

***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 May 9, 2006.

***Members Present:***

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

***Members Not Present:***

Legislator Joseph Caracappa • Excused

***Also In Attendance:***

George Nolan • Counsel to the Legislature  
Renee Ortiz • Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
Robert Calarco • Aide to Legislator Eddington  
Linda Burkhardt • Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Seth Squicciarino • Aide to Legislator Vilorio • Fisher  
Eric Brown • Aide to Legislator Schneiderman  
Paul Perillie • Aide to Majority Leader  
Linda Bay • Aide to Minority Leader  
Jim Maggio • Budget Review Office  
Ben Zwirn • Assistant County Executive  
Brian Beedenbender • County Executive Assistant  
James Dahroug • County Executive Assistant  
Robert Moore • Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department  
Ted Nieves • Lieutenant/Chief of Dept's Office/SCPD  
Robert Scharf • Lieutenant/Support Services/SCPD  
Kenneth Rau • Chief of Detectives/SCPD  
Dominick Varrone • Assistant Chief of Patrol/SCPD  
Bill Gardner • Technical Services/SCPD  
Joe Williams • Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services  
Jacqueline Caputi • County Attorney's Office  
John Desmond • Director/Suffolk County Probation Department  
Danny DelValle • Vice•President/Probation Officer's Association  
Tom Muratore • Vice•President/Police Benevolent Association  
Bill Mulligan • President/Superior Officer's Association  
Jerry Gilmore • 1st Vice•President/Superior Officer's Association  
Tom Ronayne • Director/Veterans Services  
Hope Collazo • Director/Community Service Program•American Red Cross  
Debbie Eppel • Public Information Office  
Catherine Hoake • Suffolk County League of Women Voters  
Mary McLaughlin • Suffolk County League of Women Voters  
Sandy Sullivan • Legislative Liaison/AME  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

**(\* The meeting was called to order at 12:04 P.M. \*)**

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

We'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Salutation***

Actually, I'd like to ask you to remain standing for a moment of silence in honor of our ten soldiers who passed away this week.

***Moment of Silence Observed***

Thank you very much. Okay, I'll start with the public portion. Is there anybody that wanted to •• I don't have any cards.

Okay, then I'd like to start with a presentation from our Sheriff, Vincent DeMarco. While you're approaching, I would I want to just commend you on the great graduation ceremony you had with the corrections department, it was awesome.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Go ahead.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Good morning, everyone, or good afternoon now. Thank you for having us here today. Chief Otto to my left and Deputy Warden Rubacka, I'm sure you are familiar with them both.

I was asked to come here by Legislator Eddington to give a quick overview, and I stress quick, of the Sheriff's Office operation.

So we handed out an organizational chart and I'll just go through it very quickly. We have one Sheriff, that's me; two Undersheriffs, one Undersheriff on the Corrections Division where that position is still vacant, it will be filled shortly. But I will start with the Corrections Division, it's headed by our Warden and he oversees all the Correction Officers.

We have a minimum, medium and maximum security jails, the minimum security facility is in Yaphank, most of you have taken a tour and that is the site of the new jail project. We have done some of our own renovations over in Yaphank over the past couple of months, we have a new Commanding Officer there, Captain Geslak she has took it upon herself to use some inmate labor and some spare tiles we had laying around and some paint that some Correction Officers donated and we've repaired and renovated some of the dorms. And she actually put together a little photo album for me and I want to share that with you so you can see ••

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Leave it to a woman to think outside of the box.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Yes.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

So you can see the difference that the inmates, workers made over there, I think you're going to be pretty impressed. Also over in Yaphank at the minimum security facility we have the new tent jail or the sprung or the stress membrane, that was opened in mid March. It's filled to capacity now, 60 inmates on each side, it's working well, no major incidents. It's really been a very smooth transition into the direct supervision, I believe we have over 60 officers trained in direct supervision now and that will continue.

The medium security facility are the pods in Riverhead, they were built in the late 80's. They are a quasi•direct supervision. We are looking at a Capital Project to turn the pods in Riverhead into pure direct supervision which will decrease our need for manpower which will reduce our operational costs over there. We are going to start with a pilot project of doing one pod and we can actually use that pod once it's done to train our officers and give them some real experience in working in direct supervision before the new jail is built. And we have the maximum facility which is the big house in Riverhead which is the typical jail, linear tiers with individual cells.

Also on the corrections end, we have a very important unit which is our

Gang Intelligence Unit which right now consists of three Correction Officer Investigators. They screen every inmate that comes in that has any type of gang affiliation or suspected gang affiliation, they're entered into a County database which is shared with the Police Department, the DA's Office and some other agencies, Probation. But they also work with the illegal immigrants and interview all the illegal immigrants that come into the jail through the back door. They are also putting a database sent over to ICE, Immigration Custom Enforcement, and ICE will lodge detainers on them and when their term is up here in Suffolk they will either come and get them for deportation or for a hearing under a Federal magistrate or they will have to let them go within 48 hours. The illegal immigrants are a big problem in our jail right now just because of the amount, about 10% of our population are undocumented immigrants. We took a snapshot at the end of March and we had about 157 undocumented aliens in the jail, so that continues to be a problem.

We also have a new K•9 unit, it's about a year old on the correction side, so we have a passive dog, a drug dog that does tours through the jail, does tours through visiting. Visiting is where the majority of our drugs come into the jail, so that's been about a year old and that's been a very successful program. Do you have any questions on the correction side?

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Yes. Mr. Chair, if I may?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yep.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

First of all, I'm really enjoying this album, this is really, really great. Having taken a tour of the jail, shame on us for not doing better maintenance work. I mean, some of this stuff is just maintenance; a little Rustoleum goes a long way, doesn't it? But thank you for sharing this with us. But my question is regarding the illegal immigrants and you said 10% or 157 undocumented immigrants.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

That was just in March, I don't know what we have today though.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. What kind of infractions are they in for?

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Believe it or not, the majority are felonies, a lot of sexual assaults, there's a few rapes, a lot of violent crimes.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I thought that when there was an undocumented person who was found guilty of any kind of sexual predatory crime, that that was immediate deportation; no?

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Well, he still •• well, he or she still has to do their time in Suffolk County.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Oh, first they have to do their time here.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Right, they have to serve their sentence here. ICE, they will •• you know, sexual offenses do take precedence, gang members and sexual offenses and they do large detainers on them and for the most part they will be deported.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

So they do their time here and then we deport them.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Right.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. And now the people who are committing the rapes are kept here or do they go to the State?

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Well, it depends on what they wind up getting actually convicted of.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I see.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

You know, they might get •• if it was a rape it might get knocked down to a sexual assault or something else.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

But if it's a rape they go to the State.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Right; well, if they're sentenced for a year or more.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I see. Okay, thank you.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Jack?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah, sure.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yes, Sheriff, again, I understand the book is great, congratulations on your graduation ceremony again, I agree with you, with Vivian, that it was a wonderful ceremony.

Going back to the immigrant issue, when •• have you done any statistics on the recidivism of those immigrants, have they been deported then come back, are they rearrested; have you done any statistics along that line?

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Yeah, we just started looking at that. And just in April we had a meeting up at the County Exec's office with Chief Rau and that morning I had looked to see who was in the jail, who the illegals were and we did have a lot of what I

call frequent fliers, but we did come across a fellow who was deported last April and was back in our jail, he was deported to El Salvador and he was back in our jail a year later in April.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Do you suspect that there are others?

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

And he was an MS•13 gang member.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Right. Yeah, that was my suspicion. So you don't have any hard numbers on that, now it just looks like one, is that what we're ••

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

No, a few weeks later we came across another one. We're just starting to look into that now, you know, a lot of it is manpower issues.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Okay, thank you.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Question.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Sure, question.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I know that you're working on the alternatives to incarceration, I'd like to know how things are going on that.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Well, I'm supportive of some of the initiatives in Probation, but you'd really have to ask John Desmond to comment about how he's going along with •• how he's coming along with that.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Okay.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

The only true alternative •• well, it's not really an alternative •• is the DWI facility we have, but it's still •• people are still incarcerated there.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Okay.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

I'll move on to the enforcement division. The Enforcement Division is headed by an Undersheriff and a Chief Deputy Sheriff. The biggest bureau we have is our Headquarters Bureau which does the prisoner transportation, County Court, security, we have a hospital squad when inmates are in outside hospitals like Stony Brook, Southside, Good Samaritan. We also have the Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program which is something that was kind of defunct for the last few years and we're resurrecting and that's the inmate work crews. We started getting them out on the highways again a few weeks ago and we're going to really start ramping that up. I know Legislator Browning has contacted me a few times and we're going to be working on a couple of projects in her district, a couple of County roads and a few County landmarks. If anybody has any problem with litter on some County roads in their district, feel free to call and we'll try and get them over there;

We do have quite a big list so get on it early.

But we also had the inmates down working on the TWA Memorial at Smith Point. They're actually still doing that, they're doing one day a week there, they're preparing for the 10th Anniversary, they're planting flowers and just cleaning it up. So any projects you have in your district just let me know. There are restrictions on what the inmates are allowed to work on, so we'll check.

We also have a K•9 Section on the Deputy Sheriff side, they do the outside, the perimeter of the jail and they'll go with some Deputies on some warrants if there's a flight risk. We have a Criminal Investigations Bureau which investigates all crimes that are committed inside the Sheriff's Department facilities as well as any felonies that Deputy Sheriffs out on the road pick up. We have a Family Court Section which does the deadbeat dads •• actually deadbeat parents, let me be politically correct •• as well as abuse and neglect warrants that come out of Family Court.

Our Domestic Violence Unit is a very high profile unit that serves all orders of protection that are issued out of the court that aren't served in the court, they're personally served. And attached to that is a Criminal Contempt Squad that goes out and executes criminal contempt warrants when the orders of protection are violated. And we also •• I guess I'll hit the Civil Bureau, too. A lot of you have called me about evictions over the past few months, the majority of the work there are evictions and property executions, so if you sue somebody and they don't pay up, you can come to us to enforce the judgment. And that's the quick overview.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Are there any questions? No, then thank you very much.

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

Okay.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, then I would like to start with Tabled Resolutions.

### **Tabled Resolutions**

***IR 1048•06 • A Local Law strengthening the procedures and remedies of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (Mystal).***

The public hearing was recessed so I would like to make a motion to table.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, carried. **Tabled (VOTE: 5•0•0•2 Not Present: Legislators Caracappa & Schneiderman).**

***IR 1229•06 • A Local Law to provide fair and equitable cost containment for residents in certain Emergency Service Districts (Schneiderman).***

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Can we just •• Legislator Schneiderman is coming right in, I just want to ask him a question regarding this.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I can talk to that.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. In the interim, let me ask Mr. Zwirn if he has a comment on this.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you for helping me out, yes.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Mr. Chairman, thank you. I have been working with Legislator Schneiderman on this particular bill, it's about the North Flanders Ambulance District, Fire District about the fact that they handle about 80% of their district is County•owned facilities, the Riverhead Center, the County Jail. And we're trying to figure out a way that we can somehow make them a little more whole and we've got a couple of ideas, we're going to have a meeting set up with the Town of Southampton and the fire district to see if we can work something out. So if we can table that, at least until the next cycle so we can get a chance to sit down and talk about it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Browning.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Ben, as you know, I have Yaphank jail, we have HELP Suffolk, and this is something I hear constantly from the South Country Ambulance being called. So I would like to sit down and talk with you and hopefully we can get the ambulance company to come and sit with you also to discuss the issues that they have with this.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Okay, that's not a problem.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN MONTANO:**

Stony Brook University, right?

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Stony Brook University.

*(\* Legislator Schneiderman entered the meeting at 12:21 P.M. \*)*

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah, I think this is obviously an issue that we probably should all look into a little bit more, certainly.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Right. Legislator Schneiderman is here, he can ••

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Could I just ask if the sponsor has a comment on this?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Oh, we're up to my bill already?

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

We're moving right along here.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Any specific questions?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

A number of the Legislators had concerns similar to yours and Mr. Zwirn said that we're going to •• he's going to be considering all of those different situations and he asked to have it tabled at this time.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I would ••

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, in particular I said that we were going to have a meeting.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yeah, we are, Ben and I have been talking on this issue as well as myself and the Supervisor of the town. Actually, this is an ad velorum tax district that's really part of the Town of Southampton, so the people who make those decisions really are in Southampton.

I'm still hearing from the Supervisor that they are going to move to eliminate this from the tax district which will then force the County to negotiate to provide those services, either with this district or with the Riverhead Ambulance or could potentially provide it themselves. I don't think that's the right answer. I think that in Flanders there really is a very strong inequity, it is one of the poorest areas of the County and they are burdening a tremendous cost to provide services to the County and most of their land is actually County•owned, so the County has taken quite a bit off the tax rolls, 80% of the land. We have to do something to fix this inequity, there may be other ways to address it.

You know, I'll support •• I would like to see it moved. If you want it tabled for another cycle while we try to explore other alternatives, but please don't let this disappear, this is a real injustice that needs to be corrected.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. I guess I would ask then, could we, by the time we come together next month, have a resolution to this, or be ••

**MR. ZWIRN:**

We have some ideas that we've talked about to resolve this one, at least in the short term but we'll talk to other Legislators as well about districts that they have that have similar problems.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. All right, then we'll look for a smile on Mr. •• Legislator Schneiderman next time; if it's not, we will deal with it.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, you know, I probably will abstain from the tabling motion, but I understand.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, then I'd like to make a motion to table.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I will abstain.

**MR. NOLAN:**

You need a second to the motion.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I'll second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? One abstention. ***Tabled (VOTE: 5•0•1•1 Abstention: Legislator Schneiderman • Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).***

***IR 1253•06 • Establishing a task force to study feasibility of eliminating illegal drug racing by establishing ••***

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Drag racing that is, I think you said drug racing.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Oh, maybe I did •• ***drag racing by establishing a legal drag strip in Suffolk County (Cooper)***. The sponsor has asked for this to be tabled so I'll make the motion.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Vivian Viloría•Fisher. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa)***.

***IR 1257•06 • Creating the Suffolk County Identity Theft Task Force (Romaine)***. On that motion?

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

I'll make a motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? All those opposed? Abstentions? ***Tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa)***.

**IR 1296•06 • A Local Law establishing responsible standards and controls for alarm systems that require Police Department response (Cooper).** The public hearing was recessed, so I will make a motion to table.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Viloría•Fisher. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).**

**1385•06 • Amending the 2006 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the police cell tower sites (County Executive).**

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I saw Mr. Zwirn say that he wanted this tabled. To my knowledge this hasn't been amended to remove the money for the Rocky Point site which is a separate project, so I would like to make the motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. A motion made by Legislator Losquadro, I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).**

Okay, I would want to add for the record right now that Legislator Caracappa called me and because of a week in another state he had to be absent for this, but he does send his thoughts.

## **Introductory Resolutions**

### ***1416•06 • Creating a Suffolk County Stop DWI Deaths Task Force (Viloria •Fisher).***

#### **LEG. VILORIA •FISHER:**

Okay, I'd like to make a motion to approve. And I did want to underscore for Legislator Losquadro, who did give me some ideas on this last year, that number six is a representative from the automotive mechanics and electronics industry who should be certified, etcetera, etcetera.

#### **LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

#### **LEG. VILORIA •FISHER:**

Which was your suggestion and I hope that we can approve this and get this task force going.

#### **CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you very much. Then the motion to approve is by Legislator Viloria •Fisher.

#### **LEG. BROWNING:**

I'll second.

#### **CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?  
***Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).***

### ***IR 1417•06 • Amending the 2006 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with traffic signal improvements (CP 5054).***

#### **LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Losquadro, the motion was made by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

***Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).***

***IR 1426•06 • Accepting and appropriating 75% grant funds received from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, New York State Comptrollers Number C825632 (County Executive).***

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Second.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Viloría•Fisher. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).***

***IR 1432•06 • Amending the 2006 Operating Budget in connection with the creation of eight (8) Detention Attendant positions in the***

***Police Department (County Executive).***

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning. Second by •• I'll make a second.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Explanation, please.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Who do we have that would answer that?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Someone from the County Exec's office or the Police Department?

**MR. BEEDENBENDER:**

Brian Beedenbender, Legislator Losquadro, from the County Exec's office. These are the eight positions in the 6th Precinct to look at all the cells. I mean, correct me if I'm wrong, Chief Moore, but these are the attendants that will watch over the cells, because they have larger cell capability there in the new precinct than they did in the old, so they need officers to actually oversee the people that they're holding in the cells.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So we're just changing the job title?

**MR. BEEDENBENDER:**

Well, they needed to actually put the job title in place. So we eliminated the old attendant •• the new positions are Detention Attendant, I don't have the bill in front of me, the old positions I believe were of a lower level title.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

The Police Operation Aide? Were those •• but were positions filled is what I'm asking, or will these be eight new positions to be filled and SCINS to be signed by the County Exec?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm Robert Anthony Moore, Chief of Department, Suffolk County Police Department. The Commissioner of Corrections periodically does a review of the capacity of the precinct jails, if you will; as you know, they're not really jails. Now, historically we have had either police officers acting in the capacity of detention attendant or we used video surveillance. As the newer precincts have been constructed, and I know that each one of you has spent some time doing walk•thrus at the precincts.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Hey, hey, I was going to say, watch where you go there, each of us has spent time where?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

We're watching you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yeah.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Because of the reconfiguration, we really •• the Commissioner of Corrections was not comfortable with the way we had been maintaining the staffing, and it was he who insisted that we have full•time individuals watching over the persons in the precinct lock•ups. For our part, we thought that it would be better, more cost effective, as well as serve the purpose by hiring Detention Attendants who are much like the Correction Officers in the Sheriff's Office, as opposed to having police officers assigned to that task. So yes, these are eight new positions for Detention Attendant, it's a specific Civil Service title.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

My whole point was that the Operation Aide positions that are being changed, those were positions that were unfilled.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Very good. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, then. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).**

Okay, **IR 1433•06 • Accepting and appropriating 90% Federal grant funds awarded through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Bureau of Justice funding to the Suffolk County Department of Probation (County Executive).**

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Yes, we can take the money.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator Browning.

All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).**

**IR 1484•06 • Accepting and appropriating grant funds received from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice services under Project Impact II (County Executive).** Motion made by Legislator Browning.

**LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:**

Just a question.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Question on the motion.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I'll second that motion. So that it's a hundred percent then, the project is all grant money? Can we put this on the consent calendar?

**MR. NOLAN:**

I believe •• it doesn't really say ••

**MS. MAHONEY:**

You believe it can? I cannot hear you.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

She can't hear you.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

His answer was that we can put anything on the consent calendar but that he's pretty certain that this is a hundred percent. So I'm suggesting that we approve and place it on the consent calendar.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Great, okay. Okay, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved and placed on the consent calendar (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).***

***IR 1496•06 • Transferring funds to train four (4) additional Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) to assist the County in times of emergencies (County Executive).***

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I'll make that motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

A motion made by Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Browning.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

On the motion?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

On the motion?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Could I ask where the money to train these CERT teams is coming from?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yes, you can. I'm going to have to ask Budget Review to detail that, I know where you're going because we had it changed.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Oh, okay.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Though I'm not sure exactly where it is now located.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I don't see anybody here.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Me neither.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, there we go.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I saw it quickly last night.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

The funds come from an offset in the County Legislature's budget in the 456 Fees•For•Services Account in the amount of \$30,000.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

That's not the •• I don't think you've got the latest.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

No.

**MR. NOLAN:**

It was amended last night.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Oh, okay, because that's what I saw.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

So did I, Dan.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

No, we had large objections to that.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So what is the new offset then? Counsel, do you have the amended copy?

**MR. NOLAN:**

I do have an amended copy.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Do we have the amended copy?

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Yeah, here it is.

**MR. NOLAN:**

It looks like it's coming from •• I'm not great on the budget stuff, but it looks like it's coming ••

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Could we provide a copy of that to Budget Review so they could take a look

at it?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Please. I'm with you, Legislator.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Okay, new offsets come from a reduction in the Social Security Account in the General Fund of \$12,000 and a reduction in the Radio Communications Account for Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services of \$18,000.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, Mr. Chairman, if I may. Based on my recent experiences with the need for improvement in our communications, I question reducing that account by any amount, using that as an offset.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

The suggestions came from Budget Review.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I understand that, but given this •• my personal and this body's recent inquiries as to the state of our radio communications, I question removing any money from that account. What was that amount again and how much is that overall fund, if we could?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Could you give us the numbers again, please?

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

It was 18,000.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

It was 18,000? What is the budget of that account?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

The budget in the Radio Communications Account for FRES was adopted at \$70,650, you'd be reducing it by 18,000, so it would be a balance of \$52,650.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Do we have a representative from FRES here?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Sure. Thank you, I was just about to do that. Thank you. Commissioner Williams. And I guess what we're going to ask you is how do you feel about that?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

It's the first time I'm hearing it.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Uh•oh.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Good, then you haven't been prepped. What do you think?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Well, what we're trying to establish here is these community action teams, we need them badly. We get •• the first part of the money we get from a Federal grant, we've done a very active campaign to get people and we've run out of grant money and we have people on waiting lists to come on, so we need to have the funds.

By the same token, we run a very tight budget in our own department. If we kind of hold as tight as we can, taking \$18,000 out of it, I don't know what that effect is going to be until I go back and sit down, it's the first time I'm hearing it.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Commissioner, thank you for coming up. Even 70,650 is not a substantial budget. I guess the point that I just want to make, obviously I know you try to stretch every dollar absolutely as thin as you possibly can, but for the type of capital projects that we need to undertake, we undertake those through bonding and, you know, through our own Capital Budget process. But what exactly do you use that \$70,000, for maintenance of equipment or ••

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

We •• it's maintenance of equipment, repairs, new radios. We try to spend as much as we can through the grant money, but we actually buy •• we had a new vehicle assigned to us, we buy radios for it, we've got some vehicles coming in.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

When you adopted your •• when you had your budget adopted, obviously you felt you would spend all of that 70,000 plus dollars this year. I know you've been unprepared to comment on specifics, but an almost \$20,000 reduction in that account, would that effect your ability to upkeep your communications in Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services this year?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Well, what we would do if we lost the \$20,000 is to keep the department, we would •• that's a really vital part of the department, we would look at other areas where we could save some other money or I'd be coming back maybe at the end of the year asking for something. But we would not hamper the communications of the department by doing something like this, we would have to look at other avenues of some other programs to do it. I'd have to talk to my staff, what we would have, what the end result is. Both programs are really well needed. The radio program we would not let that go down, I would take 20,000, \$18,000 from someplace else so I can save it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Mr. Zwirn?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah, I think Legislator Losquadro makes a good point. We're concerned,

too, because the County Executive is a cosponsor in this legislation and we weren't aware that there had been a change in the funding source. And my question would be why was the funding source changed?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Okay, let me give you a little history of this issue. This came about, both the County Executive as well as myself are proponents of the CERT Program for all sorts of reasons, including we need people out on the streets if there's ever a hurricane that hits Long Island and this involved veterans, etcetera. We had •• the County Executive, in a joint meeting that we had with FRES as well as the Veteran Services because this included veteran CERT Team members, we had a meeting in front of them where the County Executive said, "Wait, why don't you announce today that we would sponsor the CERT classes, we'll add \$75,000 to the budget," okay. Then he said, "The only thing I've got to do is I've got to find out where the money is going to be coming from. So you can announce it today." We announced it with great fanfare, everyone was very pleased with it and it wasn't until later on that we found out the monies were coming from the Legislative appropriation.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Oops.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

And so that posed many questions amongst my fellow Legislators, as well as myself, and so we looked for a different offset and I hadn't seen it until last night. And that was a quick review, so that's the genesis and the history of it. So we didn't feel it was necessarily something that should be coming from the Legislative budget, it should be coming from outside into the County at large.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

So?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, the County Executive sees all the money that's in the County government as taxpayer money, so if it's in the Legislative accounts and the money is there then he doesn't see why that couldn't be used as an offset as

well.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, I guess what ••

**MR. ZWIRN:**

And we were just sort of taken by surprise, as Legislator Losquadro said, that we didn't know it was coming out of FRES, as the Commissioner of FRES didn't know it was coming out of his department. So I think that's a little bit troubling, you know, if he doesn't know where he's going to get the money to take care of his communications equipment.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

If I may, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes, go ahead.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I certainly think there are •• we can find viable offsets, we're only talking about, what, \$30,000 in total here.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Thirty thousand.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I'm sure we can work with Budget Review and I would be supportive of maybe getting a CN or discharging it on the floor, if we can work it out between now and then. But for the time being, I'm going to have to make a motion to table until we can get this worked out.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I'll second that. So all those in favor?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

No, no. Is it possible that this could be discharged without recommendation so it gives us a chance to see if we can work it out? I mean, we can do it by

a CN, too, but at least we can get it to the floor.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

We can discharge it on the floor.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

I'll make a motion to discharge without recommendation.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

We already had a motion and a second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And I second the tabling motion and I said all in those in favor? Opposed? Any abstentions? Okay, ***tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa)***.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

So Ben, you'll be taking care of this?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I'll get back and ••

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

No surprises.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

We'll get back to you. I mean, I don't think there will be a problem. We'll get this worked out for Tuesday.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yeah, let's work this out.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Oh, Lance is running up here very quickly.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

All right, did you want to add something?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Sure.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Sure, go ahead. Thank you.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

This amended copy was filed at the last minute yesterday afternoon, so I can understand the confusion. The original offset was 456 Account in the Legislature, 1010, which did not have sufficient appropriations for the offset. I spoke to the Chief of staff in the Presiding Officer's Office and we identified these two new offsets funding, Social Security and Radio and Communication. At a previous meeting the County Executive indicated that FRES did have sufficient funds in the Radio Communication as a previous offset, that resolution subsequently disappeared, or wasn't needed, wasn't needed because that was going to be done with other appropriations that already existed in the budget. Our identifying Social Security is in conjunction with our most recent projection for filled positions. Right now in the General Fund there is an appropriation surplus of about \$24 million in the General Fund and that's why we used Social security as an offset.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Chairman, I hate to belabor a point which we already voted, but by way of clarification; number one, you only used Social Security as a partial offset.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

As a partial, right.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Actually, less than half ••

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Right, the other half was Radio and Communication in FRES, correct.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

But back to an earlier point, could you please clarify for me, did you say that the 456 Account did not have sufficient funds to cover this offset?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

That was the 456 Account in the Legislature's appropriation 1010. In 1025, the Budget Review Office appropriation, there were funds in the 456 Account but ••

**MR. ZWIRN:**

You didn't take those, did you?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

That was not used, correct, and I think through advice through the Presiding Officer's Office.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

We'll get it worked out.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

But the original offset, the appropriations weren't there.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. I want everybody to be smiling like you are right now up here, so.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Very good. I'm sure we'll get it worked out between Budget Review and the County Executive and find a suitable and agreeable offset to all interested parties because, as I said, I don't feel the communications budget is an appropriate offset.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Just in defense, we did pass this on to the County Executive's Office, Presiding Officer yesterday afternoon after it was filed, so the County Executive's Office should have gotten a copy yesterday.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That's fine. Thank you.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I'm sure we got it.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Lance, I just have a question for you. Did you race in here to tell us that the offsets were good and that there's sufficient money for what we had budgeted for the Radio and Communications?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Well, the offsets are good, we identified the offsets. We wouldn't put an offset that we didn't think •• we wouldn't stand behind. And Ian from the Legislative office found me and asked me to stop in because there was some confusion. It's up to you to decide whether you think these offsets are suitable for what you want to do.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

We've already decided that.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

But there's sufficient surplus appropriations in these two accounts, based on our current projection for Social Security, \$24 million appropriation surplus in the General Fund alone and from previous statements that were made by the County Executive's Office concerning Radio and Communication in the FRES department.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Okay. Thank you, Lance.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

So you want to reconsider? I'm not sure.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

You want to leave it.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Commissioner, do you agree with this; have you committed those monies?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No. If I may?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Leave it at tabled?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Just by way of clarification, I think all that Budget Review said was the money is there. We know, we had that discussion, yes, we could take \$18,000 out of it, but ••

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

But it leaves him with •• I understand.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

•• what the impact is going to be is what we just discussed earlier. So I think my opinion is let them work it out, find a \$30,000 offset that we can all agree on and I'll be more than happy to move to discharge it on the floor.

**LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:**

Well, the compelling word that I heard from Lance was surplus, you know, that they found a surplus, and I was just wondering. That's why we asked Mr. Williams to come back up.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yeah, is that a surplus, Mr. Williams?

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

I can't answer that question or not because we use that for repairs, we use that for replacement radios and everything else, and in past years we've used up that account. So at this part of the year, we've done even half the year, yeah, I have money in the account.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I'm going to ask that we just leave it and we can discharge it on the floor.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yeah, work it out.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

All right, thank you very much.

**Memorializing Resolutions**

***MR 24 • 2006 • Memorializing Resolution in support of Assembly Bill No. A.09735 and Senate Bill No. S.06635 requiring automated external defibrillators in State Police vehicles (Losquadro).***

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to approve, I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present: Legislator Caracappa).***

***MR 27 • 2006 • Memorializing Resolution requesting the State of New York to enact Assembly Bill No. A.10010 to amend the Vehicle and traffic Law and the Education Law in relation to school bus safety (Romaine).***

I would actually just like to ask Legislator Romaine who is with us today,

could you just explain that a little bit?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Yes, this bill is intended to prevent sexual predators from becoming school bus drivers.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Actually, I think that's ••

**MR. NOLAN:**

It's actually three things. It creates a penalty for passing a school bus illegally, it expands the list of crimes that would disqualify a person from driving and bus and it requires the district, the school districts to include a specific description in their emergency response plan in the event of a crisis involving the transportation of children; so it does three things.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Excellent.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Right, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, thank you very much. Okay, a motion •• yes, our school bus, ex  
•school bus member would like to make a motion, Legislator Browning  
supports that and Legislator Losquadro seconds that. All in favor?  
Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•1 Not Present:  
Legislator Caracappa).**

Okay, there's no other •• Legislator Romaine would like to make a  
statement.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Right. I was wondering if I could ask some questions of the Police  
Department about the COP More Grants that they've received;  
I think we had that discussion last week.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes, you did. And if we can have Chief Moore, please; it will just be a couple of seconds.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Good afternoon.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Good afternoon, Chief Moore. I had some questions about the COPS More Grant, that's a Federal grant that we received for additional police officers?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Might you be referring to the COPS Universal? The COPS More Grant is a technology grant and that allowed us to put the computers in the cars, that sort of thing.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay. Right, maybe you could give me the name of the grant that allows us to hire additional police officers using Federal funds?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Initially it was called COPS Ahead, today it's called COPS Universal Hiring.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay. You probably don't have these numbers, but this is something that maybe we could follow up on and between now and the next committee meeting maybe you could get some information. How much have we received in these grant •• my first question would be how much have we received in these grants in the last say two or three years?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Zero.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Oh.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

The last time the Suffolk County Police Department applied for funding under COPS Universal was in 2003.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And they haven't applied since?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

No.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And why is that, sir?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

I really can't answer that, I don't know.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And this •• these grants would give us additional funding for additional police officers that we could put on the street?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Yes, for a three year period. The basic structure •• shall I go into the history of it?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Yes, briefly.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Okay. When President Clinton was in office, he proposed a crime package, a crime bill for \$1 billion. Part of that crime bill was a hiring program •• initially called COPS Ahead and then ultimately called COPS Universal •• and that program was designed to hire 100,000 police officers. A remarkable number because at the time there were maybe half a million police officers, so you're talking about a 20% increase in the number of officers in the United States. With many Federal grants, it came with strings. The hiring was for a three year period; when you hired the officers you had to make a commitment to the Federal government that you would retain those officers for at least five years.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Have we fulfilled that commitment?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Oh, absolutely. Yeah, that means no layoffs, basically, and the Suffolk County Police Department, as you know, has never laid officers off. So yes, we absolutely have honored that aspect of the commitment.

And two, because at the time the country was •• and forgive me, the rest of you. At the time, the law enforcement philosophy was moving from the more traditional model of 911 response, random patrol, those kinds of techniques, to what we now call community policing. So part of the agreement was that those officers had to be used for COPE activities, what we now call COPE, Community Oriented Police Enforcement Activities, which meant that at the time they •• their primary function could not be sector car operations; they could support sector car operations but they couldn't be sector car operators. So there was a dual purpose behind the grant.

Now, I actually wrote the initial narrative for the grant and the Suffolk County Police Department was one of the first departments in the country to hire police officers. At the time we hired 130 officers, and that was, oh, probably •• and I'm not sure, let's say 1995, thereabouts. Between that time and October of 2003, we hired under that grant approximately 253 officers. However, we hired over a thousand officers overall. Because, you see, if you hire officers under the grant, I mean, you know, we have so many other needs for our officers other than just COPE operations.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Plus you have to replace retirements.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Yes.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And people going out on leave, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Yes, thank you.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Let me get to the purpose of it.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

I'm sorry.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

So we haven't submitted an application for additional police officers since 2003.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Not to my knowledge, no, sir.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Is that a policy decision or •• I assume it's the current administration that has made that decision not to apply for these grants, or what is the reason for not applying for these grants when we had been consistently applying for them for eight years between, by your testimony, between 1995 and 2003?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Right. Well, I'm sorry, I'll have to get back to you on that, I'm really not sure. I can tell you, though, that the past administration and this administration, not all of the officers who were hired were hired under COPS Universal. Perhaps 20% of the officers were hired under COPS Universal.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Let me ask you, when you do apply for COPS Universal, there's an understanding that the police officers that you're hiring are supposed to be additional and not supplemental; is that correct?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Yes.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And there's a requirement when you apply for these funds, if I'm not mistaken, between the budgeted positions and the filled positions that you will bring your force up to the budgeted positions; is that not correct?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Yes. When you agree to accept the Federal funds under COPS Universal, the Federal government wants to ensure that you don't engage what they call supplantation ••

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Right.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

•• which is we're going to use your money to replace our budget monies hiring officers.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And you say we've met that commitment, we met the letter of the grant requirement.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

We •• no. I had gone down to Washington a number of times to discuss with the individuals of the COPS office prior to, you know, the change in administration, and it's really not so much the letter as the spirit, and that's important. Well, you know, when we first engaged in the hiring program under COPS Universal, we were under a consent decree •• which, by the way, we are still are under •• and that caused a lag in our ability to hire; this was under the Gaffney administration. And the Federal government called us to task because we had fallen below or what was the greed upon base line. You know, when you sign up to engage in this grant you establish a number and that is the base line number of officers that you're going to have. The Suffolk County Police Department ••

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

So if we were filling out the grant today, for example, we'd say we have about a little bit more than 3,000 officers, about 2,650 or so, a little bit more than that maybe, are filled and we have about 353 vacancies; would

that be about correct?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

No. Right •• if we were talking strictly about the grant, the base line is about a little over 2,800, we have over 2,600, there's about 150 is the difference.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

What are the positions that are budgeted in the 2006 Operating Budget?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

I'm sorry, I don't have that information, but I can get that information for you. Can you help?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Would it be about 3,003?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Three thousand twenty•five.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Three thousand twenty•five, thank you. So the budgeted number is 3,0025, and maybe I should direct this to Jim because I know he's an expert on the Police Department. You've got 3,025 budgeted, how many do you have filled, more or less?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Two thousand ••

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I think that's the bad mike.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

It's 2,683, thereabouts, probably a couple of retirements.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

So we have roughly about 350 vacancies.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

I'm sorry. For the purposes of the agreement with the Federal government, I would have to get the number for the base line; that wouldn't be 3,000, it would probably be a number significantly lower.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

So it would be the budgeted number, and how would you get the base line number, not the budgeted number of police officers?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

It's the number that when you sign the grant you agree •• and Mr. Maggio, as a matter of fact, was a member of the Police Department, he can help me with this; they're not the same number.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I'll just end this by saying perhaps the Commissioner can get to back to me in writing ••

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

•• as to the reason why we have not applied for any grants for additional police officers since 2000 •• October of 2003. I'd like to know the reason why. And if the Police Department can't comment on that, with Mr. Zwirn here, maybe the County Executive could let us know.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I can comment on it.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Oh, okay.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

While Mr. Zwirn is sitting down, you know, many of the Federal grants are in

conflict. For example, the COPS More Grant which gave us about \$21 million, that's a technology grant and we have to demonstrate to the Federal government that by using technology we have reduced the need for police officers through technology, we have to demonstrate that. That's in direct conflict with the COPS Universal Grant; the COPS Universal Grant, we, at the time we sign the grant, make an agreement with the Federal government that this is going to be the base line; and that's where there's some confusion, it's not the same number as the budgeted amount. So those numbers are actually •• they naturally come into conflict.

Now, we've gotten I think it was over \$18 million for the COPS Universal and \$21 million for the COPS More, the technology grant. On top of that, this administration has been trying to civilianize the Suffolk County Police Department as well. So there are a lot of areas where the initial COPS Universal comes into conflict with things that came along much later. COPS More is a later grant, it was a later Federal program, the civilianization within the Suffolk County Police Department is something that we have dabbled in historically, but this administration has taken a particular interest in that. So we're going to see conflicts between the programs that were initiated back in the mid 90's and the kinds of things that we're attempting to do today.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And I'll just end with this by saying I assume that when these grants are before the Legislature, you make Legislators aware of the potential conflicts amongst these grants and they're competing goals that made conflict from time to time? I'm sure when the grants are discussed that someone says, "Oh wait, before you approve it, I just think you should know this, this and that."

**CHIEF MOORE:**

I can't speak for the prior administration, I'm sure that they did.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Thank you.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

And if I might respond.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The grants are sometimes a tricky thing. Having served in the County Legislature in neighboring Nassau, I mean, sometimes grants were not applied for because grants run out. And what they do is they give you a little carrot in the front and they say, "Well, we'll give you 50, \$75,000 per employee for one year," and we were just talking, Jim said maybe in some parts of the south or some parts of rural areas, \$75,000 may be three years for a police officer, not in Suffolk County or in Nassau County. So what happens is when that grant runs out, you don't let the police officer go, Suffolk County taxpayers at that point pick up the salary forever after. So sometimes ••

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Or you just don't have a class or you delay classes or you don't replace retirements.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, I'm just talking about grants in general that's one of the problems. And sometimes when you have grants in departments, when you see the grant run out you see people will not •• the grant is not renewed or there is no more grant ••

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

•• and a person loses their job at the end because they're hired for the term of the grant

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

No, I actually can understand that perfectly because having worked for a school district and hired under a three year grant, after I proved that they

were very effective, they told me look for another job; luckily I became a reading teacher. But I understand exactly and I think those were great questions and I thank you for your time and your clarification.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

My pleasure. Just in closing, the COPS Universal Program was not particularly successful. They never reached a hundred, they barely reached 43,000, and it was because of the restrictions and the covenants that were placed on the grantees at the time, which I'm sure still exist.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I'm sure all of those evaluations of the grants were forwarded to the Legislature for their review.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Were they?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

A rhetorical question, but thank you.

Okay, then I'd make a motion to adjourn. All those in favor?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

You second that, Legislator Schneiderman. In favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Have a good day.

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 P.M.\*)***

***Legislator Jack Eddington, Chairman  
Public Safety Committee, Chairman***