowded, some 500 persons above our legal limits as you're aware, we had to take some action.

The first step I took, and I think I shared this with you previously, was to coordinate with the District Attorney, the Magistrates, the District Court Judges and the other Judges in the County and asked them to please review their bail practices and to keep in mind that we had a crowded house. That if there was any possible way, without sacrificing public safety, that folks could be diverted from coming to our correctional facility, would they please do so; that had a substantial impact, although it did not alleviate the overcrowding.

We learned early on about the recidivism rate in our correctional facility. The recidivism rate, that is the number of people that return, was astronomical, 76%. I consulted with the Warden, Tom Murphy, he consulted with the BOCES folks, we consulted with Nassau•Suffolk Building Trades and other trade councils and asked if we could ramp up a vocational training program that was going to be beneficial not only to the individuals incarcerated in our facility but to society in general. Obviously if we can divert anybody, every single person that we can prevent from coming back, we've now eliminated another victim, we eliminated the cost of prosecution, we've eliminated the cost of housing that individual. So it is very important that we engage in these diversionary programs. So we got very, very serious about the vocational training programs.

We have an agreement with several of the trade unions to engage with us in a pre apprenticeship program, which means not only are we training people in certain vocational trades, but there is

a follow•up. When that person is released from our facility, they are counseled, they are mentored, they are assisted with trying to find housing and employment and pre•apprentice programs are available for them. Hopefully they will be able to be mainstreamed into our society, therefore removing themselves as a threat to us and some will be able to go on to lead meaningful and productive lives.

The programs that we have embarked upon are our plumbing program, we have 42 individuals completed that program; we have a landscaping program, we've had five completed that; pre•apprentice baking program, 35 graduates; four have completed the meat processing and commercial evisceration program; 12 have completed the horticulture program; 13 have completed the Microsoft office computer program; 10 in the sewing program and 16 have completed the construction trades apprentice program. We have had 137 of these inmates or residents in our facility that have benefitted from this training, unfortunately 18 of them are still there, they have not come up for their release date. But of the 119 that have, in fact, been able to come out, we have had a 14% recidivism rate, I think that's remarkable when compared against the 76% for those people who have not benefitted from the program. So every person that we divert from coming back into the facility saves the taxpayers money, it will tend to reduce the desperate need we have for additional jail housing and it will also give people who have been disadvantaged the opportunity to become productive and meaningful members of our society.

Now, I have three people that have asked to address you, actually four, the two former inmates and Mr. Stecker and Mr. Perlmutter. But if you would bear with me, I would like to play for you a very fine recap of our program that was prepared by Five Towns College. By the way, I should mention that what you are about to see was produced for us at no cost to the County.

(* Video Presentation *)

SHERIFF TISCH:

At this time, if you would permit me, I'd like to have Dwight Stecker, the Coordinator of our Correctional Education Programs come up. Dwight is with the BOCES Program.

MR. STECKER:

Good morning, everybody. I'm Dwight Stecker with Eastern Suffolk BOCES. I've had the honor

over the past 30 years to work with four different Sheriffs and three different Probation Directors. I can tell you that not since 1982 has Suffolk provided so many quality programs to inmates. One of the most innovative program anywhere in the State of the New York, and I know most of the County jails in the State of New York, one of the most innovative of all those programs is the bakery program provided by Mr. Perlmutter. Mr. Perlmutter was the former production manager of Entenmanns Bakery and I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Perlmutter right now.

MR. PERLMUTTER:

Thank you, Dwight. Good morning, everybody, Ladies and Gentlemen. Hello, Mr. O'Leary.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Hello, Lou. How are you?

MR. PERLMUTTER:

Before I introduce John and Scott who are two of my students, I just want to say that it's been my pleasure to have touched 35 people in such a positive manner. Out of the 35, I'm in touch with seven right now; three have gone back to school, to culinary school to further their education, one is working in a Pathmark Supermarket •• excuse me, two are working in a Pathmark Supermarket. And a gentleman that you saw on the screen a little while ago, I'm taking him down to Long Island City to the Workers Consortium because I have a relationship with the Baker's Union of New York and Entenmanns Bakery and any gentleman that goes through my program will get preferential treatment as far as being taken on as an apprentice and hired in a bakery.

I teach basic skills that prepares them to go to work in any bakery, it's on a professional level. In order to get the certificate and graduate this program, they have to show the skills necessary to go in and do a day's work for a boss for a fair day's pay. If they don't show that motivation or skill level, they do not get a certificate. I treat this very seriously as I'm hiring them, I treat them as if I'm going to hire them myself.

Some of the things that they learn, aside from specific skills, is mathematics, they learn baking science, they learn good manufacturing practices, we go as far as doing personal hygiene. I

reinforce the job skills necessary and the interview process with them, before graduation I just try to prepare them for what's outside. Bottom line is this here; I've seen so many transitions in the course of teaching, it just gives me so much pleasure to see the changes that take place from the time they walk into the classroom with their self-esteem, with their ability to communicate, with their ability to work together with other people, learn how to get along with others and their sense of accomplishment. I'd love for you to come down to a graduation some time and just see how proud they are of what they've been able to accomplish.

At this time, I'd like to introduce John Pinkall, he'll tell you a little bit about his experience. Then after John I'd like to call Scott up here.

MR. PINKALL:

Thank you, Lou. Good morning, everyone.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Can you pull the microphone down, sir? There you go, perfect.

MR. PINKALL:

Okay. I was asked a couple of weeks ago to come down and speak. I am nervous right now, so please forgive me.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Relax.

MR. PINKALL:

I just want to say that this program has given me the confidence and boosted my self-esteem. I virtually knew nothing about baking. Right now I'm in the process of getting a grant to go to Suffolk County Community College for the Culinary Arts to get an Associate's Degree. The restaurant business is a very tough business, but if you don't have a formal education you'll be peeling potatoes forever. So I want to do the right thing and get a formal education in that particular field.

Right now I'm working in a boat marina in East Moriches, that in itself is God's gift because you can't beat it. I work on the water, I take boats out for rides, I work on them and I get paid for

it; outside of watching paint dry, that's the best job in the world for me. Right now I'm a resident of Cutchogue, I live with my wife and my son. Again, I just want to say thank you to everyone that helped me. The staff at the Yaphank facility, they do a wonderful job. These are people that cared and cared about me and what my future was going to bring. I can only say, again •• I'm about to cry here, I'm sorry. But again, I can't express enough to Lou, Glenn Conway, Joe Morris, everyone involved at the facility, to give me this opportunity to speak here today. Again, I'm very grateful and thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much for coming down. And I just want to say something to you. You were very gracious in your thanks to everyone that has helped you and I think probably the biggest way that you have shown and can continue to show your appreciation is to share your story. And there was something in the film that was said that I wrote down because I didn't want to forget it, but it gives you hope in your life and you obviously have gotten that gift. And I just wish you much success and really thank you for coming down and sharing.

MR. PINKALL:

Thank, you ma'am. You're welcome.

Applause

MR. DOHERTY:

Good morning, everybody. Unfortunately, unlike John, I found out I was going to speak this morning, so I don't have two weeks. I just want to personally thank the Sheriff here ••

(* Gave Sheriff a hug*)

•• for coming up with these programs.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

He doesn't hug.

MR. DOHERTY:

Because of these programs he has going, my three daughters have a father again. The Yaphank Correctional Facility saved my life, gave my life back, it was the easiest thing that happened to

me. I didn't want to go there, I'm not proud I was there, but I live with that and it doesn't bother me that I was there anymore, I wouldn't come out here in public and I'm not ashamed. I'm a very grateful person, like John said. There's a lot of programs in Yaphank, whether it be the AA, the NA, the prison ministry, all those things combined helped save my life.

And having this program, I went through the bakery program, that was just icing on the cake, no pun intended. And it's just •• you know, it goes deeper than going out looking for a job. A lot of the inmates, I was there six months, I know what goes on there, and they go in there and they think they're hopeless, they think they're useless, they think their lives are, you know •• and they don't have nothing to look forward to when they leave. The fact that they could go and get some sort of apprenticeship and look for a job, it's the most •• it's the greatest thing in the world. It's just •• I'm not •• I'm not judging nobody here, but it's just common sense, it's just a great idea.

I mean, there are guys that will just •• other than that, were going to sit there and watch MTV for 24 hours, whatever the case may be. I mean, for them •• and I remember when I graduated, that was about a year and a half ago, you know, they mentioned, you know, taking us off the shelves and putting us to work and getting a career. It is important. Some of these guys, unlike me, some of these guys didn't have a good childhood, they never had a job so to speak and it's just so important what these guys are doing. I mean, it's more than just three daughters. I was lost and, you know, I'm found now and it has a lot to do with this program and it has a lot to do with what they offer you there. And I don't want to sound too repetitious but, you know, my manhood is back and it's definitely due to the fact of Yaphank and the program itself.

I went on. Due to circumstances I couldn't control, I got out of Yaphank after spending six months, I'll keep it short, and that was •• I lost my license because of child support, all right. So Lou had me all set up to have a job somewhere, I couldn't do it, I couldn't commute, so that fell through. And something landed in my map and now I have a small, little, cute painting business going on, and I'm not trying to solicitate. You know, I'm sitting here laughing, it's good to be on this side of the brass, so to speak, and it's good. I'm losing my track of thought here, but I just want to thank you all for listening to me, before I walk away. Just give me a second here, I did want to •• I don't know. Other than that, maybe I could talk to you later if something comes up. Thank you very much for your time.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. And I'm sure your daughters are very grateful, too.

MR. DOHERTY:

Thank you.

SHERIFF TISCH:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here to present to you what we feel is a very meaningful and worthwhile program.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you.

LEG. BISHOP:

May I?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Pertaining to this?

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah. Sheriff, if you could, Legislator Bishop has a question.

LEG. BISHOP:

Good afternoon, Sheriff. Don't worry, I'm not going to hug you.

Sheriff, I'm going to throw a softball to you and ask you, these programs, are these your initiatives or did they preexist, the vocational programs?

SHERIFF TISCH:

Most of the programs that we have are programs that were developed by our staff. I indicated

before, there were programs in existence but nothing on this scale and nothing in this magnitude and nothing as detailed. And I think that the program, the back end of the program is much more accomplished than it ever was before. With the aftercare and the mentoring and the job availability and the apprenticeship, the pre•apprenticeship programs that follow on to the actual training.

LEG. BISHOP:

Now, are you seeking an expansion in the budget in 2006 for these programs, is that what this is about?

SHERIFF TISCH:

No, it's reporting to you on my mandate to do something about the overcrowding in our correctional facilities and I think we've taken a big step in this program to do just that. I think the figures on the recidivism speak volumes. To be able to reduce the recidivism rate on these 119 people that graduated from a 78% recidivism down to 14% is a very worthwhile endeavor that we have taken in.

LEG. BISHOP:

Absolutely. So 119 is maxed out, we can't expand this more to get even better results?

SHERIFF TISCH:

We are developing programs by day and as we successfully initiate one program, we're moving on to gin up another one, we will continue to do this to the best of our ability. Space limitations, obviously when the new facility comes on•line we'll be much more capable of expanding the programs than we are now.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, let me do two things. First let me congratulate you on this initiative and encourage you to continue promoting this and expanding it, I think it's great. And I certainly am very pleased that people came down, took time out from their day to speak to how this has changed their lives, and I congratulate them.

But let me also, Sheriff, express my frustration that back when we were discussing the jail and we were discussing whether there were initiatives that could be undertaken by this County

government, by your department, by others to reduce the jail population, you steadfastly maintained that there weren't. And you also maintained that the Needs Assessment Study, in fact, you directed that the Needs Assessment Study not include considering initiatives to reduce the jail population, and perhaps if that had not occurred we would have had more momentum to increase this type of program because I think that this is a very worthy program. And I hope that the emphasis on it today isn't, you know, an eleventh hour pre-election conversion and I hope we can truly count on you to continue on this path.

SHERIFF TISCH:

Legislator, I certainly hope that that was not an intentioned comment from you. This program has been ongoing in our facility now going on three years. You heard ••

LEG. BISHOP:

It may be ongoing, but it certainly wasn't promoted publicly prior to this.

SHERIFF TISCH:

You heard Dwight Stecker ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

If I could interrupt. I think that's ••

LEG. BISHOP:

And I think that's important because the emphasis was always on increasing the jail size, increasing the jail size, and this is the type of program that people who share my perspective would certainly have embraced then and do so now.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

But I do think that we have had discussion on this and I know that Undersheriff Sullivan and Denzler did speak about the programs. And at my invitation, I asked them to come down and share it and this was, you know, a time that worked for all of us.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

But I know what you're saying, but I do think that we have to keep in mind that we're not necessarily looking at expanding the jail as much as we're looking at replacing an awfully decrepid, deteriorating facility in Yaphank. And once we can have a facility that is more respectable, I would imagine that programs like this would be even more successful. And I think Legislator O'Leary has a brief question and I know you have a time constraint, so if you could just ••

SHERIFF TISCH:

If I could ask Legislator O'Leary's indulgence. I would like to create •• to clear up something that Legislator Bishop said.

Number one, I have never, ever dissuaded anyone from coming up with innovative alternatives to incarceration, I think I have made that abundantly clear in my four years as Sheriff. Having had the opportunity as an Assistant DA for five years and as a Judge for 24, I myself utilized every single alternative that I could think of that did not put public safety in jeopardy. I encouraged people. We have joined with the County Executive and this Legislature with the SCFROC Program to try to come up with alternatives that would work to reduce the need for additional jail space. I think all of you here who had the opportunity to tour our decrepid facilities know how bad it is and how serious a problem that we have; it was so serious that a year and a half ago the State closed down two of our dormitories. Last year we spent over \$5 million in out•of•County housing costs, we can't let that go on. So yes, there are alternatives; yes, I encourage them, and this is merely one of them. But to put your head in the sand and think that we don't have an overcrowding and a decrepid jail situation is foolish.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, thank you for that statement, Sheriff. And my question is very brief, concise and to the point. I congratulate you on the initiative, the ongoing initiative, but I think there has to be some sort of clarification. Certainly ATI's, alternatives to incarceration are a concern of everyone. My question to you is would with these particular programs, the eligibility for same, is it inmates that have been sentenced by the courts or all inmates are eligible?

SHERIFF TISCH:

Unfortunately, because of the transient nature of our facility, the only people that we can really have embarked in these vocational training programs are people that are serving time. There are other educational avenues available to people that are being held in lieu of bail awaiting trial.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay, but that's •• I think that's an important distinction, that these programs are available, the eligibility for same would be to the inmates who have been sentenced by the courts which is the minority of the population in the jail. The vast majority of the population, those awaiting trial or those awaiting for bail purposes to be released, are not eligible for these programs?

SHERIFF TISCH:

That's correct.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. And I would say that when I heard that the film was 15 minutes I kind of shuttered because I really do try to move things along, but it was really very, very well done, very informative. And I congratulate the students and anyone who worked on it, it was really done well. Thank you.

SHERIFF TISCH:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. I would like to ask Brad Maier and whomever else he might like to bring up from FRES, Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services.

In light of everything that has transpired with Hurricane Katrina and Tropical Storm Rita and all of the other attention and focus, I thought it was a good opportunity for FRES to come forward and put everyone at a very comfortable spot as far as the state of readiness in this County and the state of preparedness and how it is something that is ongoing and has been for years and we really are prepared. So with that, Deputy Commissioner, if you would.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Good morning, Deputy Presiding Officer Carpenter and members of the Public Safety Committee. And thank you for having us here. Commissioner Williams asked me to come and speak to you today, he's unable to attend. And I'd like to introduce our Chief Fire Marshal, Warren Horst who is with me here today.

Basically what we do in FRES is we start right in the beginning. Every storm that starts in the Caribbean and in the area where they start, we start tracking immediately via paper map that we have downstairs and through the National Hurricane and the National Weather Service. We also have some software that we get through the National Weather Service and Hurricane Center called HurriVac which aids us in looking at these hurricanes, the projected course, the projected winds, storm search and all the things that are associated with making our decisions.

As the storm gets closer we're in constant contact with the National Weather Service and the Hurricane Center, keeping tabs on where it goes and what's the potential. As a matter of fact, this past weekend, Thursday and Friday, we had a series of conference calls with Mike _Wiley_ and Gary _Conte_ from _NOWA_ which is the National Weather Service located at Upton at the Brookhaven Labs. We constantly monitor these situations so that we can keep the residents safe and that we can make our emergency plans.

We have down in the basement and in the bunker at the FRES Building our operation center, Emergency Operation Center, and it's a room many of you may have visited •• if you haven't, I certainly invite you down to take a look and we can show you how it works. But we have a bank of computers and telephones and representatives are brought in on a staged basis. There's three stages, three levels of activation, and we bring in at the very beginning members of the FRES Department, key members of FRES who will keep in contact with the officials, the elected officials, and then as the storm gets closer, the winds are starting to pick up and projected to be a day or two away and we're making evacuation plans or whether the County Executive or the town supervisors, each town has their own Emergency Preparedness Office and each Town Supervisor or Village Mayor or the County Executive has that opportunity to declare some sort of an evacuation. Again, then as the level gets even closer, we're fully manned, we have personnel in there from LIPA, KeySpan, State Police, Suffolk County Police, the Sheriff's Department, American Red Cross, numerous agencies who will all work together in one area.

In that building we have a generator so that there's power. And also in that building is housed the dispatch system for Suffolk County Fire Control which dispatches fire and ambulance for many of the departments, and they're backed up with emergency generators as well. We're all in the same building and the communications is very good. We also have ability •• we have a satellite telephone there so if we lost all kinds of communication, we still have the ability to phone out, we have that capability. So we work very hard with that.

We work hard with our local officials. If a declaration has to go out to start evacuating, usually three days before the storm, we're asking it's a nice sunny day, we're going out and we're asking the people to get involved with the evacuation and that would be the Suffolk County Police Department, we have 109 and 27 fire departments and about 27 ambulance corps who work together hand•in•hand with our operation. Each fire department has numerous people, I think we have about 13,000 volunteers in the County that assist in the day•to•day operation of public safety, so we call upon them.

American Red Cross is involved in the sheltering, they're the key, they're the sheltering people declared by Congress, they take care of all the shelters. Most of the school districts are on board with the sheltering and approximately •• we have approximately 56,000, space for about 56,000 people. Of course, the American Red Cross is in need of volunteers, so we certainly need people to step up to the plate, go out and get trained to help with sheltering needs. We also have a Special Needs Shelter at Suffolk Community College for those who would need special needs.

One thing that's very important is we're a very mobile society, so we ask that if there is a need for an evacuation, most people do have friends or relatives close by that they can pack up their most important things. And we ask people to have a go•bag, so to speak, and in that would be your medications, contacts, emergency contacts, people that could be notified in case of an emergency, anything that would be essential to keep you going for three to five days so that we could get you back to your residence provided that there's no major damage. Again, at that time, after the storm is over, we have •• LIPA is out there. I was at a seminar, we met with the Town of Southampton yesterday, LIPA brings in approximately 1,700 people to man the power stations in their critical stations across the County, both counties, and that allows us to utilize them to call in very intricate areas where trees are down, wires are down, things like that. It's a combined effort on everybody's part, so we try to be very prepared in the

forecasting and observance of where the storms are going, what the storms are doing, the potential storm surge, how wide a path the storm may cut, where the damage is going to be. Usually the east side of the storm is the worst side of the storm, that's where you're going to pick up most of the damage, most of the wind damage and most of the storm surge.

We also have something unique in Suffolk County, not unique but we have a program called CERT, Citizens Emergency Response Team. We have approximately 70 members with 20 new recruits in training at this time. And what that is, it's a group of volunteers who come together and they can be called upon to be utilized in the shelters to help us with minor things in emergency situations. We're looking at an all hazard plan, so not only could this plan be utilized for weather emergencies, but it could be utilized for any kind of hazmat or weapons of mass destruction or anything as well, we're working on some problems, things that will alleviate some of those problems as well.

One of the most important things I think everybody has to know and we have to really get the word out to the public is emergency preparedness is everybody's responsibility. The public really has to get involved, they have to pay attention to the weather updates, they have to pay attention when we come down, if the decision has been made to evacuate, I know as a fire chief years ago, I had to go over to Oak Beach and I had to ask people to come across the bridge and leave, and it's a sunny day out and it's a beautiful day and the storm is like three days out, they don't want to leave, and we've had this many, many times. And sometimes they look at you like you've got two heads. Sometimes you have to be a little blunt and you may say, "Hey listen, give me the name of your dentist or give me the name, write your name on your arm or something, so God forbid if something happens to you we can at least get to your next of kin." And maybe today with what's happened down south, with the flooding that's happened, when the levies broke and many people passed away, unfortunately, maybe people will pay a little bit more attention to the emergency providers and emergency services personnel. We're there to help them save their lives. Houses and things of that nature can be replaced, repaired, but we can't replace a life and that's everybody's business. Everybody has to work together to make that happen.

We work together with the Suffolk County Police, hand•in•hand. There's a lot of emergency evacuation routes, they're very clearly posted, very clearly marked with the blue signs, storm evacuation routes. And again, we really depend on the public to help us out, I think it's a two

•way street, we all have to work together. And I think today with the technology that we have out there today, we have satellites that are watching the weather, we're looking at storms now that just start up in the Caribbean and we track them on a daily basis. It's not like the Hurricane of '38 which we keep hearing about lately; those folks didn't even know that hurricane was coming, they had no opportunity to make any kind of provisions. We have a week's worth of notification. As we watch that storm and it turns up the coast and we're watching it, just the other day with Ophelia, we watched that storm wobble around and change and change and change, and up to Friday afternoon it looked like it was going to turn a little bit more to the east, then it was going to turn a little bit more to the west and by the four o'clock report when we finished up Friday afternoon, the storm changed again, it went further east and by Saturday morning it had picked up speed and was going 26 miles an hour and turned really hard to the northeast and we really didn't get anything out of it at all. But the preparedness; again, we worked very hard, we have a good team, we worked together with our neighbors in Nassau County, New York City, in Westchester.

I personally serve on the Urban Area Work Group which is a committee from all those areas, we put our heads together, we pool our resources, we find out what each other is doing, we each work hard together and communicate with them. The conference call, it had people from New York State SEMO, State Emergency Management Office, Ted Fish, FEMA, the DEC Weather Reporting people, we had Nassau County, Suffolk County, New York City OEM, Office of Emergency Management. We're constantly in contact with our neighbors to look for help from all sides, we all work together. So I feel that we work very hard to keep preparations in place, we watch what happened in other areas, we try to make sure that we learn from everybody else's mistakes, if there are mistakes made and things that went wrong. They may not be mistakes that were made, it just may be something that went wrong unfortunately, but people really try very hard to keep people's lives of primary importance to everybody. So that's about all I have, unless you have any questions.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No. Thank you very much, Brad. And having been the Chair of Public Safety for a couple of years, I have had the opportunity to see a lot of this in action first hand and I know how incredibly proactive Suffolk County has been over the years, you know, it didn't just happen. I mean, we were light years ahead in purchasing a Mobile Command Post, well before anybody was even talking about doing things like that. And I know from representing the Barrier Beach that we meet on a regular basis, the Fire Island Law Enforcement Security Council, FRES has

been very participatory there. But that, too, is kind of a model of all of the agencies coming together on a regular basis so that when there is a disaster, when there is something that happens, everyone knows who the players are, they're used to working together, the relationships have been developed over the years, whether it's Coast Guard, the Aviation Unit, Marine Bureau, FRES, Police, Fire, New York State DEC, Troopers, Coast Guard, they all know one another and it really, really does help. You know, we had our Law Enforcement Council meeting the other day and it was after Katrina and someone joked and said that •• well, not joking, but that if Louisiana had had a Louisiana Law Enforcement and Security Council or FRES Active, perhaps it wouldn't have had the debacle that it had as far as after the storm.

But the one positive I think that's come out of that, and I really believe that positives come out of every negative, is the fact that people are I think going to be more aware now and heed the warnings when they're given because of what happened with Katrina. And this morning when I was driving here I called my nieces who are down in Florida waiting for Rita and they were home from work, there were no second thoughts about it, when they heard that the storm was coming they knew that they needed to be safe and secure. So I think people are getting that lesson or learning that lesson. But you're right, it is everyone's responsibility. And thank you for what you're doing. Warren, I know you've been doing it for a long time, so thanks so much.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Do you have anything to add, Warren?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Do you have anything you want to add, Warren?

MR. HORST:

I don't think so.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you. Legislator Bishop and I believe Legislator O'Leary.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thanks. Hi, Brad. I think everybody in America is now an expert on emergency preparedness

and New Orleans, Louisiana. And I think if you look at that situation, it looked like they had a decent plan for a wind event and an insufficient plan for the flooding. Our plans here in Suffolk County I assume include some sort of storm surge consideration. What is the storm surge that we are contemplating I assume the most •• well, can we get a category four here, or we pretty much assume that we can't go above a three, is that correct?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Well, we've been having a lot of meetings about that. We have the latest storm surge maps down at the EOC, Emergency Operating Center, and if we had a category four hurricane, the worst case scenario on a high tide, we're looking at the possibility of water up to Sunrise Highway. In what degree? It's very difficult to tell because a lot of the Barrier Beaches have broken down and the dunes are no longer there from erosion from the winter storms and that.

LEG. BISHOP:

So would that be water that would stay for a significant period of time or that's water that just comes in and rushes back out?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

It would come in and it would also work its way back out. In the last meeting that we had, we had Mike _Walley_ came and he explained that the makeup of the soil in Long Island is very, very sandy and a lot of the rain water and a lot of the water would drain down normally. And generally what happens is about an hour or two before the storm, a couple of hours before the storm, you're starting to see an increase in the tide and an increase in the level of the water which might make it a foot or so above normal. About an hour or so before the storm, the storm surge would come, but the storm surge would be •• from what he's telling us, would be limited to the area of the eye of the storm and about 20 miles east of the eye of the storm, and then that would be the most inundated area.

What would happen, also, is with the winds coming up, it would force water up into the bays and into the Long Island Sound and up into the western pocket of the Long Island Sound in around Queens and the airports and the East River. The water would then come in high. As soon as the eye passed over, the wind direction generally changes and also helps to bring the water back out again; we'd have it for hours and probably in some low•lying areas maybe days until the water got down. I'm told by the Weather Service that we wouldn't have the kind of flooding that was in Louisiana, in that they're built about seven to eight feet below sea level and

when the levies broke •• they survived the hurricane. And if you look at a lot of the houses, the houses in that area are pretty well intact except they're all under water and when the water supposedly went up the Mississippi River and then came back down, it broke the levy and the water came in and now there's no place for the water to go and it has to be pumped out to get it out. But before that could happen, they had to repair the levies and that's where all the tide came in and caused most of the problems.

LEG. BISHOP:

So the local emergency response apparatus, they have to contemplate 48 hours to 72 hours, is that kind of your mandate?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Yes, we figure about 72 hours. Again, if we're looking to help, being that it is a home rule state, the local officials take care of each •• the villages, the towns and the County, we all work together. If we have to reach out to State SEMO and to FEMA, generally to get those folks in, it's going to take about two to three days to get their equipment in place.

LEG. BISHOP:

So you have to have a plan in place that would move hundreds of thousands, I guess potentially ••

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Correct.

LEG. BISHOP:

•• people to higher ground ••

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

That is correct.

LEG. BISHOP:

•• and house them, store them somewhere for up to 72 hours.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

This is correct. We have the ability to move •• to get the word out to the 1.4 million people in Suffolk County, to get that word out. The areas of concern, again, are the Barrier Beaches, Fire Island, the south shore inundation areas, if you look on a map, the lower lying areas.

LEG. BISHOP:

Your house.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

My house, not quite up to your house.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Maybe up to your house because Hubbard's Path is a little further north than me.

LEG. BISHOP:

I know.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

But yes, we have to get those people. In my experience over the years, and I've gone through several storms in Babylon Fire Department and found that we have had water up over Montauk Highway, I've seen that, around the Argyle Lake area, I can't talk about the other towns and I'm sure they have as well. Asharoken has been under water several times in Huntington Town. But yes, my experience •• we've never experienced tons and tons of people in the shelters. Most people try to get into areas of family, visiting family or friends.

The one thing that we've got to remember, too, is if you've got pets, you want to make sure that if you've got a pet, pets aren't allowed in shelters. The only pets that they'll take into a shelter would be a service animal, a seeing eye dog or something of that nature that's going to be allowed, otherwise they don't bring pets. So you really have to make arrangements and we work together with the SPCA and hopefully that's another area that we're working on.

LEG. BISHOP:

Being a suburban area, I mean, 80%, 90% of folks have cars, but obviously one of the lessons

of New Orleans is that there are populations of people without transportation; now, do we also contemplate that in our plan?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Yes. I know especially on Fire Island there's probably not many cars, especially in the summer time. And what we look to do is the ferry boat companies have some sort of arrangement, some folks from the Fire Island law enforcement group and they can transport I believe 4,000 people an hour to get the people over.

LEG. BISHOP:

I'm thinking about like Mastic, Lindenhurst, your communities that are built right along the bay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

We would •• of course we have the Suffolk County Bus System. We look to in encourage the people and school buses and that nature to give us a helping hand and get them out.

LEG. BISHOP:

We have thought about that, that's what I just want to make sure.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Oh, absolutely.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

And we're constantly updating our planning.

LEG. BISHOP:

I think that probably the biggest problem you're going to find, and you mentioned it, is pet owners; I think that people are very reluctant to separate from their pets and you're probably going to •• it's probably going to cost a lot of people their lives if we ever actually had that kind of ••

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Believe it or not, that is a major problem because people will not leave because they want ••

LEG. BISHOP:

We need like a pet shelter of some significance that we can say, "Oh, your dog is going to" ••

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

The only problem that we seem to find and we've heard about is when you tell somebody that they've got to bring their dog or cat to an animal shelter or some sort of a shelter, they don't want to.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

"That's my baby and I can't do that." You know, that's an interesting problem and we have a committee working on that as we speak, so that's another interesting problem.

LEG. BISHOP:

Right, we have to convince the animals that it's something in their interest; I'll speak to my animals.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Legislator O'Leary.

LEG. O'LEARY:

The concern I would have, and I would hope it's been addressed, is in the event of an evacuation order, not only with the Barrier Beach but with the southern part of the Island, all the communities, in the event that there's an impending say a category three with severe flooding, there would be an evacuation of thousands of individuals; is it your opinion that the plans that are in place have sufficient shelters or buildings to accommodate the thousands of people that would have to be relocated for a period of time? I know you mentioned that some

of the citizens would go to friends or whatever who live central Island or areas that have higher ground, but I would hope that there's a plan in place that would accommodate the thousands of people who would not have that availability to them. And I would like to hear from you just what sort of facilities, structures or buildings are being contemplated to house the thousands of evacuees.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

The American Red Cross handles the sheltering for Suffolk County and I have their paperwork here. They're on board with many of the school districts and we have many of the school buildings that are available to us. They could house •• a total client capacity is 56,297 people that we could get into shelters, that doesn't count hotel rooms and things of that nature that may be available as well. But right now the American Red Cross gave me this the other day at a meeting and they can house.

The biggest problem that we're going to have is the people to man those school districts •• we're going to be looking for a lot of help from the Red Cross •• is a little stretched thin and they're looking for more volunteers and getting people trained to man those shelters as well. That's an ongoing problem and the Red Cross is certainly •• had a lot of publicity from all the good things that they've been doing down south. And from what I'm told, they're getting a lot more volunteers through the system, trained to run the shelters. Once they get them up and running, they need a couple of people there and then the people who are sheltered can pitch in and give a helping hand to make those shelters work, and that's their plan. We're constantly, again, working on that plan with the Red Cross, we have a meeting, a sheltering meeting at least once a month with them to update and go through that, and most of these buildings are major school buildings, gymnasiums, things of that nature within the school districts.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Again, I mean, the 56,000, the number you just cited, in my district alone, south of Montauk Highway in the peninsula area there's some 45,000 people. So if you're talking about the entire south shore and those people have to be evacuated to shelters, there's 45,000 there leaving only about 11,000 for the rest of the southern, south shore. So, I mean, I think it should be a concern that in the hopefully unlikely event of massive evacuation of south shore communities that we would have suitable placement for the individuals to stay. It may very well come to pass that it will be a lot more than 56,000 that would have to be evacuated and to be housed,

and the example I just gave is just in my district alone, 45,000 people on the peninsula of Shirley, Mastic and Mastic Beach.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

That is correct. Well, we are again and we're always looking for more and more shelters. I know that the Red Cross is actively recruiting more and more school district to put school buildings up, available. We don't have •• in Suffolk County we don't have like Nassau, the Nassau Coliseum, but I'm sure that if we needed to put people over into Nassau County or into other areas, we could do that, we would just have to make those arrangements. Again, depending on where the storm was going to hit and tracking that storm, you know, we would have to prepare for that as well. But there's a lot of variables and sheltering is definitely a concern.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yeah. And I'm certain that it has been a concern and will continue to be a concern because clearly, if there's a massive evacuation of south shore communities in Suffolk County, not even withstanding Nassau County, I don't know that 56,000 would be sufficient to house.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Well, that's an ongoing battle that we're working on at this time. It's been a very, very important thing to Commissioner Williams, he's been working very diligently I know with the Red Cross, we've had numerous meetings with them in the last two months trying to come up with better ways to shelter. It's right on the top of our priority list, so I can assure you we're working on that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Legislator Losquadro just invited me to stay with him, so.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Hey, that's great.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Brad, you're also working with the community college because when you mentioned Nassau Coliseum, we don't have a Nassau Coliseum but we do have the field and exhibition space at Suffolk Community College. And quite frankly, it is 70,000 square feet of exhibition space

which is the same amount of space at the Nassau Coliseum.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

That's great. I'm sure that that is in consideration and we'll certainly bring that up to the ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

But between Ammerman and Riverhead and the Brentwood Campus, these are all northern sites and certainly would be adequate for sheltering. And I have a feeling that it has already been addressed, but Warren?

MR. HORST:

Well, in part that's true, they have been looked at and there's two points I just want to raise here. One is the special needs shelters that the Deputy Commissioner spoke about are basically on the college campuses, so they have been looked at in that regard. Past experience, not necessarily here in Suffolk County, but down south in Florida and South Carolina with previous hurricanes of note, Hugo, Andrew, it's been realized that large open spaces are not necessarily the best places to house people, not because there are a great number of people under the roof but because the roofs don't necessarily stay on as well as smaller areas. So a school is a great place to go, they preferably would use the classroom space because it's less likely to sustain loss of roof or siding or something of that nature as compared to a large open space. The second reason for looking at it in that regard is even if you lost a classroom, it's probably 30 to 60 people that might be in that particular space, it's a lot easier to relocate them within the building or to another facility if that was necessary than if you had 500 to a thousand that are all effected immediately. And I think the Superdome in New Orleans is a prime example of what happens when you get 30,000 people together and all of a sudden you've lost part of your roof, you've lost all your systems and support and now you have to move them someplace; generally speaking it's a lot easier to manage that with fewer people than the large numbers.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah, just quickly I actually am feeling pretty good about now living on the north shore. And

Pete, you can come to my house, too, if you like. Stony Brook University, are they also a part of this? Because they have facilities on the north shore that would be pretty helpful, don't you think?

MR. HORST:

They as well have been addressed, and most of the college campuses have been approached, obviously some of them are not in the best of places, St. Joseph's and Dowling are two that come to mind that might not necessarily be a place you want to relocate people to. But Stony Brook is definitely on high ground. One of the considerations there that we have to consider is the fact that during the school year they have to relocate their own people, you know, the students and so forth. And although there is a large mobile population that goes there, stays at home and goes to school, there's still a lot of people on campus and dormitories that likely would be relocated to one central shelter where they can care for them a little is easier. However, they have been considered.

LEG. NOWICK:

And just quickly, I assume that for purposes of evacuation the Long Island Railroad is there to assist and you've spoken to them?

MR. HORST:

Yes. As a matter of fact, the MTA generally has a representative in our Emergency Operation Center for other than just hurricanes, snow storms is the other issue, weather event that comes to mind. One of the things that we like to encourage is that if we're going to vacate or evacuate Fire Island, most of that population is going to come off by ferry. Those that come into primarily Bay Shore and Sayville, and even Patchogue to a smaller degree, utilize the Long Island Railroad to get to those communities. They come from the city, they come out by railroad and they go over, take a taxi down to the ferry terminal and go across. We like to sort of turn that whole situation around and encourage them to get on the ferry, leave early, get in a taxi, get to the railroad station and take the train back and the railroad has been very good in accommodating requests for additional cars and trains when we anticipate that that might be a need, or in fact additional trains if it becomes necessary.

LEG. NOWICK:

Maybe we could put the pets in the railroad cars when we're finished using the railroad cars and leave them there like a cattle car. Thank you for your complete and very interesting

presentation.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

You're very welcome.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much for coming down. Give our best to the Commissioner.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MAIER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, we have one card before we go to the agenda. You know, there is one more thing, I know that •• Bob Moore, if you could come forward, please. I know that Legislator Nowick had an issue that she needed to address, so if you could please come forward, and then we will go to the card and the agenda.

CHIEF MOORE:

Good afternoon. I'm Robert Anthony Moore, Chief of Department, Suffolk County Police Department.

LEG. NOWICK:

Good morning. I just wanted to take a few minutes to address a situation with the 4th Precinct which is •• which services the district that I represent, And today I decided to kind of make a surprise visit over to the precinct. And although I know this short presentation that I have is going to have to go to Public Works as well, I was very concerned with the fact that there's so much going on there, there are so many problems over there, and that although the planning steps are in order, I don't see this happening very fast.

CHIEF MOORE:

Uh•huh.

LEG. NOWICK:

Quickly, I wanted to go over what I saw there and put it on the record; this committee should

be apprised of it and certainly Public Works should.

I went room to room looking at it. The Juvenile Service Unit, I looked up, the vents are all broken, falling apart; the Crime Control Section, I understand the vents are blowing on people's heads, they're dirty, two men wound up in the hospital supposedly because of that. This is the best, the air•conditioner outside doesn't run properly, and you know what the temperatures were this year, so what they have to do is put a water, a lawn sprinkler under the air •conditioner to make it run and then the water pools. Now, it sounds like something should be able to be done here; and I'm not telling you this, I'm just •• I'm aghast.

I was in •• I took a walk in the female cells which absolutely stinks, the air is stagnant. And yes, of course, for the prisoners, but let's not forget that our Suffolk County PD works in that area and they have to put up with that. Buildings and grounds I know are supposed to clean but I understand on weekends they don't work, the garbage overflows. Garbage, I can't imagine garbage this summer at 95, 100 degrees, how that must have stunk and what kind of a health hazard that was. The desk area by the gun locker room, the vents are all broken, the ceilings are leaking, the vents all over this place are broken. The front desk, I see the front desk between the public and where our men work, there's no partition, there's no glass so, if someone was to come in, an angry citizen with a gun, there is trouble there. And I don't know what the standard is for that, but I need to bring it up.

The ladies, employees, the female bathrooms, there's holes in the ceilings; again, vents all over, filthy, dirty, disgusting vents, I can't imagine what's being blown in there. The door closest to where the DA's Office is, the back entrance, the door does not close all the time and automatically locks which is another hazard. The vents, all over again, downstairs, it's filthy, it's disgusting, the ceiling is missing; I can't help to think as I walk through, "Think Aboff's," because a few coats of paint is very inexpensive. These people should not have to work in these conditions. The lunch inspection room is •• this was not a hot day today, there's no air. The air•conditioning is not working efficiently, the vent in the ceiling is missing. The COPE room is leaking, it just leaked all over, there's no AC in there, there's a little unit, it doesn't work; and again, today was not a hot day.

The men's bathroom, the ceiling was falling down, there's mole all over the baseboards. And I'm not •• you know, I'm not an expert on this but mole, I know when there's mole in a home, that's dangerous.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Mold.

LEG. NOWICK:

Mole? Mold, mold; moles are bad, too.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Unless you have my cats. There is an area downstairs where I believe the asbestos is exposed, it needs to be encapsulated immediately. The men's locker room, there's an area where there's the pump sump hole and there's bugs and flies that collect in the pump sump hole, it smells, it needs to be painted, paint does not cost a lot of money. The men's shower is filthy. The weight room, that was not a bad room, there's no circulating air in there, though, I would hate to have to think I'd have to work out in there. You know, maybe a portable air•conditioner with a drain that could go through the wall, something like that. I am sure there should be something that could help these people out, yeah, a band aid but a temporary fix.

Then there's the overhang where the cars were fueled, that's closed down because the overhang they're afraid is going to fall down, so the cars don't get fuel there anymore.

These are my notes. I can't believe what I'm seeing there. I wanted this committee to be aware that the 4th Precinct is not just crying wolf. I will bring this up to Public Works. I think although this new building is not going to happen immediately, because unfortunately things don't happen immediately in the County, there needs to be a way for these people to work. We worry about smoke in the workplace, protecting the workers, these people need to be protected, too, a little bit. And I'm going to go forward with this and I just want it on the record.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Nowick, thank you very much. I did the same tour quite a number of months ago and I was under the impression that some band aids had been put in place to try to make it

possibly liveable and workable. But Inspector, perhaps you want to respond to where we're at with everything.

CHIEF MOORE:

Inspector? What did you hear?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, I'm so sorry.

CHIEF MOORE:

That's okay. First of all, I'd like to thank ••

LEG. O'LEARY:

Actually it's Captain.

CHIEF MOORE:

•• Legislator Nowick for taking the time to go down there and personally observe the conditions in the 4th Precinct. Many of the Legislators in the area had at one time or another in their capacities either as the local Legislator or as a member of this body. One instance comes to mind, Legislator Carpenter, the furniture was in such poor condition she took it upon herself to support our efforts to get a better quality of used furniture, and thank you for that.

Bear with me. Lieutenant? I have with me Lieutenant Robert Scharf, he may be able to give you an update on what's going on right now as far as correcting the conditions in the 4th and what we've done to sure it up in the interim. Are you comfortable with that?

LIEUTENANT SCHARF:

Yes.

CHIEF MOORE:

Lieutenant Robert Scharf.

LIEUTENANT SCHARF:

Good afternoon. I think everyone one here knows that with the Capital Budget that we have for next year additional planning monies and site improvement monies for the 4th Precinct with

construction money for the following year. And having been in contact with DPW reference to that, I know they have gone so far as to put out Requests For Proposals for an architectural firm to start getting a design drawn for the precinct.

But more to your question of what are we going to do in the meantime, a lot of things within the building actually have been addressed, primarily cosmetic; ceiling tiles have been replaced, there has been •• areas have been painted. Where there was wires, tripping hazards from computers, lights, fixtures, that would cause what they call Octopusus for people to trip on, have been realigned. The floors actually had been addressed but, you know, you're putting wax over 25 to 30 year old floors, it's mostly cosmetic. The larger issues, they have gone so far as to trowel broken concrete on steps, repair railing to the rear of the building that was rotting down at the foundation, things that could be done that weren't on a massive scale due to the fact they are actually going to build a new precinct. Could I ask you when you were there last, ma'am; when was it that you visited?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

This morning.

LEG. NOWICK:

This morning at 10 o'clock.

LIEUTENANT SCHARF:

This morning, okay. A lot of these things that actually ••

LEG. NOWICK:

And by the way, it was kind of a last minute visit, I just decided. I called my aide and I said, "I just want to go over there, I want to see what's going on," and that was right before this meeting.

LIEUTENANT SCHARF:

Okay.

LEG. NOWICK:

And it's dirty.

LIEUTENANT SCHARF:

Yeah. It ••

LEG. NOWICK:

It's really •• I can't believe it's so disgustingly dirty.

LIEUTENANT SCHARF:

The building needs a major renovation which cannot be done while personnel are working inside and right now there is nowhere else to put them. I understand once we move into our new precinct it will, in fact, be renovated for future government use and as you saw, it needs a major renovation. Right now they are basically band aids that are going on it. Being a Desk Sergeant there for three years up until approximately two years ago, you know, I have to agree with you that it needs a lot of work. But, you know, you can put a coat of wax on it but you can't make it a new building, it needs a major renovation and that can only be done once our personnel are out of the building and in their new building.

LEG. NOWICK:

You know, I just want you to understand, I certainly know that you can't do anything personally. I wanted the committee to be aware of what I saw today and what •• to me, I don't think •• and this is why I want to bring it up to the Department of Health and to Public Works, I don't think it costs a lot of money to clean. It's a lot of elbow grease, but when I tell you dirty, I can't imagine how you worked there for two years and how anybody else does. It's just •• you know, life isn't fair but it really isn't right. You know, we need to •• these are the people that protect us.

LIEUTENANT SCHARF:

As far as basic cleanliness that you're referring to, I agree, it shouldn't be something that anyone at any working environment has to put up with. I believe there's one custodian assigned to the building from the Department of Public Works because I know they are pretty shorthanded. You know, I'm sure that person is doing the best job that they can do.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's why I think it's up to us over here to take a leading •• a lead role here and maybe see if we can get this precinct a little more help, and I certainly appreciate your thoughts on this. It

just can't be •• I don't care that the floors are all different colors, if they're clean they're clean, it's okay. But in the interim, while we're waiting for something, I want to see that we can do something over there.

CHIEF MOORE:

Thank you again for going down.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you. Chief, once again, I know this is not something •• and you know, we don't want to kill the messenger here, we know it's something that you don't have •• maybe not even give an answer right now. This theme that we keep hearing about seems to be rather prevalent. We see it now with the 4th Precinct, we saw it a couple of years ago with the 6th Precinct. The building is allowed to deteriorate to the point where during the process of constructing a new facility that they are really on the borderline of habitability, and that's a difficult situation to put our employees in, your men who are out there doing their job.

Since we're on the subject, I have spoken to the Department of Public Works and they have told me that the repairs to the old 6th Precinct building, as was pointed out by the Lieutenant, could now commence because the building is vacant, and I understand that those repairs have commenced. I know that the Commissioner was reluctant to name any particular units for fear of speculation within the department as to who would be moving where logistically, but I would just like some sort of reassurance that those discussions are ongoing, that once these repairs are completed that a decision will be made as to what units will be housed there.

CHIEF MOORE:

Well, the building would have to be completed before the ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes, I'm handling that with the Department of Public Works. I know that's not the police department's responsibility, I'm dealing with the Department of Public Works on that, repairs

have commenced. Upon completion of the repairs and the renovation of the building, some of which for the interior work will be •• will have to be coordinated with the department for configuration in terms of future usage. So at some point the •• they're going to have to do their job first or they're going to have to make a decision first and somebody is going to have to step up and say, "This is what we're going to do with it," because they can only do so much before you make your decision and you can't move forward until they do those repairs. So once the basic repairs are completed, the building is weather•tight again •• because much like the 4th Precinct, ceiling leaks and all sorts of situations that were just, you know, unacceptable •• once those repairs are completed, again, just sort of some reassurance to me that these discussions are ongoing. I know, again, not wanting to engage in any speculation, but I know that there are other departments back there that are possibly going to be occupying a good portion of that building, but of course the Police Department as well. So again, some reassurance that these discussions are ongoing.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes, they are.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you. Thank you. And working closely with the Department of Public Works, we're offering them encouragement to complete these repairs in a timely manner. Thank you, Chief.

CHIEF MOORE:

Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator O'Leary.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Hi, Chief. I want to get back to the 4th Precinct, just a comment and an observation. This is something that's not new, this is something that's been brought to our attention over the past year. I thank Legislator Nowick for going down there this morning to do an in•person survey, spot check if you will, of the precinct. What's disturbing is not necessarily the fact that the building is old and it's falling apart, what's disturbing is what Legislator Nowick was citing was what I believe to be OSHA violations and concerns of the Department of Health. I think that that should be immediately addressed, once the health of our employees are in jeopardy

because of what's perceived to be either OSHA violations or flat out violations of Health Department guidelines and standards. That's something that should be of the utmost urgency to be addressed. So I would ask you as the Chief of the department to assist us in that endeavor and I would suggest to Legislator Nowick that she pursue immediately, through the Health Department and through OSHA, whether or not there's a situation in this precinct that is jeopardizing the health of our County employees as well as the citizens who respond to that building.

CHIEF MOORE:

That may have already been done to some degree, but I'll have to confirm that and I'll get back to you before the end of the day with a copy to Legislator Nowick, if that's okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And myself also.

CHIEF MOORE:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And I would like to suggest that you take it one step further. Because it doesn't seem to me, from what Legislator Nowick is describing and from what Lieutenant Scharf is saying, that this building has two or three years ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Left in it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

•• left in it to accommodate the needs of the residents of the 4th Precinct. And perhaps we should be looking at swing space somewhere immediately or perhaps modulars, but you've got to do something because it doesn't like we're going to be able to limp along for another couple of years. And, you know, there's just so many things you can do to expedite the process of construction, but not •• you know, you can't do it in three months or four months which sounds like that's all this building has left in it. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, just really the last word on this. But for us to talk about filing an OSHA violation or a health violation, it's our responsibility, too. I mean, we're part of the government.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah, absolutely.

LEG. LINDSAY:

The committee after this is the Public Works Committee.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

It's on my list.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I mean, I'm not on Public Works, I'm going to be here at the committee but I would hope that someone would direct Public Works to go in there and make the accommodations to make this workplace a suitable place to work.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The point is we did that.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, let's do it again.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The point is we did that and I don't know, and that's a question that has to be asked, if there's anything more that can be done absent relocating the people that are in that building while a new precinct is constructed. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

What I'm wondering •• and Legislator Lindsay, I intend to make these findings known to Public Works, to the Chairperson of Public Works hopefully to be read into the record, and also the Department of Health in Suffolk County. But maybe there's going to come a time when we're going to have to allocate money for some •• like our own home, you have to make repairs, even if you are moving out. And this place, we might have to sink some money into this just so

the people that are working there no longer have to put up with this.

LEG. LINDSAY:

If I might, let's just sponsor a resolution directing the Commissioner of Public Works to come up with an estimate of what it would take to make this building habitable for the next three years; find the money, let's allocate it, let's get it done.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

If it's possible.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Just a point to clarify to Legislator Lindsay. I wasn't suggesting that we let OSHA remedy this problem, I was suggesting and stating based on Legislator Nowick's statements, it appears to me that there's clearly OSHA violations and it's something that the Department of Health and others should be immediately involved in.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. We do have a card, Joan Jones, if you want to come forward and then we'll go right to the agenda.

MS. JONES:

My name is Joan A. Jones. I came here this morning ••

LEG. O'LEARY:

Excuse me. Can you speak more into the mike so we can hear you?

Thank you.

MS. JONES:

My name is Joan A. Jones. Can you hear me now?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yes.

MS. JONES:

The reason I took the time to make sure that the A was put in is because I want you to know that I'm an individual who is here. I'm here and I was listening to the things that were being shared during the time of the recidivism presentation and for me personally, I had wanted to •• even though there wasn't a public time to speak, I wanted to be able to speak about it before this lovely assembly, and the reason for that is because it is a major, major problem here in Suffolk County. The fact that individuals, after going into prison •• excuse me, going into, quote/unquote, since we're Suffolk County, into jail, they come in and unfortunately within a very short period of time they're back in again and there's, quote/unquote, a cycle of recidivism. That cycle unfortunately ends up where they're no longer housed in our local jails but they end up being housed in our State prisons. And to stop the system in any way, be it a program like the one that was being shared today, I would really and truly want us to really be mindful that if it's one person that comes away changed, then it's worth it all.

Right now I know that we've just heard about X amount of people that have been touched and impacted and we salute and we reward that. But the mindset that we have to have is now that we have all of these gangs going after young people, the need for our jails getting bigger is not just because there's no place to put people, but we've got people being attacked by a system of crime that's trying to bring our young people in before they even get out of school, before they even get a high school diploma and/or an opportunity to get a GED.

The reason I'm taking the time to share this is because I'm really and truly concerned. There's a program that I currently am involved with and we work with people that are involved with recidivism, people that have been in prison and they come out and they're currently now in an 18 month program. And prior to my working with this agency, I didn't know what the whole system was about. Quote/unquote, I've had family members that have gone to jail, but even having a family member that might have gone to jail still doesn't make you see the bigger picture because, once again, it was an individual. But now seeing this is affecting my whole County, affecting the townships, affecting their organizations that are now impacted by what happens, crime affects everyone from a house to a home to a business. And I'm taking the time, your time, and I thank you for giving me this time, just to let you know that the last thing I want you to walk away remembering is that recidivism can be stopped only if we invest in the people who are at the most vulnerable time of their lives, those that have just started in the criminal process. Once they become, quote/unquote, hardened, it's a lot harder.

So if we can work something that works in our jails, then possibly we would be able to avoid

having them end up in our State prisons. Thank you very much.

VICE•CHAIR O'LEARY:

Thank you, Ms. Jones. Is there anyone else who wishes to address the committee before we go to the agenda? Okay, we'll move to the agenda.

Tabled Resolutions

1720•05 • Reappointing Dennis Magerle as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board (Cooper). Is Mr. Magerle here?

MR. MAGERLE:

Good afternoon.

VICE•CHAIR O'LEARY:

Good afternoon.

MR. MAGERLE:

How can I ••

VICE•CHAIR O'LEARY:

This is a reappointment.

MR. MAGERLE:

Yes, it is. This is the second reappointment.

VICE•CHAIR O'LEARY:

We appreciate your coming down. Obviously you want to continue your services with the Suffolk County Vocational, Education & Extension Board, correct?

MR. MAGERLE:

I most definitely do.

VICE•CHAIR O'LEARY:

Good. Are there any questions of the committee to Mr. Magerle?

LEG. BISHOP:

We'll ask him •• since he waited, we'll ask him the basic question. Why do you want to continue to serve? And then the other question that we always have is about attendance; have you been attending the meetings regularly?

MR. MAGERLE:

Yes. Well, let me answer the first one first. I've been an educator for 40 years, I recently retired, less no tie, and I was involved in continuing education •• which seems like this was my day to come to a meeting, obviously •• for about 30 of those 40 years. I got on the board about 20 years ago with the intention of helping the fire service wherever I could with my educational expertise. It's been a very enlightening experience, we do educate 13,000 firemen in this County and it's an extremely important job. And the board, as you know, is made up of educators, farmers and firemen and I've got one of the educator slots. I've always taken continuing education very seriously and I think the role of the fire academy is tantamount to our basic protection in this County.

LEG. BISHOP:

And you've been attending the meetings?

MR. MAGERLE:

And I have been attending meetings, yes.

LEG. BISHOP:

Great.

MR. MAGERLE:

I apologize for not making last month's meeting because I had a family affair in Montana.

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion to approve.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, thank you. Thank you for coming down today and thank you for your many years of service to Suffolk County and your willingness to go on into the future. And we do have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? **Approved unanimously (VOTE: 6•0•0 •2 not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo).** Congratulations and thank you.

MR. MAGERLE:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

IR 1792•05 • Creating an Unlicensed Driver Task Force to protect Suffolk County citizens (Alden). Is there a motion?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is •• Legislator Lindsay?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I was just going to say, it looked like we had some comments on this bill.

LEG. BISHOP:

Yeah, explanation.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yeah, just if we can. John Desmond is here from Probation, he just wanted to comment on this bill because it may be duplicative to a task force that's already in place.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Go right ahead.

LEG. BISHOP:

You can't have too many task forces.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We have too many or we can't have too many?

LEG. BISHOP:

You can't have too many, we're government.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Can't have too many. Go ahead. With that in mind, now you can comment.

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council created a 511 subcommittee out of systems analyst a couple of months ago and has already begun meeting with Roger _Ueuganin_ from the Court System as the Chairperson. They're already doing fact•finding, building a demographic, they've gotten statistics from State Motor Vehicle. So I don't know if that is germane to your intent, but you could either fold what we're doing into your task force or we could •• you can wait on this and we could give you a report when we complete.

The only other thing that I want to mention on this is I think back in '04 there was another 511 task force organized by the •• originated by the Legislature that I don't think ever met.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, perhaps that was what the sponsor's thinking was to try to bring the issue forward again, but it sounds like the work that th subcommittee is doing would be very helpful with this task force.

LEG. BISHOP:

You want to table it so they can communicate and figure out after ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, I know that there was some correspondence with the sponsor. We did table this at the last committee meeting and there really wasn't any discussion about it and the sponsor did want to move it. So perhaps we will do that, move it, and if you have anything you can speak with him before Tuesday.

MR. ZWIRN:

And we can always discuss it at the General Meeting.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, very good.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So we have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? ***It is approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo).***

1868•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law to protect Suffolk residents by permitting the seizure of vehicles engaged in unlawful speed contests or races (Cooper).

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion to table, and we have a second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislators Caracciolo & Mystal).***

IR 1929•05 • Creating a Suffolk County Stop DWI Deaths Task Force (Viloria•Fisher).

LEG. BISHOP:

That's for a hearing we're tabling that?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Do you have an amended copy of this?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Pardon me? 1929, I know that there was some concern about the fact that we do have a DWI Task Force within the County Executive's Office on this particular matter and they were very, very concerned that they had not been consulted. And I don't know if the sponsor has spoken with them or not yet, but ••

MR. ZWIRN:

I think the sponsor has reached out and I think has filed a corrected copy, including one of the members I think to be on the task force. Again, it's a task force that, you know, may be duplicative because that's what the Stop DWI Program does.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I mean, other than what ••

MR. ZWIRN:

The good news is that DWI's are down County•wide.

LEG. BISHOP:

Because we've been tasking it with force.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, when you say duplicative, it's a little bit different from what John was saying about the other task force because in this instance, we have a paid Director and staff working on, you know, stop DWI, working with grants and everything. So what is your pleasure?

LEG. O'LEARY:

The question I have, Madam Chair, is does the amended version address the issue of auto dealerships involved in this task force?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, that was the question.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes, I believe it did.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Did it? I don't have a corrected copy.

MS. KNAPP:

No, the sponsor in ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I didn't see the corrected copy either.

MS. KNAPP:

The sponsor incorporated the language suggested by Legislator Losquadro at the last meeting and she took out the automobile dealer and put in I believe it's a mechanic who's certified under ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Certain qualifications.

MS. KNAPP:

And added a representative of Stop DWI.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And the only other question I have, is this not duplicative? I mean, we have a Stop DWI Task Force and I just sense that this is duplicative and I would ask my motion to table be addressed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right. We have a motion to table and a second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The Resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo).***

Introductory Resolutions

1944•05 • Authorizing the release of contingency funds for continuation of County Policy utilizing Deputy Sheriffs for prisoner transportation and detention at Cohalan Court Complex (Option I) (County Executive).

LEG. O'LEARY:

I have 1930 of which I'm a sponsor.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, I'm so sorry.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

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

LEG. O'LEARY:

I'm going to ask to table this. I'm awaiting the efficacy of a GPS report that's expected in October from Probation Department.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, we have a motion and I'll second that tabling motion. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo).***

IR 1944 and also 1954, these are dealing with the contingency funds for the Deputy Sheriffs and the Correction Officers detail at the Cohalan Court Complex. And I had communication from Counsel and I'd ask her to put it on the record as far as us addressing either of these resolutions; Counsel, if you would.

MS. KNAPP:

I understand that there is a lawsuit basically on the same subject matter brought by the Deputy Sheriffs against the Sheriff's Office.

LEG. BISHOP:

Not on the release of the contingency.

MS. KNAPP:

I have not seen papers. I e•mailed the County Attorney before the last meeting and at the time she had not seen the papers either, I believe it was with outside Counsel. You know, the committee may want to get more information about it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Because of the lawsuit. Okay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Table it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah, I think so.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yeah, motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

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

LEG. BISHOP:

I'm opposed and I'll just briefly say ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We'll note the opposition.

LEG. BISHOP:

•• in three sentences that I think the Legislature should determine and provide policy guidance here and not seek to avoid it which is what I think is occurring. Clearly, the Sheriff unilaterally

transferred a significant portion of his staff, reassigned them, it has implications and we should either endorse it or reject it and not avoid it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, we have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor? Opposed? Note the one opposition. ***Tabled (VOTE: 5•1•0•2 Opposed: Legislator Bishop • Not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo).***

I'll skip ahead to ***1954•05 • Authorizing the release of contingency funds for continuation of County Policy utilizing Deputy Sheriffs/Correction Officers for prisoner transportation and detention at Cohalan Court Complex (Option II) (County Executive).***

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Same motion, same second, I presume same vote.

LEG. BISHOP:

Same statement.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, and the statement is duly noted. ***Tabled (VOTE: 5•1•0•2 Opposed: Legislator Bishop • Not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo).***

Okay, that takes us to ***1948•05 • Adopting Local Law No. 2005, a Local Law strengthening the procedures and remedies of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (Mystal).***

LEG. O'LEARY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We have a motion to table pending the public hearing.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Motion to approve.

LEG. O'LEARY:

There's a public hearing scheduled.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Oh, okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So we have a motion to table by Legislator O'Leary, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo).***

1980•05 • Appropriating funds in connection with Police Headquarters Operations Center renovations (CP 3231)(County Executive). I'll make that motion.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed? ***It is approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo).***

1994•05 • To enact "Alec's Law" to help protect Suffolk County Children from SUV accidents (Alden).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Explanation. Is this just a web page?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Counsel, if you would?

MS. KNAPP:

It is a web page, but there's also I believe two other portions of it. One would require Consumer Affairs to distribute to new car dealers an information brochure that they obtain from an organization that publishes this pamphlet, and the other is to compile a list of e-mail addresses of new car dealers so the groups that are involved with this can develop an e-mail list and correspond with the dealers.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I have a question. Counsel, is there such a law as Alec's Law and if so, what's the genesis of it and is it a State law and do we have a copy of it for perusal?

LEG. BISHOP:

(Inaudible).

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yeah, I assume that, but is there actually a law on the books with respect to this?

MS. KNAPP:

This would be it.

LEG. BISHOP:

This is Alec's Law.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Oh, this is, so we're establishing the law.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Uh-huh.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right. Would that not •• if we're creating a Local Law then, would that not require a public hearing?

MS. KNAPP:

While the word Alec's Law is ••

LEG. BISHOP:

It's not Alec's Local Law.

MS. KNAPP:

The Resolution might be more accurate to the extent that the establishment of a web page and the direction to the Consumer Affairs Director is not ordinarily done by Local Law, we usually do these by resolution.

LEG. O'LEARY:

So then ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

It's Alec's resolution.

LEG. O'LEARY:

It's Alec's resolution, not Alec's Law.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay, all right.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Do we have a motion?

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion to approve.

LEG. BISHOP:

Motion, I'll make it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion by Legislator Bishop, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo).***

1995•05 • Amending the 2005 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of Medevac equipped helicopter (CP 3117.514). I will make that motion.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Second by Legislator O'Leary. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Maybe from the sponsor an explanation.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Sure.

LEG. LINDSAY:

We just bought two in the '06.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, here's what we did, here's what we did. We did approve the purchase of two in '06, and in the interim the two MD•902's were down at one point, one was able to be repaired, one was down for inspection, and it just seems like the history of these two ships has not been all that reliable.

LEG. NOWICK:

Cosponsor.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Cosponsor.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We had made the decision in the Capital Program to replace the two Medevacs with two new Medevacs trading in the two MD•902's. I had spoken with the Director of the Aviation Unit, at one point we were like hours away from having only one helicopter up, the east end service was down for a time. So I contacted Budget Review to see if there was any way, because it is such a huge amount of money, to see if there was an offset. They did say that this particular project that was slated to be done in 2005, the Sewer District improvements, is not going to be done this year but rather next year, so I thought we would use that as the offset, then in January the money from the helicopters would be available for the sewer district improvements. But because of the time it takes for the process of securing the helicopters, if we started it now we would be assured of having both of those helicopters in place for the summer season next year to adequately protect the residents not only of the east end but of Suffolk County. Does that answer your question?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Not totally. You're not expanding the helicopter fleet by another helicopter.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, no, no, no, no, not at all, it is just expediting it.

LEG. LINDSAY:

So it's still going to be two A•Stars and two Medevacs.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Exactly.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And why •• aren't the A•Stars brand new; why were they down?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Because they have to come down for routine maintenance.

LEG. LINDSAY:

But we were down to one helicopter?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We were down to one helicopter because the two MD•902's were down and the A•Star had to come down for routine maintenance. That's why you can't just have three helicopters when you're trying to maintain a base on the east end and the west end.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I fully understand that. It's just that, you know, these aren't nickel and dime ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, I know.

LEG. LINDSAY:

You know, they're five and a half million dollar items.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Exactly. But with FAA regulations and requirements and with the two Medevacs that we will be purchasing, they will not have to come down as frequently as the MD•902's do. Yes, Ben?

MR. ZWIRN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I think, Madam Chair, you have convinced everybody that four helicopters are needed for Suffolk County, I think everybody is on the same page. I think that the money has been put in for 2006 and because the process does take a long time and the County Executive's Office, Budget Office agrees that this money is available, this is a suitable offset for this project. The County Executive would just say could we wait til 2006 because because this project will not be used, that they were looking at this money to commence the expansion of the jail in 2006 as an offset and that money had already been budgeted for the two additional helicopters in the 2006 Capital Budget.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

But the monies that we are transferring here, using as an offset here in 2005, will be available in 2006, and certainly between now and January 1st, the jail is not going to be commenced.

MR. ZWIRN:

Well ••

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So there's no need for that offset right now and that offset will be, those dollars will be available after January. It's true, trust me.

MR. ZWIRN:

I do trust you, but that doesn't mean we agree.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

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

The Resolution is passed, unanimously (VOTE: 6•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Mystal & Caracciolo). Thank you.

Anyone else need to address the committee? Hearing none, we are adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 P.M.*)

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

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