

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 January 10, 2006.

Members Present:

Legislator Jack Eddington • Chairman
Legislator Kate Browning • Vice•Chair
Legislator Wayne Horsley
Legislator Vivian Vilorio•Fisher
Legislator Thomas Barraga
Legislator Daniel Losquadro
Legislator Jay Schneiderman

Also In Attendance:

Presiding Officer Bill Lindsay • Legislator/District #8
Legislator Ricardo Montano • District #9
Legislator Edward Romaine • District #1
George Nolan • Counsel to the Legislature
Ian Barry • Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Tim Laube • Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Richard Baker • Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Rob Calarco • Aide to Legislator Eddington
Meaghan • Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Michael Cavanagh • Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Rob Calarco • Aide to Legislator Eddington

Paul Perillie • Aide to Majority Caucus
Linda Bay • Aide to Minority Caucus
Lora Gellerstein • Aide to Legislator Cooper
Carl Yellon • Aide to Legislator Kennedy
Glenn Pichardo • Aide to Legislator Browning
Frank Tassone • Aide to Legislator Losquadro
Seth Squicciarino • Aide to DPO Vilorio • Fisher
Jim Maggio • Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Jill Moss • Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn • Assistant County Executive
Brian Beedenbender • County Executive Assistant
James Dahroug • County Executive Assistant
Jacqueline Caputi • Assistant County Attorney
Alan Otto • Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Richard Dormer • Commissioner/Suffolk County Police
Department
Robert Moore • Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police
Department
Aristedes Mojica • Inspector/Suffolk County Police Department
Ed Webber • Chief of Patrol/Suffolk County Police Department
John McElhone • Chief of Support Services/Suffolk County Police
Dept
Kenneth Rau • Chief of Detectives/Suffolk County Police
Department
Joe Williams • Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Brad Maier • Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency
Services
John Desmond • Director/Suffolk County Probation Department
Tom Henry • Assistant to the Director/SC Probation Department
Tom Muratore • Vice President/Police Benevolent Association
Tom Tatarian • Recording Secretary/Police Benevolent
Association
Mike Sharkey • President/Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent
Assoc.
Matt Mullens • Vice President/Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent
Assoc.
Pete Smith • President/Suffolk County Detective's Association

Bill Plant • 2nd Vice•President/Suffolk County Detective's Association

Danny DelValle • Vice•President/Probation Officer's Association

Hope Collazo • Director/Community Service Program•American Red Cross

Debbie Eppel • Public Information Office

Maria Perez•Lent • STOP DWI Coordinator

Douglas Death • Chair/Traffic Safety Board

Daniel Carrigan • Nominee/SC Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Comm.

Joseph Bibiglia • Nominee/SC Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Comm.

Kelly Platt • Resident of Center Moriches

Sandy Sullivan • Legislative Director/AME

All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 11:39 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I would like to call to order the Public Safety and Information Committee and I'd like to have Legislator Wayne Horsley start us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Salutation

Thank you. The first thing I have on my agenda for today is a presentation from Commissioner Richard Dormer, Suffolk County Police Department. I wonder if you could come forward.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. You can hear me?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

And Happy New Year to everybody; I hope it's a healthy and safe new year. We were very happy to be invited here this morning. And as we had mentioned in our private conversation, you wanted a comprehensive update or review of the Police Department and public safety in the Police District. As you know, we're only one of 25 police departments that serve the people of Suffolk County. We are the largest in Suffolk County and we do patrol with the largest population.

If I may, with your indulgence, I would like to mention that we have four of our sworn officers and one civilian servant in Iraq as we speak and we ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this time. And of course our best wishes to all our military, we hope they all return safely.

I should also mention that we have initiated something new in Suffolk County last year where unfortunately, if we have one of our heroes fall in combat, we welcome them back in to Suffolk County with an Honor Guard at the County line. The family is extended the Police Department resources for escorts, for traffic, and also for a detail at the wake if the military is unable to participate. We feel that this is the least we can do for our people that are serving honorably in far off places. I just wanted to mention that to the Public Safety Committee, because I think it's very important.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Commissioner, may I ask a quick question? Would you notify us when that occurs?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Use the microphone, please.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Horsley.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Use the mike.

LEG. HORSLEY:

May I just ask, would you be able to notify the Legislators when that occurs so that we can join?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes, we can put you on the list, we'll make sure that that's done.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

In January of 2004, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy appointed me as the Police Commissioner. I had thirty years in the Police Department, Suffolk County Police Department, I knew it was one of the best police departments anywhere, but I also knew that we could make it better.

During the first year of our administration, we established two simple but ambitious goals; enhance our relationship with communities we serve and allocate our personnel to maximize crime reduction. Our primary mission was to make Suffolk County a safer place to live, work and visit. Under our new and innovative management team, which I will introduce in a moment, the department has been reorganized to improve the quality of life for all our citizens. We have challenged all our officers of every rank to work harder and smarter. These dedicated men and women have answered the call and our hard work has resulted in a much safer County over the past 24 months.

At this time, if I may, Mr. Chair, I'd like to introduce my top staff to the new members of the Public Safety Committee. I have Deputy Commissioner Roger Shannon, a 30 year veteran of the

Police Department who came back in with me when the County Executive nominated me; Roger? Thank you. I have to my right the Chief of the Department, the four star Chief, Robert Anthony Moore; again, over 30 years in the police business of Suffolk County and we're very privileged to have somebody of that caliber as my right-hand person, so to speak. Chief Moore?

I have the three division Chiefs. The Chief of the Detectives, the Detective Division, Kenny Rau, also a 30 year veteran of the Police Department; Kenny? Chief of Patrol, Ed Webber, again, 30 years in the police business; Ed? And Chief John McElhone, again, 30 years plus in the Police business; John? I don't know if they're that happy that I mentioned they all have 30 years.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Over 150 years we got here.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I know, if you count all this stuff up. Of course, I only had about five years; I'm just kidding. But I thank you for allowing me to introduce the top staff.

And by the way, when we talk about the accomplishments over the last two years, it couldn't have been accomplished without all the men and women of the Police Department of every rank, pulling together to make this County the safest County in the United States. And we're very proud of our people and I just wanted to get that on the record.

There were a number of enhancements and initiatives that we instituted since we came on board in January, 2004, and I'll go through them quickly, if I may. Identity Theft Unit was created in the Detective Division. We recognized that identity theft was a crime that impacted citizens throughout our communities and it was a very devastating type of crime. We have a special unit that concentrates on identity theft and one of the main goals, besides apprehending the bad guy, is to make the person, the

victim, whole, to deal the financial institutions, credit bureaus, which is really something that wasn't done before in the police business. We now, as one of our missions with that unit, is to make the people whole.

We created a Major Crimes Unit in the Detective Division to concentrate on serious felony crimes, chronic, heavy duty felonies such as bank robbery.

We created a Schools Resource Officer Program where an officer in uniform is targeted with three schools in a precinct and visits the schools on a daily basis, interacts with the principal, guidance, teachers, security, and actually interacts with the students. We think that this was very necessary to reduce disorder and violence in the schools and as an adjunct to the teachers who need police presence in the schools at certain times during the day.

The 7th Precinct. When we came on board in 2004, the 7th Precinct was not fully staffed. We created a new sector car in the 7th Precinct, we added 25 new police officers from the graduating class, one Deputy Inspector was added to the precinct and we now have prisoner booking in the precinct which saves patrol down time.

We created a Field Audit Unit which monitors sick and injured officers to speed up their recovery and to concentrate on issues of workmen's comp. We have recovered during that time period, from January till now, over 4,000 eight•hour tours; these are eight•hours tours. And I should mention, in just one year, 2004, a tremendous return on investment for a unit that only has four sworn officers.

We redeployed officers from behind desks and put them on the street doing the job that they were hired to do. We increased foot posts and sector car coverage on the summer months by

redeploying officers from our training bureau, by cancelling firearms training during the summer for our patrol officers and now doing the training in the winter months in the fall and the spring and we increased foot post tremendously and extra officers on the streets during the summer when we need them.

(* Legislator Montano entered the meeting at 11:50 A.M. *)

Detectives in the Detective Division are trained to process juveniles. Years ago, a few years ago they dismantled the Juvenile Aid Bureau and juveniles did not get any special attention; we felt that this was an area that had to be addressed. The Detective Division trained Detectives, they now process juveniles and they work very closely with the Family Court.

We created a Homeland Security Bureau and assigned a Chief as Commanding Officer. Homeland Security is a very important item and a very important issue for public safety. And I should mention that we're going to extend an invitation to the Public Safety Committee to get briefed on Homeland Security and our preparedness in Suffolk County, and that briefing will be done in private and confidentially because of the issues involved. And Mr. Chair, that will be coming in the new next few weeks ••

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

•• at your convenience.

We retrained all Headquarters and Support Unit officers in patrol procedures; these are people that work out of Headquarters and in special units. Some of them hadn't been on the street for years.

We redeployed them to the streets for training and there was two reasons for this; if we do have a disaster, a major disaster

or a terrorism attack, these officers will have to respond on the streets, they need to be retrained; we did that. They were redeployed to street patrol for a total of 2,630 hours for these support officers. Again, our motto is that everybody is in the business, it doesn't matter where you work. You may have to, at a moment's notice, respond to an emergency.

We created a new work schedule for patrol officers in the precincts. Prior to 2004 they worked 8•4 and 4•12. We found out when we analyzed our call for services that a lot of calls were being held over in the morning because they were a low priority, because they •• we didn't want to pay officers overtime. By moving the officer's tours of duty to 7•3 and 3•11, we eliminated most of the held over calls in the morning, because when people get up and find an incident or damage to property, they were calling in and having to wait sometimes for an hour for a patrol officer to respond when they have to get about their business. We have cut that down dramatically; the last time we looked it was down from pre 2004, 50 calls held over to one or two; very dramatic. And again, this is customer service at its best and community policing at its best.

We increased the Gang Unit, Gang Units in the western part of the County, that was the 2nd Precinct, 1st Precinct and 3rd Precinct. And then we created a new East End Gang Unit for the 5th, 6th and 7th Precinct, it's been in operation for over a year; very effective. And also, these gang unit personnel lecture in the schools and at civic associations and community groups on gang awareness; a very, very important issue today.

The command staff •• that's Precinct Commanders, Bureau Commanders and Chiefs •• now attend monthly training sessions on risk management, sexual harassment, racial profiling and other pertinent issues that occur in the police business.

We have increased the number of K•9 units by over a third. K•9 is a safety, an officer safety and a public safety issue. We've

created four new teams of K•9 to enhance, again, as I mentioned, officer safety and they're going to be •• with the cooperation of the PBA, we have been able to put in a schedule that gives us 24/7 coverage, we don't have gaps in our coverage for K•9; very, very important.

Again, this was something that we thought was important and we wanted to send a message to everybody in the Police Department, and we issued summonses to every rank in the Police Department, not just police officers as prior administrations, but the Chief of the Department, Bob Moore, and everybody under him have summonses, and some of the Chiefs have written summonses. I know Chief Rau is in the audience here, he has written summonses; he hasn't done it for 30 years, he had to learn how to do it, but he did it. We think that this is very important. It's a message we want to send to our officers and our staff that we want to reduce auto crashes in Suffolk County. In the last five years, 866 of our citizens have died on the roadways of Suffolk County; 866. Thirty thousand people have been injured in that five year period. We have the dubious distinction of being number one in fatalities in New York State; we would like to change that.

We changed a 40 year policy in the Police Department on issuing summonses at crash sites or accident sites; by the way, the term that's used in the business now is crash site. Prior to 2004, an officer responding to a crash could not issue a summons, even though there was reasonable grounds to believe that the person committed the violation. We changed that policy. Now officers can issue summonses, and are doing so, for violations that they can reasonably believe were committed based on evidence and based on statements from witnesses. Again, this is a very important issue in reducing the carnage on our highways.

We implemented a selection process for Detective, plain clothes officers and COPE officers. They now have to go through a

selection process and they get these assignments based on their work record, their work ethic, their past performance. Input from supervisors and commanders are the principal part of this process. With the County Executive's approval, special drug teams were formed in the summer of 2004 to address street drug activity in Suffolk County. There were a 174 arrests in Huntington Station in a three week period and over 40 arrests in Gordon Heights in 2004 in the same time period, very short time. These communities were crying out for police response to quality of life issues; we responded.

We created an Asset Forfeiture Unit in the Detective Division to concentrate on major criminals and their ill•gotten gains. This unit works very closely with the District Attorney's Office; very successful. Under State law and Federal law, certain criminals, their assets can be seized and it comes back in to the County and the State for law enforcement purposes.

When we came on board, the bosses in the precinct, that was the Inspector, the Deputy Inspector and the Captain, were working Monday to Friday, 9•5; we changed that, they're now working nights, they work days and nights and they work weekends. The police business, as we know, is a 24/7 operation, a lot of things happen on the night tours, a lot of things happen on the weekends, we wanted the bosses working on the weekends and at night.

Our COPE Officers, which everybody •• I know it's very close to everybody's heart •• received POP training, Problem Oriented Police training, and this is a process where they identify problems and come up with solutions to the problem. Rather than just responding over and over again to the same problem, there may be a solution to that problem. They received that training in the police academy, made them more effective.

We issued a Racial Profiling Directive, the first time in Suffolk County that clearly prohibited enforcement based on solely on

race or ethnic background. We appointed the Reverend Dr. Beresford Adams as a Special Assistant to the Police Commissioner, a highly respected minister and leader in the NAACP community. Dr. Adams has the ability to contact anybody in the Police Department, reference any issue, look at reports, look at investigations and now respond back to the community with answers. He has credibility in the community and credibility in the Police Department. We're very, very happy that Dr. Adams accepted this appointment.

We initiated a closer working relationship with the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission. We now share information with the Human Rights Commission on our procedures and other issues of mutual concern. For example, on our disciplinary procedures, they get our quarterly report on discipline, they are briefed on discipline. When they send an issue up to the Police Department, we respond very quickly to their concerns. So we have increased the cooperation and relationship with Human Rights, we think that that's also very important for our communities.

We instituted a COMSTAT process. New York City was the first police, major Police Department to have a COMSTAT procedure. We call it something a little different, but it's the same process and it better directs our officers to hot spots to better utilize our resources and to work more efficiently. Data is collected on a very timely basis in the Police business now, crime data, disorder data, and it's analyzed at the precinct level and Commanders respond to this data or the hot spots or the issues. Once a month the Commanders have to come to Headquarters and brief the Headquarters staff on the hot spot issues, crimes in their precincts and what they're doing about it. We have all the other Commanders that sit in on this and they listen to the issues that are going on in the other command, they may pick up some information and ideas on how to best combat crime and disorder.

In Highway Patrol we introduced a Homeland Security Unit. This is the Motor Carrier Safety Unit, you may see them on the highway with trucks pulled over. We have increased their training, their equipment, they now have biological sensors, they have K•9 assigned to them for explosives and narcotics, never done before, we're the first Police Department in the eastern seaboard that has done this. So when you see the highway officers pulling people over, the trucks over at the rest you, may see a K•9 unit checking the vehicles, they're trained to sniff the narcotics and explosives. We work very closely with the State Police, that's something else we initiated, and Nassau County. We combine forces when we do the truck stops and this increases effectiveness of a small unit.

In 2004 and 2005, we enforced very heavily laws concerning underground, illegal activity, concentrating on bootleg gasoline, bootleg cigarettes and unlicensed businesses and contractors. This has been very effective, it was never done before in Suffolk County. And in fact, it's being emulated throughout the metropolitan area by other police departments now who are now enforcing the licensing laws relative to these issues.

I should mention that the cigarette bootlegging, very lucrative business because of the taxes involved with cigarettes. In New York City it's \$3 a pack tax, and there's information or something I read lately that we may be going to \$3 a pack tax throughout the State, right now it's \$1.50 in Suffolk County. And so people try to avoid the taxes on their cigarettes. The District Attorney, Tom Spota, has worked very closely with us on these initiatives as well as Consumer Affairs from the County. We have issued 154 summonses for violations of these laws.

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy initiated a written Mutual Response Agreement with Nassau County for mutual assistance with rescue helicopters, the first time that this was ever done. If we have an issue where helicopters are down for repairs or for whatever reason, we can call on Nassau County, they can call on

us, and it's a written agreement which covers liability and issues of that nature.

With the help of the County Executive, our relationship with Immigration Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, has improved dramatically. When we came on board in 2004, our relationship with ICE was sporadic, it was really almost zero. Since the County Executive got involved in that initiative, we are now •• we have now enhanced our ability to keep dangerous felons off our streets and sexual predators out of our communities. These people can now be deported when they are processed through the court system and served their sentences. In 2004 we reduced index crimes which is felony crimes, violent crimes and property crimes by 9.2%, three times the State average. We've reduced felony crime in Huntington by 20.7 in the year 2004 by concentrating on the hot spots with task force concept. In 2004 we reduced crime in Huntington Station by 40%; again, utilizing the task force concept. Shootings went from, a in six month period, 30 to zero in the next six months.

One of the efficiency initiatives that we did when we came on board, we redeployed 137 take-home cars from police personnel and put them back in car pools for a savings of \$513,000. We reduced the ranks in the Police Department, we eliminated one Inspector's position and 10 Detective positions.

We issued a General Order that mandated that officers wear their protective vests. Prior to 2004, officers were issued vests, paid for by the taxpayers, but were never required to wear them while they were on duty; it didn't make sense. We made it mandatory that when they're on patrol they have the protective vest on; I can tell you it saves lives, it saves officers from injury. It was the right thing to do. We •• as I mentioned earlier, we issued a Racial Profiling Directive, so bias-based policing is not part of our operations.

In 2005 we implemented a policy on approaching and dealing

with people with disabilities who become crime victims. We never had this before. People who have disabilities need special attention and special care as a crime victim; we responded to that, officers have received training in that.

We implemented the use of a name tag or a name plate for patrol officers. If you see officers now on the streets of Suffolk County, you will see them with their names prominently displayed on their uniform. Again, we believe that this is •• in this day and age, it's community policing at its best, we think, again, it was the right thing to do. Initially there were some officers that didn't think it was a good thing, but I can tell you overall it's been accepted, it's part of the business now and we have no issues with it.

We created a Recruitment and Community Outreach Bureau, this is a special bureau and it creates a gateway for community entities to interact with the Police Department for the purpose of accomplishing common goals. It's akin to the Community Relations Unit of years ago. We reach out to all communities and we have a special bureau tasked with that process.

Minority Recruitment Initiative; again, this was something new. When I came back after being out 11 years from the Police Department, I came back in and the complexion of the police service had not changed, nothing had changed in 11 years. We've been under a Consent Decree for 19 years, about 20 years now, and the recruitment efforts that the department and the County engaged in met the standards required by the Consent decree, but for some reason it just wasn't working. We've intensified recruitment efforts, we train now community leaders to participate in recruitment efforts, they have to know how to recruit. We involve the Suffolk Guardians which is the African•American Police Officers in our department, we surveyed them to find out why they became officers. What would they suggest that we do to get more minority officers, especially African•American and Hispanic officers taking the test? The

Police Hispanic Society obviously helped us, they're a part of this process, they are helping us now with this recruitment effort. The leaders from the NAACP and the Urban League have been contacted and they now are on board with recruitment. We think that with this kind of focus and this kind of initiative, we can get larger numbers of minorities taking the test in 2007 and we believe that we will see more candidates in the Police Academy, recruits in the Police Academy if we can increase numbers taking the test. It becomes a numbers game, and we think that we can do it with this initiative.

A school summit. Two months ago we met with •• I'm trying to remember the number, Chief; do you remember the number? It was 250.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Two hundred and fifty school administrators and principals at the Police Academy to form a partnership to reduce violence and gang activity in their schools. We wanted to sit down with the professionals that do the teaching and the education in Suffolk County and offer our services to them. What can we do to help you to keep the environment in your schools safe for the students so the parents don't have to worry about sending their kids to school; it was very productive. We're still moving forward on that initiative and it's tied in with the School Resource Officer Program, with the DARE Program, with the anti •gang initiatives that we have initiated with the schools.

In the 2006 Operating Budget, County Executive Steve Levy has included \$50,000 for a Marshal Arts Program; this is a pilot program for an after schools marshal arts program to reduce gang violence. We did •• the PAL unit did this in the Longwood School District and is doing something like this in Central Islip and William Floyd, it was very, very successful in Longwood. We

want to see how this works and we're going to see if we can reduce the recruitment of our youngsters in to gangs.

During 2005, the department was accredited. We became largest municipal police agency in New York State to become accredited. Some people have asked me, "Well, why should we bother becoming accredited?" And I always ask them the question, "Would you want your child to go to an unaccredited college or university, or would you want to be a patient in an unaccredited hospital?" Of course they say no. So why would you want to be policed by an unaccredited police agency? This Police Department, Suffolk County Police Department, meets or exceeds the general expectations of quality in law enforcement. 130 standards must be met or exceeded in areas such as administration, fiscal management, recruitment, discipline, use of force, internal affairs, public relations, training and operational standards; a very comprehensive review of our procedures. We came through with flying colors, in five years we go back for reaccreditation; I'm very confident that we won't have any issues with it.

Eight hundred officers and supervisors have been trained by the Department of Mental Health in dealing with individuals who are mentally ill on the streets of Suffolk County. Eight hundred officers and supervisors. These are patrol officers and they deal with emotionally disturbed people on a daily basis, they needed this special training from the professionals, we gave it to them.

Training initiatives included for all our managers, ethics, risk management and labor management. And I should mention, too, that in 2005 we reached out to the four major unions that the Police Department deals with •• that's the civilian AME union, the SOA, the Superior Officers, the Detective's Association and the PBA •• and we are meeting with all the unions that I just mentioned to discuss labor management issues and to deal with issues of concerns before they become a grievance or before they become a hot button issue. We think it's the right thing to

do and I thank the four unions for accepting the offer to sit down and discuss issues.

We implemented a TrafficStat Program, and this is just like COMSTAT but it's for traffic. COMSTAT deals with crime, TrafficStat deals with traffic. In order to locate crash-prone locations, analyze and determine contributory factors, develop effective remedies and conduct a public information and education campaign, Commanders now concentrate on where the crashes are occurring, concentrate on what's causing the crashes and now on a monthly basis have to come to Headquarters again and tell the command staff what they're doing to reduce injuries and deaths on the highways of Suffolk County.

As part of that TrafficStat initiative, we require quality over quantity. We want officers to issue summonses that have a bearing on the crashes, not just to give out a piece of paper to keep their Sergeant happy, to keep the boss off their back, we want it to have meaning. And that process is working as we speak. And as you know, it takes a while to get things turned around, but I can tell you that the officers and supervisors are responding very favorably to this program.

We conducted in 2005 numerous terrorism drills and exercises involving all levels of law enforcement and emergency responders within the region, that's from the New York, Metropolitan area from the Suffolk County area, everybody involved in these drills, from New York City, Nassau County, Westchester, MTA and all our village and town police departments in Suffolk County, Along with FRES, the Health Department, DPW, everybody involved in these drills. Very important that we drill, be prepared so that we can respond if we do have a disaster.

We implemented wireless priority service for critical management level telephone users. As you know, when there's

a disaster occurs, the cell phones don't work, you have to have a prioritized line for emergency responders, we have that set up in the Police Department for our commanders so that we don't lose communication when an event occurs.

We've developed and initiated several new counter terrorism training courses for agencies in Suffolk County, towns and villages. If you remember, I mentioned earlier we have 25 other police agencies in Suffolk County besides the Police Department, Suffolk County Police Department, it is very important that we work in a partnership with these departments if something happens.

We've continued to purchase equipment and supplies to protect our officers and enhance our response capability, including Mini •Radiac Radiation pagers to which dramatically increases our detection capability. They will detect radiation, or dirty bombs as we talk about, and when we have the briefing we will fill you in more completely on that issue.

We work very closely with FRES to create Civilian Emergency Response Teams, and we have reached out to our retired law enforcement personnel to see who wants to volunteer if we have an emergency. These trained officers can volunteer and come back in and help the County, even if it's just answering telephones or handling, I guess ••

CHIEF MOORE:

Administrative work.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Administrative, yeah, we were thinking more of administrative rather than police work, and we think that this is a good thing. They've done it in other jurisdictions.

We have implemented Operation Marine Sweep, and this is where we have trained our own emergency divers to check ships and boats for bombs and other explosives. Prior to this training

in 2005, we had to reach outside the County to have somebody come in and check a ship in Port Jefferson Harbor or check the ferry, we can now do it ourselves.

I mentioned before we implemented the Operation Highway Sniffer, his was the K•9 dogs on the highway. We have implemented a system of Anti•Gang Task Forces throughout the County. I should mention, by the way, that it's not a violation of law to be a member of the gang, but it is a violation of law to be engaged in criminal activity. And in 2005, we arrested 310 individuals, 26 guns were seized and 73 of the 310 were identified as gang members. Overall, anti•gang initiatives of every type implemented resulted in the arrest of 164 gang members and affiliates for criminal activity, so we've made a dent in cooperation with the District Attorney's office in the gang activity in Suffolk County. It hasn't gone away and we haven't ceased our operation.

Efficiencies. The Police Department had initiated a number of programs and projects and smart management initiatives designed to enhance public safety by employing rational and economical practices to ensure that the people of Suffolk County receive a return on their investment for the police; again, a good business practice. We followed the business model in the Suffolk County Police Department. As of the most recent reporting period, three of these initiatives •• the False Alarm Initiative, the Summer Patrol Initiative and the Medical Evaluation Initiative •• returned to the taxpayers 2,431 work days or tours of duty. The value of these 2,431 tours, \$972,000; it's almost a million dollars saved.

911 call volume. Total calls received in 2004, 1,300,000 and change, going up every year, calls to 911. In 2005 it went down, the first time in Police Department history that calls to 911 went down. They went down by 24,488 calls or 2%; it doesn't sound like a lot when you're talking about a million three. These calls for service we believe went down because of

our false alarm initiative. We had alarms in Suffolk County that went off every night in businesses, sometimes 20, 25 times a month; certainly more than above average.

We initiated a program to get the people to repair their alarms. They got a visit from a supervisor, then they were followed up with a letter from me if it hadn't been corrected, and then they were put on notice that they were going to be put on a non-response list if they didn't correct the problem. This was a public safety issue, it was a safety issue not just for the business itself whose alarm didn't work properly, but also for the cops that are responding to a false alarm and are lulled in to a false sense of security. "There goes the alarm again," and then suddenly it's a real one and they get killed, and then somebody would say "Why didn't we do something about this?" Well, we did, we reduced the false alarms by over 15,000 calls which, by the way, correlates to the reduce in 911 calls, which means that our 911 system is being utilized for emergencies, for people in real need who need to get through on that phone.

Crime reduction. In the past 23 months, up to December 1st, we have reduced crime by approximately 11% which is higher, the reduction is a lot higher than the State level. In 2005 we did see it •• we did see that the numbers start to bottom; 2004 was dramatic, 9.2, but in 2005 it was a lot less. There comes a point where you can't push the crime much lower than it is.

Video surveillance. The department is in the process of implementing an In-Car Video System. Patrol cars will have videos in the cars, and this is going to work in conjunction with our collection of traffic stop data. To use another term, racial profiling stops, so every time an officer makes a stop it's going to be on video and they're also going to collect data on the stop. Never done before, it's something that we need to do and we're in the process of implementing this, the first project or pilot program will be in Highway Patrol.

Paperless Reporting System. Officers are going to have the ability, hopefully by the end of this year or maybe some time in 2007, it's a slow process, where the computer in the car will be the repository of the reports, and instead of filling out papers it will be on the computer. So the summonses will be on the computer, for example, with the dates, the time, and all they have to do is put the violation in and the summons is done; very efficient, it's also recorded, it can be retrieved through the computer system. Also, incident reports and accident reports will be included there.

Fiscal management. The department came under it's overtime budget for the second consecutive year, cutting overtime expenditures by approximately \$1 million dollars, never done before. And again, I should laud the managers and the people in the Police Department that made this possible. I didn't do this, the Chief didn't do it, the people at the operating level did it, the Sergeants and Lieutenants and I laud them for that.

We also concentrated on •• and this is really not a very sexy issue but it's a very expensive issue, police car crashes. We reduced •• in 2004 we reduced police car crashes by 11%; again, by reviewing what was causing the accident, the crashes, and if the remedial action had to be taken it was taken, so officers know now that they're responsible for their equipment in their car. And also, it wasn't just to be tough on the officers, it's a safety issue. An officer is really not any good to the people of Suffolk County if they're out of action, and certainly we don't want them getting hurt or injured or killed.

Unlicensed contractors, you may have read a lot about this. Through October 31, 2005, 1,392 contractors were inspected; these are the people that mow your lawns and do home repairs and general and do contracting throughout the County. They were inspected and 285 were found in noncompliance and were issued field appearance tickets, that meant they had to appear in court to answer the charge. Requests for home improvement

licenses increased by 1,500; Consumer Affairs was swamped with people coming in to get licensed to show that they were insured and to follow the law. Historically, an average year would show 700, it almost doubled. It's having an effect. Again, we think that this is very important for our citizens, that when they deal with somebody they're insured, they're licensed, and if something happens they can have recourse.

We implemented the use of tasers to the Patrol Supervisors. We did have tasers in the department and we've had them about 14 years, but now we gave them to Sergeants on the street. Again, this is an officer and public safety issue, it will, we believe, decrease injuries to officers and citizens alike. It brings to mind the incident in New Orleans about two or three weeks ago where they had the subject with a knife with the officers surrounding this person, and he wouldn't drop the knife and he was allegedly approaching the officers and they ended up shooting him. And I'm watching this thing on television and I'm thinking to myself, where is the taser? You can shoot the taser and bring the person down without getting close to them, and it also alleviates the use of deadly physical force. Just an observation with the tasers.

We implemented Anti•Drag Racing Initiative which so far has resulted in the arrest of nine offenders and the impoundment of eight vehicles, we took their vehicles. We hope the message gets out to people, do not drag race in Suffolk County, you'll lose your vehicle.

Operation Predator. Twenty•seven registered sex offenders were deported based on their convictions. We work closely with ICE to get these people out of the County and back to wherever they came from.

The 1st Precinct Violent Crime Initiative. In the middle of 2005, 14 persons were arrested for 42 charges, nine were confirmed gang members, one•shot gun, eleven handguns and one rifle

were seized. Guns on the street are a problem in every community, including Suffolk County. We still are plagued with guns. We're going to be aggressively investigating and enforcing the gun laws in Suffolk County.

At the request of Riverhead, through the District Attorney's Office and in conjunction with the District Attorney Tom Spota, we initiated a Gang Initiative in Riverhead Town; again, the first time that the Suffolk County Police Department had sent personnel outside the County to assist a fellow Police Department. A six week Anti•Gang Initiative was conducted within the Town of Riverhead in the Fall of 2005, a total of 180 persons were arrested, including 41 having gang affiliations. A total of 328 charges were filed which included 135 felony and 193 misdemeanor and other charges. The streets of Riverhead are a lot safer today than they were this time last year.

In the 7th Precinct in the east end, we had to create a Burglary Robbery Task Force because we're getting plagued with burglaries.

A ten week task force operation was conducted in the 7th Precinct, 55 persons were arrested, including 10 having gang affiliations, a total of 40 burglary, 11 robbery and three gang assault, felony assault charges were filed against those arrested; serious crimes.

Probation tracking. All persons on probation are now in our database and the State database where all the police departments talk to each other. We've placed people on probation in the database and if we have any contact in the Police Department with somebody on probation, probation is automatically notified. Sexual offenders are also tracked the same way.

Fugitive apprehension. We have put in place protocols to utilize financial tracking databases to assist in location of wanted persons. The finances are very critical to capturing somebody

who has fled the jurisdiction; we have improved that process.

The Detective Division arrests through August 31st, 2005, are up 26.87%, 27% over 2004. We're capturing the bad guys.

If you notice the uniform that the Chief is wearing, if he sat here prior to 2004, he'd had have a white shirt on •• I'm sorry, he would have a white shirt on and we changed that. Every rank from Police Officer to Chief wears a blue shirt, that's the working uniform of a police officer. It shows everybody is part of the team, everybody is involved in public safety. Again, it may not seem like much of an issue, but it's a change in philosophy and thinking in the Police Department. Its also a tactical •• there's a tactical purpose for that; if the Chief goes to a scene of an incident, a hostage situation for example, wearing a white shirt is not a good idea. He's the one that pointed that out to me and we said let's change it, so we did.

Grant applications. Money is very, very more important to the County. Over \$7.3 million has been requested and much of it has been received by the department in various grants over the past 23 months, 7.3 million. We've outfitted our police officers • • the police cars now with •• we've updated the defibrillators, there are now pediatric defibrillators in the police cars so we can deal with youngsters who may be in distress.

The Youth Training Academy. We send youngsters from at•risk neighborhoods to a summer session of the Police Academy where they get regular training, almost the same as a police officer. Again, we use this as a recruitment tool introducing some youngsters to the police business. The Citizens Academy, which we would also offer to any member of the Public Safety Committee that would like to get through the Police Academy and see what it's like, one night a week for about two hours for I think 13 weeks. It's not a very strenuous thing, the push•ups are pretty easy, so if anybody wants to sign up, please see the Chief.

Civilianization, this is a very important item. To date, 38 sworn officers have been transferred from what we would call support units, or administrative positions, to patrol or line operations. Under the current ground of civilianization, we anticipate this number to be the equivalent of 60 officers by the end of this year; 60 officers. We are still looking at civilianization as we speak during the year 2006. We redeployed in 2005, 21 officers from behind precinct desks and put them on patrol, okay; that's, again, putting people out doing the job that they were hired to do.

I'm just going to skip through some of this because I'm going to hand out the handout and I can see that the time is moving on. We saved through the Medical Evaluation Section, we do our own medical evaluations, we have our own surgeons on site. In 2004 we hired two part•time surgeons to examine our officers, very quickly after they're injured. You have to remember that when they're injured they cannot go back to work unless the doctor says it's okay, even if the officer wanted to go back to work. Sometimes they were having to wait a week, ten days to get cleared. We now do it very quickly and we save approximately \$800,000 by not outsourcing this because we hired two part •time surgeons; again, a terrific return on investment.

Internal Affairs implemented a new system of track can complaints against officers so that commanders can be advised if there are issues with officers.

One last item is recruitment, and I know that this is very dear to the heart of a lot of us in Suffolk County. It's a continuing challenge facing the Suffolk County Police Department in the recruitment of qualified and diverse applicants. In this vein, the department has targeted a greater pool of community resources for the purposes of accomplishing a long•range goal of qualified and diverse applicants. What we did is we focused on current Suffolk County PD members, members of the Hispanic Society

and The Guardians, to assist in recruitment. They are actually going to go out and do job fairs for us, they're going to recruit in the community for us, on their own time because they feel that this is important, and we're very thankful that they want to volunteer for this.

Community leaders, as I mentioned earlier, have been identified, and members of the NAACP, local community civic groups, church members and the Office of the County Executive have joined the minority recruitment effort. These people are being trained in their communities to recruit candidates. The staff members from the County Executive's Office are engaged in marketing of this opportunity to participate in the testing process. The Police Athletic League and the Police Explorer Program are now being used as a source of potential police candidates. Intense recruiting of potential candidates from these hamlets and neighborhoods that have a strong promise of promoting the development of a qualified and diverse membership have been initiated. We've targeted schools, libraries and community groups.

The Military Police. Transitioning military personnel are a valuable source of potential police professionals. Through their time in the military, veterans have gained maturity and life experience, thus increasing the likelihood of future success in the police business. The military is also a good source of potential minority recruits. In furtherance of the minority recruitment effort, the Suffolk County PD is advertising in military publications such as Stars and Stripes. Additionally, included in the Suffolk County PD minority recruitment effort is a program of visiting military facilities. Furthermore, we have partnered with military units to help transitioning veterans take the police test, these are people that are now •• must ran out of the military. This effort involves the Police Department receiving those of opportunities to recruit these veterans as well as taking advantage of the fact that the military is allowing the Suffolk County PD to use military websites for the purpose of

recruitment; again, something new.

We're doing •• we're engaged in an aggressive minority recruitment effort. We will continue to explore this recruitment effort and hopefully the hope is at the end of the day or when the test is given in 2007, the numbers of minorities taking the Police test in Suffolk County will have increased dramatically.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And in summary.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

With that note, I thank you. I thank you for your patience and I thank you for giving us the opportunity to spell out what we've done, why we've done it and where we're going. So thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, it is obvious ••

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

If there are any questions.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah. It's Obviously that your department is very responsive to the needs of the community and you've taken a very proactive approach in your policies, so I commend you for that. I would like to open up for questions or comments. Legislator Losquadro?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

You didn't think you would speak that long and not get a few questions, did you?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I was hoping.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

These are •• some are in order as you raised them, others were as they occurred to me. First you mentioned K•9, and I know their roll has been expanded, I think that's a very good thing. I recall from last year that we authorized a significant number of additional vehicles for the County Police Department, above and beyond what the normal order for a year was. I was wondering, are any of those earmarked for K•9? Because one of the things I've wanted to bring to your attention, being that K•9 is one of the few remaining units that does bring their vehicles home and the vehicles are easily identified to the individual who operates them, has any consideration been given to making those unmarked?

CHIEF MOORE:

Unmarked.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Unmarked; no, no.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

You still want those vehicles marked?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, we still want them marked because when K•9 responds to a call it's usually an emergency, they've got to get there quickly and safely. And you know that we do have issues with unmarked cars on the highways, people are not going to respond to an unmarked car.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

It was just a question that I had, I'm sure you can understand the point, much in the same way you didn't want to wear a white shirt on a scene, you know, the same reason that the interior light doesn't come on in a police car when you open the door. You may not want someone as easily identifiable as a K•9 officer who brings that car home, a perpetrator may have something personal against that individual. It was just a consideration that

I had, just something to bear in mind.

The communications along the north shore, specifically in my district, the 7th Precinct, and even into the 6th Precinct. I know last year we had moved the money up for the 2006 Capital Project for the Rocky Point tower site, I just wanted to make sure that this is something that is going to be moved forward this year and I just ask to be kept apprised of that. I have received a number of complaints from members of the community about specifically a number of incidents that occurred where there was a lack of coverage on portable units when officers were out of the cars. So I would just ask you to, again, keep me apprised of that.

From your last presentation last year, you had stated that a comprehensive review of the eastern precincts, specifically the 6th and the 7th Precinct, was going to be undertaken, looking at call volume, workload, things of that nature; has that commenced?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes. In fact, the Precinct Commanders have completed their analysis and they're, I believe, sitting down with the Chief of Patrol ••

CHIEF MOORE:

This afternoon.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

•• I think this afternoon, and that's going to be on the agenda?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Excellent.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

So, you know, it's moving forward.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Absolutely, I'm very happy to hear that. I thought that was something that actually might have only begun this year, so I'm very happy to hear it's already moved forward. I look forward to hearing the results of that.

Oh, to add a moment of levity, you were talking about volunteer opportunities for retired officers; I was wondering if you had approached former Legislator O'Leary for his services?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I usually •• when I'm asked a question, I very seldom say no comment, but I'm going to say no comment.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

On to a couple of ••

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

By the way, no, we would welcome him.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

And If you could get the message to him, I would appreciate it.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

On a couple of items on today's agenda, I was just wondering if I could get your input.

Resolution 1024, the Safe Communities Initiative regarding the cameras? Even though it is a task force, I just see in the language, in the title of the bill, it says, "To assist law enforcement efforts". Is this something that the County Police Department has looked at and does the Police Department believe it will aid in assisting law enforcement efforts, some sort of camera or monitoring program?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, as you know, we do utilize film and investigations and they are valuable at times. I would wait till the task force is formed and then see what the recommendations are and then, you know, then we'll look at it.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Very good. And the only other item I wanted you to discuss, because you seemed to devote a lot of time to it in your presentation, was the County's efforts on hiring minorities. The initiative 1050, creating a task force to increase minority representation on the Suffolk County Police Force, is this something •• it sounds as though this is something that has already been undertaken, it's well in the works.

Do you feel it's necessary to have a task force or do you believe that the County's efforts are adequate at this point?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I think that we're doing everything that can be done at this point. As I mentioned in the presentation, it's very comprehensive, it's far reaching. We're targeting specific communities that we've never done before, you know, it's not a shotgun approach now, it's a laser approach, you know, so. We believe that what we're doing right now is adequate and that we will increase the numbers and, you know, I would •• you know, I would say that I am comfortable with what we're doing, so I don't see the need for the task force. I know •• you know, I understand the motives behind it, but maybe after this presentation, you know, some people may say maybe we don't need that. We are committed to this thing, it's very comprehensive and we feel it will be a success.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Very good. And then just finally, I was very happy to hear about the base lien and the electronic filing going paperless with the reporting. This is something that has been implemented

throughout the business community on a very large scale and it's something that I think will go a long way towards increasing the efficiency of the department. Is that something that has been, shall I say, attempted to be expedited faster? It just seems as though an implementation of over a year for a roll out of something like that is a bit long. I know when we had implemented that in the insurance company that I worked for, going to an electronic claim file, the rollout was substantially shorter than that. Is this something in terms of upgrading hardware as well as software?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

The Chief is •• I know it did run a year or longer and the Chief just pointed out that it is expensive and we're at the mercy of a vendor. We are not implementing it ourselves and it is a slow process and of course, you know, there's 200 police officers approximately in the 4th Precinct and, you know, it's a very complicated process so they have worked out some kinks in the 4th Precinct. They're still working out some kinks as we speak and then we're going to move it forward in some of the other precincts, which should move faster since we've had the pilot in the 4th Precinct.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Oh, I'm sure. Well, I look forward to that and I can tell you that my friends who remain in the insurance companies will love being able to get those reports that much faster. So thank you for your presentation and I thank you for answering my questions.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Also, if I may, just lead into something else that I should mention. We're also looking at putting our reports on•line so that people can get accident reports, incident reports by going on•line and not leaving their home from Central Records, and we're looking at that as we speak. The County Executive's Office is moving forward to see if we can automate this process.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I think a web-based system would be excellent.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah. Just so you know, we're doing that.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, thank you. Legislator Viloría-Fisher?

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. And a good segway, Legislator Losquadro; 4th Precinct, how's the progress going on that?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, they're moving forward. The last update I had was that the people from DPW and the 4th Precinct personnel traveled out to the 6th Precinct to examine the facilities out there to find out from the people that are in that precinct now, what would you change, do you have any recommendations for us? So it is moving forward. My understanding is the site is already set, it's just east of here in this lot. This is my understanding, unless that changes, but they are moving forward.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Shovel in the ground?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I'm sorry?

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Shovel in the ground; when?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, nobody mentioned a shovel to me yet. You know, again ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. I also had a question about IR 1050, but you did already respond to that. And I certainly look forward to the paperless technology. As Legislator Losquadro said, not only would the insurance companies be happy to expedite the reports, but also victims of accidents who wait for two weeks for records to get those accident reports to the insurance companies and that's a real burden on people who are involved in crashes.

Communications. We've all since Katrina been hearing a great deal about communications, and of course we saw that demonstrated during the 9/11 tragedy and again we saw that kind of communications breakdown during Katrina and you mentioned this earlier. Now, are you talking about a band that would, let's say, volunteer fire departments and the non Suffolk County Police Department would all be able to tie in to in the event of a disaster?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, that's on the regular cell phones, they can override, they get a special channel that they can communicate on. So when the cell phones are overloaded and you can't use your own personal cell phone, emergency responders will have a dedicated line to go on their cell phones. We've also purchased in the Police Department and the County is purchasing satellite phones for our emergency managers in the County and that will also help if communications go down. We have backup systems in the Headquarters and Communications and in the precincts so that we don't lose the ability to respond to an emergency call.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, so which would then be the •• in a time of a disaster, a broad disaster response, would it be the satellite system then which would be the highest level of communication?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, that's the highest level, that's most costly system.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

And who would be able to use that, who would have access to that?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, we have our top managers in the Police Department.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

And What about FRES?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes, of course, FRES, probably DPW, I don't know the whole list, but Health Department. You know, the critical departments in the County would have the ability to communicate.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. And on the east end, those Police Departments on the east end that are not part of the Suffolk County Police Department would also have?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

You know, I don't have the answer to that, if they have satellite phones.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I don't have the answer, but that's a good question. I mean, we can find out if ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I'm just thinking in terms of Countywide preparedness and

looking at what happened with Katrina and we do have some vulnerable areas on the east end, so we would want to know that there is that kind of access and availability of communication.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

They're getting satellite phones out there.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Oh, I'm hearing from Legislator Schneiderman that on the east end ••

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

They're getting satellite phones.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• they're looking at satellite phones. Okay, let me see, I did have •• if I could read my handwriting, I may have to go back to this because I can't remember what I wrote while you were speaking and you did say quite a bit. So if it's a burning question I'll come back to it. Thank you very much, Commissioner, that was a very all•inclusive •• well, maybe not all•inclusive but a broad range.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

It wasn't all•inclusive, believe it or not.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

By the way, I do have to say that I did attend the Citizen's Police Academy, I didn't have to do any push•ups. But I do have to say that it's a very good program and I recommend it to the new Legislators who are sitting here at the horseshoe and those who are veteran Legislators who haven't attended. I learned quite a bit about police procedure and I have found it invaluable. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, we'd be very happy to accommodate, Mr. Chair, if anybody

is interested in the Citizens Academy.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, thank you. Legislator Schneiderman.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Vivian, if you can decipher your handwriting you can jump back in with your last question.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, thank you.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Maybe the Commissioner has some Detective with some expertise in that manner. And as Legislator Losquadro segwayed into your comments, you've segwayed somewhat into mine. When you speak of the east end, Commissioner •• first of all, I guess I should thank you for that thorough, comprehensive overview of the functions and progress within the Police District. When you talk about the east end, of course, you're talking about the 7th Precinct and for me, the east end is my district which goes from Montauk to East Moriches and it only has a very small section that's within the Police District. So I wanted to ask you a couple of questions that relate to that because there are funds provided from those towns for certain services such as homicide and narcotics that you do provide County wide.

First I'd like to ask about contractor licensing and unlicensed contractors. You spoke quite a bit of some of the work you're doing to crack down on these unlicensed contractors, of course that is a County regulation to license these home improvement contractors. I wondered if those efforts extended outside of the Police District or is that something that the local Police Districts on the east end handle?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, the local Police handle their own enforcement. And of

course, on a case by case basis, if we're invited in for some reason, like we were in Riverhead, we certainly would assist, but it's a local police issue.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Because the local police are enforcing the town codes and often the towns have licensing review boards and licensing registration of contractors. And so I wonder if you're working to any degree with those local police forces on the east end to enforce the County licensing requirements? Because the towns often don't license things like landscapers, they might be electricians and plumbers but some of these other home improvement contractors are not typically licensed by the town and they are licensed by the County. So are you doing any work in that regard or is that something that you should be doing?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No. You know, the licensing comes under Consumer Affairs for the County and, you know, we basically stay within the Police District with our uniformed enforcement, which this is a uniform enforcement initiative. I do know that some east end town police have initiated this kind of enforcement, I do know that from reading about it in the media.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. Because I'd like to see this as a Countywide program, it seems to be working in the western portions of the County. So we have this gap there that maybe we can continue to discuss how to close that gap.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, if we can be of any help to an east end department, we certainly would help them.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Also, you spoke earlier about the Riverhead gang project and that, again, is outside the Police District, but the gang work

you've been doing is Countywide. I wanted to give you an opportunity, if there are other things that related to areas outside of the Police District where you've made some progress or some initiatives, if you wanted to comment on some of those things that I could take back to my constituents and say, "These are some of the things that the County has been doing."

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, we, as you know, in the 01 Fund, there are certain units that do respond to the east end, what we call town and village departments outside the Police Department. On a need•for basis, we will assist police departments with other investigations; we've done it in Internal Affairs, our K•9 Unit, our Motor Carrier Unit which we talked about before, we've dispatched them to the east end to help out. So, you know, we're willing to help out, you know, in other Police Departments, mutual aid type of operation and we've done that throughout the years and we'll continue to do that. You know, we don't want to intrude on anyone's turf, they're responsible for their own town or village and we certainly wouldn't intrude on that. But if they call on us for assistance in any way, we'll be willing to help them.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. And lastly, when you talk about the decrease in crime, I'm sure that's a County figure. Have you looked at all the Police District versus outside the Police District, is it the same 11%? You spoke of decrease in crime, or is one higher or lower?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

You know, I don't know right now. I just looked at the Police District when I looked at the figures.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I didn't look at the rest of the County.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So that decrease in crime is specific to the Police District.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

When we report our crimes to the State, impact zones, the towns and villages report separately.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Let me ask you one more question as it comes to mind. There are certain services that are billed to the areas outside the non Police District, homicide and narcotics and I know there are other functions in there, too. Can you speak to how that charge is determined, is that something that you audit or is it a strict number, same number per year?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Actually, I believe that that's in the County Charter and it's really not •• there's nothing that I can manipulate or change. I believe it's in the Charter.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Because sometimes I hear from Mayors or Supervisors that they feel that we're being over charged for some of those services; is there a way to check those figures?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, they would have to check with budget, they may be able to come up with the figures.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, I appreciate that.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I'm sorry I can't answer that.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

That's fine.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, thank you. Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner, thank you very much for joining us this afternoon.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I don't think your mike is on.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you very much for joining us, and it was an excellent presentation. I have •• I know you indicated that there was going to be a separate briefing for the committee with reference to Homeland Security, and I have always had a great deal of concern there because of the tremendous amount of money that comes through the system; from the Federal government to the State, the State down to the local counties. And I've attended hearings before, especially at the State level, where we've had concerns about the distribution of those dollars and where those dollars go in the State of New York. And I've had one or two key people tell me before committees and in the case of the State where this year we might distribute \$350 million worth of funding for various Homeland Security projects, there is no follow•up. When you've asked these people at the State level, for example, when you send money out to _Chamong_ County or Montgomery or someplace where I have some doubts as to whether or not those dollars are really needed, just because an applicant has put in for funding, how do you follow up six

months, nine months, 12 months from now to make a determination as to whether or not the program or the dollars were spent where there's been some sort of a positive effect from a Homeland Security perspective?

So when you have your opportunity to present your briefing to this committee, I would like to get a couple •• an idea of, number one, how much in the way of dollars you get from the State directly to the Suffolk County Police Department. And you mentioned, for example, the Motor Carrier Unit, it sounds like a fine program, but what do you have in place to evaluate that program after six months, nine months, 12 months? Because you want to make sure that the money is being well spent. If a program is working, fine; if it isn't, maybe those dollars have to be rerouted. And the reason I'd like the dollar figure, because of the size of the police force, the size of Suffolk County, it may well be necessary to put additional pressure at a level of government above this for more dollars to Suffolk County, as opposed to so many of these dollars going to areas of the state where in the judgement of some there's very little chance of any terrorist activity.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

That's a good point, yeah. And, you know, we are audited and we have to justify the expenditures. They come into the County through FRES and the Police Department and there are controls over them. Again, looking at it from a business point of view, you know, the return on investment, and that's what you're talking about, we review our own operations very closely. And with some of these things, with the equipment and the sensors and that kind of thing, they're more like an insurance policy than like a return on investment, you hope you never have to use it, but if you do you hope that you have it; it's almost like insurance. So we try to be proactive because of where we are located. We know that we're a target, our people are a target because we're next to New York City, so we're not out of that circle.

We do work very closely with State Homeland Security, we have a very good relationship with them. We do conference calls with them maybe on a biweekly basis and it's a good working relationship with NYPD, Nassau, Suffolk and the other police departments in the County, along with FRES and the Health Department; these are the main players in this.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Again, at some point if you could provide a dollar figure, all right.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I can get that.

LEG. BARRAGA:

And how you evaluate a given program after a specified period of time.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

We will get that for you.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you very much. As you can see, we wear a lot of different colored shirts up here, so we have a different definition of team concept.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much. Legislator Horsley.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. I just wanted to also echo the comments before that it was a wonderful report and very inclusive and so forth.

I had question on •• you had mentioned that you were looking for minority recruitment through the military; how does that work? If I'm on active duty and I'm across the seas and the test

comes up in 2007, how are you reaching out? I'm curious as to how that works.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, the military is telling us who's in transition, that means who's going to be coming out of the military. And Civil Service has set up a procedure where they can take the test within six months after they come out, they give them six months, I believe it's six months.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

So they don't have to be here for the test and we think that that's beneficial.

LEG. HORSLEY:

So they're hearing about it as they're overseas.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, through websites and through Stars and Stripes. And the military is working very closely with us on this, we think it's a terrific potential for candidates.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Me, too.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

You know, they come home from the military and then they find out, "Oh, the test was given, I didn't know." You know, so it's a matter of information to these young people and especially if they serve in the military, these are the kinds of people we want to look at and I think we should look at them.

LEG. HORSLEY:

I agree. Okay, so it's there, you have an ongoing program with

the military.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

And I'm sure other departments are doing the same thing elsewhere throughout the nation, that's good.

The second question I had was on the video taping, you had mentioned that you're going to be starting with the Highway Patrol first as a task force or as the first effort. How long is that going to take before that's in place and what is the •• who is next and what is your schedule and are these cameras budgeted at this point in time, where's the money coming from, etcetera; would you elaborate on that?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, they're not budgeted as we speak. We're right now in a pilot program with two vendors that gave us video units to try out a pilot program, see how they work, integrate them.

LEG. HORSLEY:

So two.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes, integrate them into the units. Then if we do decide on a vendor, we just can't use that vendor unless it goes to the bid process which is another issue, but we'd have to make up the specs. It could take some time. We're trying to move this process forward; in fact, I did request information from the Chief of Patrol yesterday on the progress. We did have a camera in one of the police cars and it was just running and the police car crashed and that set us back, so all that equipment has to be moved into a new car. So, you know, things happen in the police business that don't normally happen in every day life.

So we would like to move it into Highway Patrol because they've had cameras years ago for the Stop DWI units, so they have experience with it. So we would like to use them as the pilot program and then eventually move it into the precincts, all the patrol cars in Suffolk County would have cameras.

LEG. HORSLEY:

So we're really doing baby steps at this point as far as ••

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

•• where we're at with this program.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes. I wish I could give you a timeline on it, but it's impossible, I wouldn't do that now. But you know, we have to take the first step, we have to move on this and we think it's the right thing to do, it's the 21st Century. Everybody has got cameras except the police cars.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Everyone, okay. So you're aggressively going to be putting this forward as far as a program, as far as budgetary purposes and things like that.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you, Legislator. Legislator Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Good morning, Commissioner, or afternoon I should say now.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Good afternoon. And by the way, congratulations and Happy New Year.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you. Our communications problem on the north shore, I know in the Capital Budget for '06 we have another tower scheduled; is that going to solve the problem with our north shore communications in total or do we need to do something else?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, that will solve the problem in the 6th and 7th Precinct. We still have the western end of the County, the Huntington area that we have to deal with and we're working on that as we speak. The Rocky Point tower will solve the problem.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Will we have an answer to the Huntington area problem before we put together the Capital Budget? I mean, if we have to appropriate money to solve the problem in that area, you know, we should know that before we start on the Capital Budget.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

It's not an issue of money. We wanted to put a radio tower on the water tower at the VA. We're in negotiations with the VA right now at Northport, we're having some issues with them. We have all the equipment ready to go, we're ready to put it up, but there were some issues that we have to deal with with the VA. We're still in Lloyd Harbor, we're looking at putting a tower down in that end of the precinct; actually, it would assist also Lloyd Harbor Police.

There are some environmental issues with that as we speak,

hopefully they'll get ironed out within the next couple of months and we can move forward with that tower. That would solve the problems from Northport down to Cold Spring Harbor and Lloyd Harbor and the Huntington Village area.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I know that you mentioned this before about the satellite radios, would that be a stopgap until we get this problem solved with the towers?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, the satellite phones, we were thinking of issuing the satellite phones to the officers in the dead areas.

P.O. LINDSAY:

That's what I'm talking about.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, that's something that we're moving forward with. Yeah, the phones •• I think we just sent the order out for the phones, they haven't come in yet, they should be in shortly, the budget has okayed it and we're ready to come in. And we're going to put them in the cars in these dead spots, so that at least they'll be able to communicate with, you know, somebody in the Police Department.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

Good afternoon.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Good afternoon.

LEG. BROWNING:

One of my questions, when you were talking about military people, you know, recruitment, how many •• approximately how many police officers do you have currently serving overseas or deployed?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

We have four sworn officers and one civilian as we speak, but we have people that are rotating. You know, I know that another officer got his notice today, I was notified, he works at the range and he's going to be going to Iraq for at least a year.

LEG. BROWNING:

The reason I'm asking is, you know, do you have any kind of counseling programs for military people returning?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

When they come back. It's interesting that you mentioned that, it's very much different than •• and I mentioned the Vietnam era, and I'm not sure if there are many people here that remember that time when people weren't welcomed back. We welcome back into the Police Department, psychological services are offered to them, we have an Employee Assistance Unit with two psychologists that are available. The officers are actually welcomed back by the Commander, in some cases I welcome them back in to my office, so we make it a nurturing, accepting type of thing. They're asked if they have any issues, their families are reached out to; the last time we reached out to the families was at the holidays to find out if they had any problems, could we help them with anything. So they get a lot of support from the department members and from the people that they work with. So it's a very supportive environment, not like it was 40 years ago, things have changed, thankfully, that our people are treated a lot better when they come home now. But that's something that we're very aware of and we respond it to.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you. I'd like to sit down and talk with you about some of this and many other issues. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, thank you. We have Legislator Montano with us today ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

You sound the same.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

•• and I'd like to give him an opportunity to ask a question.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not a member of the committee, I'll be very brief. Good afternoon, Commissioner, Happy New Year, Chief Moore. Just very quickly, I recall that we had •• did we have one or two classes start this year in the Police Academy?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, one class, we combined the two classes into one. It made more sense economically, and also from an operational point of view in that we have these officers all graduate together in March and then they get their field training and be on the streets in the summer of 2006.

LEG. MONTANO:

And what was the number ••

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Actually this year.

LEG. MONTANO:

Was that 110 recruits that we put into the academy this year?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, there was 120 and they're down to 118 now.

LEG. MONTANO:

Out of the 120 that started, do you have a breakdown in terms of the minority representation that came into the class this year?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, I don't have the figures with me right now, but I know it wasn't as good as we would have liked it to be, I think we agree on that.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. This class that came in, it was taken off which test? The test that they came off, when was that administered?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

2002 •• no, 2000 ••

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah, because the next one is 2007, it's a four year test.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

2002.

LEG. MONTANO:

So it's essentially an old list and we're now in the process of retesting.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, the test is going to be given in 2007.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Are there •• I don't think there are any more scheduled classes for this •• the existing list; is that accurate?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, we're going to schedule •• we're scheduling a class of a hundred for September this year. We did anticipate putting it in March of this year, but I recommended that we do it in September so that we would have the same cycle that we have with this class, they'll come out in March of 2007, be fully trained and hit the streets in the summer of 2007.

LEG. MONTANO:

So that would be 220 recruits, but those recruits would all come from the 2002 test; is that accurate?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

That's correct, yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. I have one last question from Legislator Viloría•Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

I remembered. I'd kind of like to ask Kate to ask the question, I like to hear the two of you speaking with one another, it's got a nice lilt to it. In March we'll make sure you talk to each other a lot. The question was regarding Dr. Adams, I wasn't quite certain what his role is, I was confused by that.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay. Yeah, Dr. Adams has been appointed the Special Assistant to the Police Commissioner for Minority Affairs. He's a civilian, an unpaid position at his request so that he wouldn't have any ties to the police administration, so that his integrity

could remain above reproach. He has the ability and the authority to reach out to any unit in the Police Department, any Commander, and ask them about an incident that may have occurred.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Within the Police Department, I see.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Within the Police District, yes, and he has done that. He has met with all the Commanders, he has built up a relationship with them. So for example, if there's a critical incident that occurs in a community and the community reaches out to the Reverend Adams or to another community leader who will now reach out to the Reverend Adams and say, "Could you get me the information? This is what the police are telling me, this is what the community is saying, I need to know what happened." And he has the ability to talk to the people involved, I'm talking about police, Detectives, actually look at the reports and now get back to the community with accurate, timely information. It defuses tensions, it is a terrific asset in, you know, dealing with communities that may have a mistrust for the police and the police version of an incident. So he's been very helpful over the past two years dealing with communities that have issues with police operations, especially as it relates to the use of force and search and seizure and issues like that.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you.

(* Legislator Romaine entered the meeting at 1:20 P.M. *)

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Are there any more questions? Then I'll close this part of the committee meeting. Thank you, Commissioner, and your staff.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, I'd like to open the public portion. And I just want to state that this is my first committee meeting and I've learned a grave experience that from now on the public portion will go first. I appreciate your patience in waiting. Would Ms. Kelly Platt come forward.

MS. PLATT:

My name is Kelly Platt from Center Moriches. And I want to thank Commissioner Dormer, if it wasn't for his speaking my daughter would not be sleeping at this moment.

But I'm here to speak about a certain issue which is a safety issue which is about pocket bikes driving on public roads. I am asking for a banning or some kind of enforcement on pocket bikes driving on public roads where there's vehicle traffic.

Pocket bikes, if you're not sure what they are, they're like mini •type of motorcycles where they're very low to the ground, where adults and children can actually drive on them and ride around the streets. Pocket bikes can probably go up to a speed of about approximately 40 to 50 miles per hour depending on the weight and the height of the driver. Pocket bikes are fueled with gasoline, they're the same as which we would use in our own vehicles. Many pocket bike owners have taken riding one of these to the extreme popularity of buying these, purchasing them for their children, for themselves, for the pleasure of riding on the streets up and down the roads.

I have witnessed the use of pocket bikes on public roadways which is a danger with many other motor vehicles traveling on these roadways. Not too long ago there have been reported accidents and fatalities of occupants driving one of these pocket bikes, I can recall one where a school bus driver actually hit a

small child driving a pocket bike and the child is now deceased.

Pocket bikes are not meant to be driven on vehicle•use roads and pocket bikes are not considered as a toy for young children to ride and use on secondary roads. I am asking that a resolution be discussed and sponsored where we can try to ban any type of child driving one of these pocket bikes on secondary roads, even adults driving pocket bikes on these secondary roads. They are a danger to motor vehicles, to trucks, to cars, SUV's. They are very low to the ground and at one point when I was driving on the road, I did not see this person, they were in my blind spot, the pocket bike is very low to the ground and I nearly creamed the person making a turn.

I also feel that children do not belong driving these pocket bikes. And I'm very upset where parents •• I know that, you know, parents can buy their children whatever they please, but they need to know that these pocket bikes are gasoline powered and they can drive extremely fast and children don't know the laws of the road. And I just feel that they're putting our children at risk today and they're putting lives of other people at risk, especially motor vehicles who are driving on these roads and you come across a pocket bike, you're not going to see them until it's almost too late. I'm looking at out for the safety of my child. You also have these gas powered scooters where kids are very blatant to what's going on around them, they don't see anything. Most of the times you don't see them wearing the safety helmets, they don't where any type of safety gear, where if one of these children are driving pocket bikes or driving these gas powered motorized scooters, there's going to be a fatality and we need to enforce some type of law where it's going to ban any type of pocket bikes driving on our public roads. Pocket bikes don't belong on public roads, they belong in specified areas such as what Legislator Losquadro had proposed previously where it's like an ATV park.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. Just one second, Legislator Losquadro would like to just respond.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Hi, Kelly. How are you? I know this isn't a question and answer period, but I did just want to address it briefly and you did mention the fact that I did have a resolution to create an ATV park. I actually have some experience, I had one of my younger constituents write me a letter posing some questions to me about these type of motorized scooters and pocket bikes, and the simple answer is they are already illegal. Any vehicle that cannot be registered by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles is not suitable for use on a public highway and is, therefore, already illegal. State law takes precedence, supercedes any authority we may have. It's a moot point because no plate, no registration, you can't drive it on the road. So if this is a problem that's persisting in your neighborhood, get in touch with the Precinct Commander or the COPE Unit, they can set up a patrol check and put it on a set schedule. If you can give them some times and some dates that this happens more frequently than others, that will assist them in trying to crack down on a particular area. So thank you.

MS. PLATT:

Most of the times the operation of these pocket bikes and motor scooters are more like during spring and summer periods.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Absolutely. I mean, we can't address the specific instances, you need to contact your precinct. If you want, I can't recall exactly where you live but you can contact your Legislator and have them ••

MS. PLATT:

He's actually sitting right here.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

•• and have them facilitate that contact with the police department. But they're very responsive, I know we've had a number of problems with this up in my district. So they've been very responsive and I know they will be to this also.

MS. PLATT:

Thank you.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. Would Daniel DelValle step forward, please, and address us.

MR. DELVALLE:

Good afternoon, everybody, Mr. Chair and newly elected veterans.

My name is Danny DelValle, I'm the current President •• Vice •President of the Suffolk County Probation Officers Association. My union represents almost 300 members. We're employed by Suffolk County Probation as peace officers, we represent just the peace officer portion.

I don't want to bore you with a job description because that's a lot of details. What brings me here today is hopefully within the next couple of weeks we'll be attending this meeting to bring some issues up to you people. As far as replacement of vests, we currently have some members of our service which have vests which are •• have been recalled and that are expired or both. It's a safety issue. Our officers are out there protecting the community and we feel that they should be protected as well.

To my right is Officer Chris Saxton, he is a Firearms Instructor with the department and he is also trained in firearms, defensive tactics, OC which is the pepper spray, the taser, general topics

instructor and the _ASP_ . Presently we have only about 25 officers that carry the _asperton_; the _asperton_ is an expandable baton and it is used in lieu of •• well, this is probably your area.

OFFICER SAXTON:

It's used as an impact weapon, it's used for searches as well. When searching somebody, rather than touch their hands, if they do have any kind of sharp object or something like that in their pockets or whatever, it is also used to kind of slide over to see if there is anything rather than sticking your hand in there and getting a cut or whatever.

MR. DELVALLE:

Our department right now, as far as Criminal Court, Adult Probation, as we supervise approximately 12,000 individuals in the community. The American Probation Parole Association, which is kind of like a •• it's like a professional organization, they recommend that caseloads of middle level supervision, which is what I do •• I cover from East Moriches out to Montauk and also Riverhead Township •• they recommend that caseloads not exceed 60. Presently right now we have 63 officers with caseloads that exceed 65. We have intensive •• we have four slots that are presently vacant that I'm aware of, there could be more, which one is an intensive supervision unit which is where Officer Saxton works. His probationers that he supervises are people who probably should have gone away to State prison and haven't. There is one caseload open in that unit. We also have two regular Probation Officers that supervise a medium level supervision and that would be out in the east end, this officer is missing from the towns of Southampton Township and Riverhead Township, supervising various hamlets in that area.

The reason I bring this to you is because it creates a public safety problem to the community, it creates a public safety problem to the County at large. And I just ask just for officers safety that when we do appear before here in the future, that

you consider our requests. We're not looking for micromanagement, we're just looking for just a forum to voice the concerns of the union.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Absolutely.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Mr. Chairman? I'm not on this committee, I'm here early for Public Works, but ••

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Not anymore.

LEG. ROMAINE:

•• I would like to ask one question, if I may?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Go right ahead.

LEG. ROMAINE:

You have one Caseworker, Probation Officer that services the five east end towns?

MR. DELVALLE:

No, there's various supervision units that work out there, they're known as SU's within our department. Basically there's different types of supervision units. We have one in a medium level supervision unit that supervises the area of •• its Flanders; I can't remember the hamlets in particular, but they do include parts of Southampton and parts of Riverhead township that is a vacant caseload. Those cases are presently being not supervised or they're being supervised on a priority basis by other Probation Officers from other areas, so we're borrowing from Peter to pay Paul.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Do you have a Probation Officer dedicated to the east end just for drug and alcohol cases?

MR. DELVALLE:

We have a Drug Court Officer that works in Drug Court and we also do have a Narcotics Unit, recently established Narcotics Unit.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And What is the average caseload for a Probation Officer nationwide?

MR. DELVALLE:

I couldn't answer that to be honest with you, I can get back to you with that information.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Can I ask you how many vacancies the Probation Department currently has, since this is hailed as an alternative to incarceration in building jails? Could you answer me how many vacancies that department currently has, Probation Officers that are in the budget but left unfilled?

MR. DELVALLE:

Sure. Right now I'm aware of four, we have two regular supervision, Level II's, we have an Intensive Probation Unit, and we also have one Warrant position which hasn't been filled since 2003. We had a Warrant Officer whose job was to basically bring back absconders and he worked in the evening position. We have nearly 1,300 absconders from probation. So what concerns me is if I can go by a 1991 study that was put out by the Justice Department, 45% of the prisoners who at the time were being supervised by community supervision were rearrested and sent to State prison. Based on the offenses that brought them into the system, 162,000 were probation violators that committed at least 6,400 murders, 7,400 rapes, 10,000

assaults and 17,000 robberies while under supervision, in an average of 17 months. So if we are being billed, used as the alternative to incarceration, we certainly can't be cheap with this, we have to ••

LEG. ROMAINE:

You're being billed as the other people have billed you, you have billed yourself, and clearly Probation is in alternative to incarceration, larger jails, whatever else. Would it be fair to say, based on national average, that Suffolk County has chronically understaffed the Probation Department by leaving vacancies vacant and by failing to fill vacancies in a timely fashion and to staff at a caseload equal to the national average?

MR. DELVALLE:

As far as the national average, I really can't comment on that. However, vacancies has always been a problem. I've been with the department since 1998 and there has been vacancies and they're very slow to fill those vacancies.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

You're going to be making a presentation, so we're going to get all this information, I assume.

MR. DELVALLE:

Yes, in the future we'll be addressing this and we'll have handouts.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Right. Okay, and I'd like •• we'll have a comprehensive thing. Thank you.

MR. DELVALLE:

All right, thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator ••

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Similar questions. Who actually determines how many cases each officer will take?

MR. DELVALLE:

In New York State there's no legislation for that.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, there's no law ••

MR. DELVALLE:

The only legislation for cases ••

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Within the department •• who's the individual who says, "Okay, take on another 10, take on another 20"?

MR. DELVALLE:

It's done by a classification system that we have which, believe it or not, was considered the model for the country. It determines the recidivism rate of the felon or misdemeanor person, likelihood of rearrest, unemployment, different variables as far as the likelihood of them recommitting a crime. That's scored and that's classified, so as to date there are no •• for a medium size caseload, there really isn't caseload limits. We have them for his program because it's a State mandated program as an alternative to incarceration. I believe in my heart, don't get me wrong, Probation is an alternative to incarceration.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Absolutely.

MR. DELVALLE:

And we are very important in the community, we just need the tools to do it.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, we want it to work and there's been more and more talk of moving toward alternatives to incarceration and probation is a big part of that.

I know Legislator Fisher and I both have backgrounds in education and we know that at a certain point it's very hard to manage a class; you know, maybe you could teach 20 or 30 kids, but it's hard to teach 50 kids. What right now •• and I know for you as a Probation Officer, there's got to be a maximum that you can effectively manage. Now, right now what would you say is the highest load that any individual Probation Officer has?

MR. DELVALLE:

Allow me just to speak for myself. I don't have full•time release like some of the other union officials have, and neither does any other board members. Right now I'm managing my caseload and I'm doing this appearing and doing union business based on flex•time and also based on time slips that I'm putting in. I currently supervise 72 •• I have a Spanish speaking caseload, so everybody on my caseload is monolingual Spanish speaking, and that's between Moriches to Montauk.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So you have 72. Does anybody have more than 72?

MR. DELVALLE:

There are people with more than 72, yes.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

How many?

MR. DELVALLE:

I don't have the figures for you now, but I'd be more than happy to provide them to you.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Over 80?

MR. DELVALLE:

I'm sorry?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Over 80, over 90?

MR. DELVALLE:

Hold on a second.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I see some nods. And You said that the Probation Officer, the National Association recommends 60 as the maximum; is that correct?

MR. DELVALLE:

Yeah, 60, two hours per probationer to deal with the month.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right, and I'm sure that's based on some study and the ability to effectively carry out the courts, the requirements in terms of hours overseen, right?

MR. DELVALLE:

Uh•huh.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Reporting requirements, etcetera.

MR. DELVALLE:

Yes.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. You know, I would like to conclude here because we are going to have you come back, rather than do it here at this time, this is not the appropriate forum.

MR. DELVALLE:

Okay, great.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay? Thank you very much for coming forward.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I appreciate that. I think this is an issue that needs further attention.

MR. DELVALLE:

Thank you for your time.

OFFICER SAXTON:

Thanks a lot.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, I'd like to close the public portion. And there's no tabled resolutions. I would like to go on to the Introductory Resolutions

Introductory Resolutions

I call your attention to ***IR 1024•06 • To establish a Safe Communities Initiative Task Force to study the expanded use of security camera systems to deter crime and assist law enforcement efforts in high•crime areas (Cooper).***

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Motion to approve.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, I have Legislator Viloría•Fisher and Legislator Horsley.
Okay, thank you. IR 10 ••

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Wait, you have to ask for the vote.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, okay. All in favor?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

All Opposed? Any abstentions? Okay, thank you.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Motion carries.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion carried. *Approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).*

IR 1025•06 • A Local Law to prohibit all registered sex offenders from residing near schools, day care centers and playgrounds (Cooper).

This is going to be tabled for a public hearing.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

So moved.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, the motion is carried. All those in favor? All opposed?

Any abstentions? No. Okay, thank you. **Tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

1031•06 • Approving the appointment of Robert Knight as a member of Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission (County Executive). Is he here?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Mr. Chairman? I don't believe Mr. Knight is here. He's contacted my office, he had a conflict today. You know, he can either come in at the next meeting or be at the General Session next week, whatever you really want.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, then I'll ask for a motion to table?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

On the motion. Can I just ask, maybe for Counsel, the appointees to the FRES Commission, are they all through the County Exec or they're appointees through the Legislature or any other bodies?

MR. NOLAN:

These I believe are recommended by the County Executive ••

MS. MAHONEY:

I cannot hear you.

MR. NOLAN:

These are County Executive appointments, they have to be approved by the Legislature.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All of the people who sit on the FRES commission are through the County Executive?

MR. NOLAN:

I believe so.

MR. ZWIRN:

Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes?

MR. ZWIRN:

Hi. I'm Ben Zwirn for the County Executive's Office. These are reappointments. An amended copy was filed on these, these are all people who are •• they say appointments but they are, in effect, reappointments. And with me is also Joe Williams who is the Commissioner of FRES.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. I'd like to go back then to 1025 and ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No, 1031.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'm sorry, 1031; there's no need to table it if it's a reappointment.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to reconsider.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

So motion to reconsider.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. All those in favor? All those opposed? Okay, no abstentions.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can we hear from the FRES Commissioner, though, before we move to the others?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well, no, we just reconsidered it, we didn't approve it.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Right, yeah.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

So I'll make a motion to approve 1031.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, I'll second. But on the motion, I would like to hear from the FRES Commissioner.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

As stated, these are all reappointments. And the way it works with the appointments is that the individual organizations that belong to the FRES Commission bring a name forward, recommendation to the County Executive and it's passed on to the Legislature for approval.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. And these are all members in good standing, attending the meetings and contributing positively?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Question, Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes, Legislator.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Actually, it's come to my attention, looking at 1033, that Mr. Charles Hoffman has had a number of absences from meetings and it makes me feel reluctant to make a motion to approve at this time.

MR. ZWIRN:

Through the Chair, we're going to ask for that one to be tabled.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Do we have an attendance list, is that something that's available for us to see?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Yes, there was one faxed to my office yesterday and it was provided, an attendance list of all appointees.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah, I have seen the attendance.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Is 1031 still a question then?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah, the vote hasn't been called yet.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

1031?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion to approve.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

We already have a motion and a second.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Oh, we already have a motion and a second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, we'll have a vote.

MR. LAUBE:

Legislator Eddington, who was the motion and the second?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion by myself, seconded by Legislator Schneiderman.

MR. LAUBE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And then all those who approve? All those against? Any abstentions? No, okay. **Approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

We're tabling IR 1033.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

We're not up to that yet.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, okay.

Okay, **IR 1032•06 • Approving the appointment of Joseph Bibiglia as a member of Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission (County Executive).** I'd like a motion.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, that was Legislator Schneiderman and Legislator Horsley. Thank you. Then I'd like to have a vote. All those in favor? All those against? And no abstentions. Okay, thank you. **It's approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

We're tabling IR 1033. I go to ••

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion to table.

LEG. HORSLEY:

You need a motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, motion to table, thank you. ***IR 1033•06 • Approving the appointment of Charles Hoffman as a member of Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission (County Executive).***

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Legislator Browning is making that motion?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yep.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, Legislator Browning and second by ••

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Schneiderman. Okay, we'll take a vote. All those in favor? Opposed? And abstained? None, okay.
Tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

Okay, 1033, approving the appointment of ••

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

1034.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

1034•06 • Approving the appointment of Frank Thornhill as a member of Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission (County Executive). Do I have a motion?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, that was Legislator Schneiderman and Legislator Vilorina •Fisher.

Okay, all those approve? All those against? And Abstentions? None, okay. **Approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

1035•06 • Approving the appointment of David Carrigan as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission (County Executive).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Losquadro. Okay. I'd like to take a vote then. All those in favor? All those opposed? And any abstentions? No, okay. **Approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

IR 1036•06 • Approving the appointment of Richard

McGowin as a member of Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission (County Executive). I'd like a motion.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Losquadro and Legislator Browning. Thank you. I'd like to have a vote. All those in favor? Against? Any abstentions? Okay, so **approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

IR 1044•05 • Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$84,000 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to enforce motor vehicle passenger restraint regulations with 83.36% support (County Executive).

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Motion to approve.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Viloría•Fisher and Legislator Schneiderman. Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

I just have a question for Budget Review, I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

And what will the County cost be on that?

MR. MAGGIO:

The County cost is the actual cost of the fringe benefits which the State will pick up in a grant, it's \$16,768.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Would we be able to put that on the consent calendar?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No, it's not 100%.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

It's not 100%, okay.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. I'd like to have a vote on the motion. All those in favor? Against? Any abstentions? Okay, ***so approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0)***.

Okay, ***IR 1045•06 • Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal funds awarded by the U.S. Marshals Service to the Suffolk County Department of Probation and authorizing the County Executive to execute related agreements (County Executive)***.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, thank you, Legislator Losquadro. And was that ••

LEG. HORSLEY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Horsley seconds. I'd like to take a vote on it.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

On the motion. This grant, can we get an explanation in terms of what it's being used for; the related agreements?

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

John Desmond, Probation Director. We currently have a small team of Probation Officers working in cooperation with U.S. Marshal Service and all this is is basically a reimbursement for some of their expenses.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much. We have a motion?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Yeah, I think there was a motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. So all those to approve? Against? Any abstentions?

So approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

And placed on the consent calendar.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And placed on the consent calendar, thank you (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

IR 1048•06 • A Local Law strengthening the procedures

and remedies of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (Mystal). Do I have a motion?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Yes. At the request of the sponsor, motion to table.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, motion by Legislator Vilorina•Fisher and second by Legislator Horsley. I would like to take a vote. Approve? Against? Abstentions? Okay, so moved. ***Approved (VOTE: 7 •0•0•0).***

IR 1050•06 • Creating a task force to increase minority representation on the Suffolk County Police Force (Montano).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning. Do I have a second?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'll second.

MS. CAPUTI:

Excuse me. Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Schneiderman for the second. Yes, is there a question?

MR. ZWIRN:

Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes?

MR. ZWIRN:

Jackie Caputi from the County Attorney's Office just would like to have I think a comment.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

All right.

MS. CAPUTI:

Yes. Thank you very much, Ben. Good afternoon. I'm Jacqueline Caputi. I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you. We just wanted to place our comment on the record that this resolution, if approved, would require the Law Department to pay for the postage and supplies and supply clerical services for the commission, and the County Attorney would like to request that those responsibilities be either those of the Police Department or the Legislature. Because it's a Police Department task force and though we would be sitting on the commission, we really don't have the resources to provide what's called for under the resolution. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, thank you very much.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Did you want to respond to that?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can we hear from the sponsor?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right, thank you. I'm not on the committee. Is that your only objection to the resolution?

MS. CAPUTI:

Yes, that's our only objection.

LEG. MONTANO:

Well, then I would request that we table it for one cycle so that we can make that appropriate change.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Motion to table by Legislator Vilorina • Fisher and second by Legislator Schneiderman. I would like to take a vote. On the motion, all those in favor? Against? Any abstentions? Okay, so moved.

Tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

IR 1067•06 • A Local Law to establish the Special Traffic Options Program for Driving While Intoxicated "Stop DWI" as a division within the Probation Department (County Executive). Do I have a motion.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I think it has to be tabled for a public hearing.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll make a motion for the purposes of discussion. I'd like to hear an explanation on this; will someone second that?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I think it has to be tabled for public hearing, it's a Local Law.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes, you're right.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

All right. Well, we'll have a discussion next time then.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Right. Okay, so the motion is to table. Was that Legislator Viloría•Fisher? Do I have a second?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second from Legislator Losquadro. I have a vote. All those in favor? Against? Any abstentions? No, so moved. **Tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

If there's no further business before the committee, I'm going to ask for a motion to recess •• adjourn.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Adjourn.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Adjourn, okay. I think that was Legislator Horsley and second by Legislator Losquadro. Okay, so moved. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 P.M.*)

**Legislator Jack Eddington, Chairman
Public Safety & Public Information**

Committee

_ _ • **Denotes Spelled Phonetically**