

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Of The
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Public Safety 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 October 4, 2007.

Members Present:

Legislator Jack Eddington - Chairman
Legislator Kate Browning - Vice Chair
Legislator Joseph Caracappa
Legislator Elie Mystal
Legislator Daniel Losquadro
Legislator Lynne Nowick
Legislator Wayne Horsley

Also In Attendance:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
Robert Calarco - Aide to Legislator Eddington
Paul Perillie - Aide to Legislator Jon Cooper
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Caucus
Linda Burkhardt - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Lori Murphy - Aide to Legislator Losquadro
Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Nowick
Katie Horst - Aide to Legislator Eddington
Elyse Dressler - Intern, Legislator Eddington
Jim Maggio - Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn - County Executive's Office
Brendan Chamberlain - County Executive's Office
Gail Lolis - County Attorney's Office
Alan Otto - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Chief Robert Anthony Moore - Police Department
Joseph Williams - Commissioner of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services
Joseph Scura - Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services
Peter Picarillo - BNET
John Desmond - Director of Probation Department
Debra Alloncius - AME Legislative Director
Deborah McKee - AME Fourth Vice President
Daniel delValle - Probation Officer's Association
Michael P. Sharkey - SCSO
Michael Rando - SCDSPPA
Hope Collazo - ARC/CSP
Anthony Mignone
Kelly Platt
Mike Bogack
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:45 A.M.]

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Good morning. I would like to start the Public Safety Committee Meeting, and I'm going to ask Legislator Horsley to lead us in the Pledge.

(*Salutation*)

And if I could ask you to remain standing for a moment of silence for all those foreign and domestic that support us and put their lives on the line.

(*Moment of Silence*)

Okay. Thank you very much. Okay. I'm going to start with the public portion, and I have three cards. I'd like to have Anthony Mignone come up.

MR. MIGNONE:

Good morning. Is this on?

MS. ORTIZ:

Yes.

MR. MIGNONE:

Okay. I'm Anthony Mignone. I represent all the people that use and reside on County Line Road. County Line Road is a minor arterial highway located in North Amityville. It's under the jurisdiction of the Town of Babylon, and under the jurisdiction of the Suffolk County Highway Department. It is attached to Southern State Parkway. This road does not comply with the American with Disabilities Act. It's unsafe. It doesn't comply with Highway Standard Laws. And I've been working with the Town for about 11 years, in which Legislator Wayne Horsley was part of. He's fully aware of the problems on County Line Road.

The major problem, obstacle I see is funding, money. The Town keeps saying there's no money available, so I'm here today requesting the County work with the Town to get some type of funding for County Line Road, because it's completely unsafe. Due to the major development in the area, it cannot accommodate the traffic. We don't have curbs, the roadway is paved up to people's sidewalks. We have plenty of handicapped, disabled people living on this road, two churches, an elementary school, three recreational parks, a trailer park, and major eating establishments and shopping centers all within a walking distance. We cannot use our road. We have to walk into the roadway, where the cars are coming off the parkway at 65 miles per hour.

I've been living there for 21 years. Twenty-one years ago, it was not like this. Now, because of the major development, especially the 110 development, and the {Wince} project, and the Southern State improvement, it cannot accommodate it. We need help.

Recently, in the past couple of months, there have been accidents, no longer in the roadway, the accidents are ending up on people's front lawns, and one time ended up in the person's house. Now, the last accident happened, hit into a fence, thank God, because the lady had a fence on her lawn, but she can't be here today because she is now dead. Okay? She was elderly and disabled, she was restricted to her home, and about a month after the accident, she passed away, so she can't talk on that subject.

What I'm asking for, I understand there's some type of funding being made available soon. If you can work with the Town, get together, and the State, and the Federal Government, whoever you have to do to get this road complied with, because Suffolk County's jurisdiction was done in 2004. It was on the Capital Improvement Program. The County Public Works Department was supposed to

use that money also for the Town portion. Now, I've turned to my Legislator many times, I even wrote to

Mr. Horsley many times, and I'm not getting no responses from them. I don't understand why they're not responding, that they don't care. It's a quality of life issue and safety is the most important thing. Someone is going to get killed on that road.

I've presented many pictures of kids in the roadway walking to their bus stops. I have plenty of pictures of the disabled with their crutches walking on the roadway. I even have footprints in the roadway, because it was newly paved, resurfaced, and there was no sidewalk. We don't have a right-of-way access or no protection. We need curbing and sidewalks, something to comply.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much. You've made your point. Thank you very much.

MR. MIGNONE:

But my question is, I wrote letters to Mr. Horsley --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

But, you know what, why I don't let --

MR. MIGNONE:

-- and he hasn't responded.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Why don't I let Legislator Mystal respond.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Mr. Mignone, as you know, we've met -- I've met with the Town numerous times. They have met with the Town and talked about it and told them what you would like to see done and what I'd like to see done. The last meeting I had with them, they told me they were going to do this over the summer, and what have they done over the summer?

MR. MIGNONE:

Nothing.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Nothing has been done over the summer.

MR. MIGNONE:

I have a letter from the Town, DPW, saying it's going to have the handicapped ramps put in. By law, the handicapped ramps were supposed to be put in by I think 7094, or something like that? Okay. They're not in there yet. My road in front of my house is caved in. My sidewalk has raised. I have two independent reports saying the Town is responsible to correct whatever's causing the sinkage in the road so I can correct my sidewalk. Nothing is being done. And I've spoken to your Aide many times. He has refused to address my letters that were addressed to you, you have refused. We were supposed to meet again after you --

LEG. MYSTAL:

We were supposed -- Mr. Mignone, we were supposed to meet again --

MR. MIGNONE:

But you haven't.

LEG. MYSTAL:

-- but I cannot -- it doesn't do me any good to meet just with you. I have to meet with you and the Town, because --

MR. MIGNONE:

Right, but I'm under --

LEG. MYSTAL:

But your concern, I know your concern already, so I am -- my thing is that I have to get the Town to come to the table.

MR. MIGNONE:

But it's been four months. Don't you think I should deserve a phone call back? It's a quality of life issue; okay?

LEG. MYSTAL:

The Town has not given me anything in terms of a meeting.

MR. MIGNONE:

Now, Mr. Horsley is fully aware of the situation. He has part in the problem with the hazards, because of the 110 development, and he hasn't responded to my letter I sent to him. I FOILed, I FOILed the Town and Mr. Horsley's record, and there was no records generated in means of any type of funding being asked for, any work that's going to be done. No records were generated.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Mr. Mignone. Mr. Mignone, I am going to make sure that my staff --

MR. MIGNONE:

It's been 11 years, 11 years.

LEG. MYSTAL:

I want to make sure that my staff, you know, again, reaches out to the Town to see if we can put together another meeting. As you know, like, you know, the Town sometimes refuses to meet with you.

MR. MIGNONE:

Why haven't you responded to my letter?

LEG. MYSTAL:

I have -- I have not responded, because I'm waiting for the Town to give me a date.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. You know what, I'm going to --

MR. MIGNONE:

Easily, pick up the phone and call me.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Excuse me. Excuse me, sir. Excuse me. I think what we're going to do is, you've made your point, and the two Legislators will check the records and find out why the Town hasn't been responding to them, because they really can't do anything until they connect with the Town. So they will investigate that piece that you're making very clear.

MR. MIGNONE:

I know for a fact -- I spoke to Councilwoman --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, that's okay. You know what, I appreciate --

MR. MIGNONE:

And Horsley is fully aware of the situation and hasn't don't anything.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

You've had your three minutes and you've made your point. Thank you very much.

MR. MIGNONE:

This goes on record; correct?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes. Thank you very much.

MR. MIGNONE:

And if I FOIL this, I get a copy?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

MR. MIGNONE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Next person is Kelly Platt.

MS. PLATT:

Good morning. My name is Kelly Platt. I'm a resident of Center Moriches. Last night, I attended our Center Moriches School Board meeting and I was quite shocked at what I've heard about issues that I brought up about public safety.

I asked our school board if there's any possible way that we might either contact the County and ask for rumble strips in front of Clayton Huey Elementary School on Main Street, or try to get a speed monitoring device installed to show people what their speed are, the driving on Montauk Highway, on -- in Main Street in Center Moriches.

We were told last night at the meeting that the County has said, in order to get either rumble strips or the monitoring device of speed, that we must have a fatality first. I'm here asking why do we need to wait for a fatality of a child or an adult before we can get these installed?

Center Moriches, our population has grown. Traffic on Montauk Highway is snarling. You can't get anywhere in a short period of time. On Frowein Road in Center Moriches, the calculated speed is not 20 miles an hour where it is in mostly schools -- most school zones out there. I'm asking you to please try to install a monitoring device of speed on Frowein Road. I am actually seeing cars speed over 50 miles an hour.

We've contacted the Police Department. They do monitor as much as they can, but there's not enough being done by the County. We received letters from the County saying that they cannot do this until we have a fatality, and I think waiting for a fatality is too late.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Absolutely. Luckily enough, you have Legislator Browning here that chairs that area, and this is really the first time I think she's hearing this request. So I can assure you that she will -- I'll let you speak for yourself, but I think you will hear more about this.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah. I know we have some representatives right behind you from the Police Department. Yeah, like I say, this morning I know we spoke briefly, and I was a little surprised at what you had told

me. And you mentioned something about the high school doesn't have a school zone speed limit?

MS. PLATT:

There's a posted speed limit, but usually, most school zones are 20 miles per hour. The speed zone, when I passed by this morning, I saw a posted speed of 40 miles per hour by Clayton -- by Center Moriches High School.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay, because --

MS. PLATT:

In front of Clayton Huey Elementary School, the posted speed zone is 20 miles per hour.

LEG. BROWNING:

Correct.

MS. PLATT:

Some speed -- school zones have 15 miles per hour, some have 20. I was wondering, you know, we need more enforcement on Frowein Road than most, where we have high school kids either going out for lunch, walking to school. We also need another crosswalk in front of Clayton Huey Elementary School, where we have two crosswalks right now, but not in front of the elementary school, they're at intersections. One is on Brookfield Avenue and the other one is on Lake Avenue. We have -- there have been reports of jaywalking in front of Clayton Huey. The reason why is because the parking lot is across the street at the shopping center and the parents have to park there, because there's no parking at the school, because it's all done -- you know, filled up with faculty. So now they have to park over at the parking lot at the King Kullen Shopping Center and then walk across the street to bring their kids to school.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

You know what --

LEG. BROWNING:

Do you have --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I'm sorry.

LEG. BROWNING:

Let me ask, do you have a crossing guard at Clayton Huey or --

MS. PLATT:

We have a crossing guard at the corner of Lake Avenue and a crossing guard over at the corner of Brookfield and Main Street.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

MS. PLATT:

There's no crossing guard in the middle between there.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

MS. PLATT:

And as, you know --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

You know what I'm going to ask you, Ms. Platt, is to, and I'm sure that our Legislator will be accommodating, make an appointment with her, sit down and give her all this information, rather than you try to rush through it now. I want you to take your time. This committee has been, at least for the last two years, into prevention and proactive. So when you say that it's a reactive kind of thing, that's not what we're about. And we will look into that further about that traffic thing.

MS. PLATT:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you for coming.

MS. PLATT:

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

John {Bozack}.

MR. BOGACK:

Hello. It's John Bogack, by the way.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Bogack, sorry.

MR. BOGACK:

I was here two months ago, August, early August, now early October. Just to refresh everyone's memory, I work in Child Protective Services. I'm not an employee, I'm a contract worker, or I work as a consultant on CPS cases.

When I appeared here two months ago, it was on the issue of SOUNDEX reports, which is when the CPS worker asks for police histories on clients. Normally, those reports are sent to CPS workers, so they can be part of an investigation. It provides valuable information about clients who are under investigation by CPS. As I noted two months ago, for a variety of reasons, I'm sure they're all out there, these reports are now coming in very, very late. In fact, they're coming in so late, they're coming in at the conclusion of most case investigations, which makes these CPS investigations somewhat compromised.

Now, since I appeared here, just to give you a practical example of what I'm talking about, let me just talk to you about a situation that was on my own caseload. A child, six years old, calls her grandmother, says she's being verbally abused by her mother. The Grandmother hears the call, calls the police, the police go out to the home. The police officer arrives at the house, discovers the situation is not as bad as what the caller claimed, leaves the home, no CPS referral, no further police activity, because to the police officer, this looks like a situation that maybe was overblown. However, had that police officer had access to SOUNDEX, or had the CPS worker had access to SOUNDEX, that officer would have discovered that only a month prior to that, another police officer had been to that house on a physical abuse complaint, which was now currently under investigation in CPS. Now, unbeknownst to me, this all occurred. My case is closed. One day after the case closing, the SOUNDEX request, what had been made nine weeks earlier, arrives. There's nothing I can do anymore, the case is closed. This is the kind of information that we need to get.

Now, I sympathize with the police. I've been with the police -- I've been working with the Department of Social Services for 35 years. I've had contacts with the police officers thousands of times. They do a great job, but there is a fault here in our systems.

We need to resolve this problem sooner rather than later, and I'm here again to appeal for a resolution of this problem.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. I can tell you that it is under investigation, because I spoke to the Probation Department and they're interested in this whole issue as well, so it is being investigated. And I will just tell you that sometimes my frustration is things don't go as quick as we would like them to. But your point was well taken, and they are looking at improving it for the future. So, hopefully, we won't have to see you again in two months.

MR. BOGACK:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you for keeping us updated. Okay. Is there anybody else that wanted to address the committee? Okay. Then I'd like to start with a brief presentation from Debbie McKee from AME.

MS. MCKEE:

Good morning, and thank you for having me here today. My name is Deborah McKee, I'm the Fourth Vice President at AME. However, I am here today as a Public Safety Dispatcher and a 911 Operator, with a total in both positions of 15 years, so I speak to you from experience and truly from the heart.

Staffing in our 911 Dispatch Emergency Center has reached a critical low. Stress levels are enormous, overtime is through the roof, mandating has become commonplace. In July, there were 57 mandates; in August, approximately 62. It is impossible to get time off, because management sets minimum staffing levels, so employees are forced to use sick time for major family events, such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and also when they are truly stressed out. As their union rep, I have a stack of letters from their supervisors labeling them as sick time abusers. These are the professionals we count on to be there when we call, no matter the day, the holiday, the weather conditions or the hour. They are the people who live in the world of 24/7, weekends and holidays, rotating shifts, straight midnights, rolling days off.

In May, our first dispatcher went out with a heart attack. To date, he is recovering, but unsure if he will return. In June, the second one went out, and, in fact, had a second heart attack a week later while in the hospital; his future also uncertain.

In July, a 911 operator responded to the ER. She's a diabetic and her sugar levels were out of control due to the stress. Also in July, another 911 operator was diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. She underwent emergency surgery to remove a tumor associated with her disease. She, too, cannot immediately return due to stress-related complications and until her disease can be made controllable.

In September, another 911 Operator responded to the ER with chest pains. She has no heart history, extremely high blood pressure that had to be gotten under control before she could return to work. How many more? Clearly, the public is at risk, the police officers responding to calls are at risk, and as I have outlined to you, the 911 operators and dispatchers are at risk under these untenable conditions.

It is my understanding that since the Newsday article outlining our concerns was published, SCINs were forwarded for signature to fill these so very essential positions. As you can well imagine, morale is nonexistent.

I implore the Legislature, on behalf of Cheryl Felice and the entire Executive Board of AME, to encourage the County Executive to sign these SCINs immediately to fully staff our emergency center, as it should be, so that this horrendous situation never occurs again. I also implore you, 15

years, these are my co-workers, these are my friends. We need to do the right thing here.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you, Deborah. I just wanted to let you know that yesterday, that Vice Chair Browning and I were at a meeting with the County Executive and Vice Chair Browning made a very strong argument in what you're saying to represent you. So I want you to know, we hear what you're saying. We're already trying to be somewhat late -- early intervention, maybe, so we are looking at the situation and working on it, and Vice Chair Browning is really leading the way on that.

LEG. NOWICK:

I have a question.

MS. MCKEE:

I cannot tell you how much this means to all of us. If there is anything I can do to help you, please don't hesitate to ask.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah. I just wanted to know, Deborah says that the SCINs are about to be signed; is that what you said?

MS. MCKEE:

My sources tell me that they've been forwarded. Where exactly they are in the process, I don't know.

LEG. NOWICK:

I wondered if a representative from the County Executive's Office could tell us if that's going to happen or not, because what I have learned, in talking to my constituents, that what they care about is public safety, is quality of life, and they want to know, if they dial 911, that they're going to have a response. And I wondered if it would be possible if we could ask the County Executive's Office what can we look forward to and how soon?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

We just happen to have a rep here, so Mr. Zwirn.

MR. ZWIRN:

Good morning. I was at the meeting yesterday as well with Legislator Browning, and Horsley, and Mystal, and Chairman Eddington, and the four SCINs have been signed for the 911 operators, which should bring it up to 137. They were down -- they usually had 136, they were down to 133, so four SCINs have been forwarded and have been signed, and those people will be up to -- bring it up to full staffing.

LEG. NOWICK:

Can I?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Sure, go ahead.

LEG. NOWICK:

And to you, Deborah, is that enough?

MS. MCKEE:

It seems to me we are now up to three, perhaps four heart incidents here. I can't see how four SCINs can alleviate a situation where it's a 24/7 facility around the clock. How is that going to give

them the relief they so desperately need?

LEG. NOWICK:

In the best of all worlds, how many would you be looking for?

MS. MCKEE:

Well, the 2004 --

LEG. NOWICK:

Because we know this is not going to be the best of all worlds, but what would be --

MS. MCKEE:

Yeah.

LEG. NOWICK:

-- full staff?

MS. MCKEE:

Well, actually, I don't have all the numbers in front of me right now, but there was a 2004 survey done by the County with regard to staffing and that survey supports our belief that there should be perhaps a total of 160 employees in that command.

LEG. NOWICK:

So now we're talking about what, one --

MR. ZWIRN:

Twenty-seven.

LEG. NOWICK:

Twenty-seven, plus the four?

MR. ZWIRN:

No. That would include the -- that would include -- should bring it up from 137, so you'd have to add another 23 after the SCINs have been filled.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Wait, 127 or 137?

LEG. NOWICK:

How many would it bring us up to with the four.

MR. ZWIRN:

You will have 137.

LEG. NOWICK:

One-thirty-seven.

MR. ZWIRN:

So you'll need another 23.

LEG. NOWICK:

And you were talking about 160?

MS. MCKEE:

Yeah. And, you know, I believe we handled 1.24 million calls last year, compared to Nassau County, which handled perhaps eight hundred and something thousand calls, and their staffing levels are

actually higher than ours are.

MR. ZWIRN:

What I understand from what the Police Commissioner said yesterday is that calls, though, are down because of the new program, when they call COPS instead of 911, but the actual 911 calls are down significantly. They were down -- I don't know for what period, but they were down like 100,000; 95, 100,000.

MS. MCKEE:

I think perhaps I would need to give you more information, because essentially, all of those programs come into the same pool of operators.

LEG. NOWICK:

Deborah, are all of those people actually -- I know they're on payroll. Are they all there working? Nobody is out for Workers Comp or anything like that, right?

MS. MCKEE:

We -- the two heart attacks are currently out, we don't know when they'll come back.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay.

MS. MCKEE:

The Lou Gehrig's is currently out, we don't know when she'll come back.

LEG. NOWICK:

So that's three from --

MS. MCKEE:

Yeah. At any given point in time, you have to accommodate a maternity.

LEG. NOWICK:

So we're still in trouble with that 911.

MS. MCKEE:

Yeah, yeah, we truly are.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, then why don't I make a recommendation that we are going to -- once this is implemented, we're going to look at how the four additional staff members impact the 911, and then I'd like you to come back and give us feedback on how that has helped, and then make a recommendation from there. So we'll have a --

LEG. HORSLEY:

How long does it take to train them?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah, that was my question.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, that might be -- how long does it take to train someone like this?

MS. MCKEE:

These positions are unique unto themselves, it's not like any other position in the County. But when they get them on board, and this is assuming that the person stays, they've gone through the interview process, they've walked out on the floor, listened and seen what this job is all about, and at that point didn't say, "I'm out of here, because this is not for me," and it has happened, the last group of trainees, there were six in the group, one made it, okay, so if that gives you an idea. Truly, to be --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

What's the length of time, I guess we're asking? Is it --

MS. MCKEE:

Yes. Truly, to be up to speed and on your own, a 911 Operator needs to be three to four months --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, God.

MS. MCKEE:

-- in the position and on the floor actively taking calls, and a dispatcher is somewhere on their own flying free, six months to a year to be totally in control of that radio.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Then we're going to have to -- we'll have to have more conversation on this and look at this and revisit this very shortly then, because I don't think we want to wait six months.

LEG. NOWICK:

No.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

So --

MS. MCKEE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

So we will revisit this.

MR. ZWIRN:

And the 2008 budget is before you, so you can -- you know, you can -- this is a good time to be listening to all these -- getting all the input from people who work for the County.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Sounds good. Okay. Thank you very much. Our next presentation is from Chief Robert Anthony Moore, Suffolk County Police.

CHIEF MOORE:

Good morning, Sir. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am Robert Anthony Moore. I am Chief of Department, Suffolk County Police Department, and I've been asked this morning to give you an overview of Operational Impact.

Operation Impact is a grant-driven program. It was first implemented in 2004. It's comprised of 17 counties, representing 85% of the crime outside of New York City. So we're not talking about the crime stats of New York City, nor the five Boroughs of New York City. These are 17 counties outside of New York City, and the crime, 80% of the crime --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I apologize, I want you to keep going, but I just want to clarify, that's 85% of the crime by volume, not by percentage? Not -- Well, as smaller counties, if their percent -- if their crime rate is at a certain percentage level, we're talking about raw numbers here across the state; correct? We're not talking about some of the smaller counties that may have a higher or lower crime rate than us? I just want to clarify that point. You're talking about 85% of the total crimes.

CHIEF MOORE:

You insurance guys. Yes, 80% of all --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

They hang out with actuaries too long.

CHIEF MOORE:

For example, of the 17 participating counties. Suffolk County is a participating member. Nassau County is a participating member. Westchester County.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay.

CHIEF MOORE:

Albany County. So they tend to be the --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Seventeen counties, 85% of the raw number of crime outside of New York City.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Glad you clarified that.

CHIEF MOORE:

The participants in Operation Impact include the Division of Criminal Justice Services, or DCJS, the New York State Division of Patrol, the New York State Division of Probation and Corrections, New York State Police, State Liquor Authority, Federal Agencies, County Probation Departments, the District Attorney, and local police agencies. So there's a broad range of law enforcement groups that are part of Operation Impact.

Now, the goals, they state a number of goals as the objective for -- objectives for Operation Impact, but they've really boiled down to two basic fundamental goals, and one is to create a multi-agency partnership that focuses on violent crimes and gun crimes, and the other broad based goal is to improve crime data, crime analysis and criminal intelligence. Okay. So how is this done? How do we do all of this? Well, are you ready for the acronyms? Well, first is ICAT, which stands for Intelligence and Crime Analysis Teams. And here in Suffolk County, and many of you have visited the location, we have what we call LISIC, or the Long Island Satellite Intelligence Center. There are 24 agencies that share the LISIC Center, which is located at Headquarters at the Suffolk County Police Department. Of course, the Suffolk County Police Department, the Sheriff, Nassau County Police Department has someone there, New York State Police, Probation, Parole, State and Federal Agencies, 24 agencies altogether, are located, physically located at the LISIC Center in Yaphank, and what they do is they gather information and share it amongst the member agencies.

Another aspect is SAFETNet, which stands for Safe Automated Fast Event Tracking Network, and that's a secure data base. It has in it all of the current target individuals and locations. Any law enforcement agency can register with SAFETNet and put into SAFETNet their current target or targets, whether they be individuals, groups or locations, and SAFETNet will tell them, "Oh, by the way, did you know that ATF was looking at this individual," or the F.B.I., or someone else. So, you

know, the purpose with SAFETNet is to make sure that agencies which are running concurrent investigations don't interfere or corrupt each other's investigations.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Chief, can I interrupt you just one second?

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes, sir.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Is that linked with the Federal -- with the Federal Bank, the computers?

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

It is, okay. So it's -- so the F.B.I., all those are all linked together through SAFETNet?

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Got it. Okay, thanks.

CHIEF MOORE:

Another aspect is eJusticeNY. EJusticeNY is a secure communications network through which you can receive operational data and support. So SAFETNet tells you who is the target, or what location is the target, that sort of thing, and eJustice is a communications network where we can actually share information.

NYSPIN, or the New York State Police Information Network, now that's not new, we've had that for quite sometime. But within that system is the New York State Criminal Gun Clearing House, which receives information on the recovery of any firearm that was either used or suspected of being used in a crime. One of the significant aspects of having that system available is that the information is immediately sent to ATF, or Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, for analysis and investigation.

So that's a brief overview. Well, what are we doing in Suffolk County as part of Operation Impact? Well, as I said, Operation Impact began in 2004, and each year, as Operation Impact I began in 2004, that was focused on drugs. Suffolk County received -- do you want general numbers or just the specifics?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, let me ask my consultant. Do you want general numbers, Legislator Losquadro? Yeah, it's okay with me, yeah.

CHIEF MOORE:

Okay. Suffolk County in Operation Impact I received just under \$640,000. Of that, approximately \$194,000 went to the Suffolk County Police Department, the rest went to the District Attorney and other law enforcement agencies in Suffolk County, and the focus of Operation Impact I was drugs.

Operation Impact II, Suffolk County received nearly a million dollars, and of that, the Suffolk County Police Department received \$403,000. Now, interestingly enough, even though the Suffolk County Police Department received a bit over \$400,000, most of Operation Impact was invested into the Town of Riverhead. Suffolk County Police Department put a major support behind the Riverhead Town Police in drug ratification, and it was extraordinarily successful.

Operation Impact 3, Suffolk County received just under 1.3 million dollars, and the Police Department, just under \$600,000, and I'll talk a little bit about Operation Impact. That we've just completed and now we are involved in Operation Impact 4, and this is just in its early, early stages. And again, Suffolk County received 1.6 million, the Suffolk County Police Department received just under \$800,000.

So, over the four years, and we are currently in the fourth year of the renewable grant, the County of Suffolk received just under 4.6 million dollars. The Suffolk County Police Department received just under 2 million dollars, or 43% of the total grants. What did we do with the money? Well, we did a of number things. One thing that the Suffolk County Police Department attempted was a Gun Amnesty Program. We called it a Gun Buy-Back Program. It began in mid December, 2006, and ended on the 2nd of January in 2007. We recovered or we received 510 weapons. Of those 510 weapons, not all of them were illegally possessed weapons, but many of them were. And the breakdown on the types of weapons, 219 rifles or shotguns, 170, 1-7-0, revolvers, 114 semi-automatic pistols, and 7 assault weapons. We invested \$55,000 out of the Operation Impact funds to take possession of those weapons, and those weapons were destroyed.

Another thing that the Suffolk County Police Department does under Operation Impact is licensed firearm compliance checks. Some of these checks are overt. Our Pistol License Section or our Property Recovery Section conduct periodic audits of licensees or, you know, gun stores, that sort of thing, gun shows. But some of the licensed firearm compliance checks are covert, they don't know they're being checked, and I'm afraid I just won't be able to share that information in an open forum.

Two, the Suffolk County Police Department engages in multi-agency, multi-command operations, and these occur in high risk areas. And when we talk about areas, we're talking about really three types of areas. One, of course, would be individuals. We focus on an individual when it comes to our attention that he or she is responsible or the head of an organization that's involved in high level crimes. So what we call Part I Crimes, for your purposes, the crime, whenever you think of the real bad ones, robbery, murder, you know, high level drug possession or sales, those are the Part I crimes. So that would be one area, individuals. Another area would be organizations, not necessarily gangs, because gangs, you know, depends on the individuals, we all have different definitions, it may or may not be a gang, so organizations. And the third area would be areas, physical locations, geographic areas. So, again, high risk targeting of individuals, organizations and areas.

By way of example, Operation Impact III, which we've just completed, some partial results from Operation Impact III. In a six-week period in late 2006, we conducted multi-agency, multi-command operations in the First Precinct and in the Fifth Precinct, and over that six-week period, 418 individuals were arrested for 559 charges. In a six-week period in early 2007, under Operation Impact III, based largely in the First Precinct, 222 individuals were arrested, for a total of 353 charges. So, in just two six-week operations under Operation Impact III, and as you probably know, these are not the only operations that the Police Department was engaged in, we arrested 640 individuals on 912 charges, the vast majority of those charges, serious criminal charges.

So, that's what Operation Impact is. That's basically how it operates, and those are some of the things that we've done in Suffolk County under Operation Impact.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, I want to commend your department, you're doing a great job, and I want you to keep it up. Legislator Mystal, question?

LEG. MYSTAL:

Chief Moore, can we have a copy of your statistics?

CHIEF MOORE:

Absolutely.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. If there's no one else, then I'll thank you for your presentation, Chief.

CHIEF MOORE:

Thank you.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Thank you, Chief.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

We're going to be dealing with I.R. 1855 shortly, so I'm going to ask Commissioner Williams and anyone else that's with him that could speak to this issue.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Good morning. I'd like to have my -- introduce a staff member of mine, he'll put his name on for the record, and also a representative from BNET, the company that we'll be hoping to work with on this project.

MR. SCURA:

Good morning. My name is Joseph Scura from the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services.

MR. PICARILLO:

Good morning. My name is Peter Picarillo. I'm the Executive Director of BNET, the not-for-profit company that facilitates this program.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Just a little brief overview of the -- why we're looking to have this program approved is that one of the things after any large emergency disaster is trying to get the economy back up and running. Part of that is getting our local businesses up and running. There's always been a problem, it came up after 9/11, other big, major events we've had in the country, is that business owners trying to get back into their business in a zone that's maybe closed down. It's always been a problem, who do we let in, is it safe to let in, and how do we accomplish that.

We have come across a program we've been trying to incorporate into this county and other counties which will give us some direction and give us some guidance, and make it a lot easier even for our law enforcement people. Prior to this, right now, if we had an event tomorrow, we would actually have a zone set up, a safety zone where the emergency occurred. If a business owner came over to one of our Suffolk County Police Officers, State Police, Sheriff's Department, anyone in law enforcement, and identified themselves by business card, or anything like that, it almost was a case of the police officer having to take a chance of saying yes, no, or letting him in and there could be a problem. What this program does, and I'll let my people explain it to you, it actually puts forth a program which helps the businesses identifying people in their own company who they feel are essential to get into the business. The other part, it gives some guidance and gives some help to the local law enforcement on who they're going to let in.

One thing I definitely want to mention, though, is that we will not let anybody into anything -- any unsafe areas, they have to be safe. The County Executive would declare you put this position in -- put this program into place after consultation with law enforcement and also with the businesses.

So I'll let Joe speak a little bit about the program and people from BNET, let them know what they exactly do, and we'll welcome your questions.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you.

MR. SCURA:

Thank you, Commissioner. The Corporate Emergency Access System kind of came about as a result of the Joint Loss Reduction Partnership in 1999, and it was really -- saw a necessity for it to be developed after 9/11. And, basically, what it is, it's a pre-event credentialing program. It's operated by BNET, which is a not-for-profit corporation that was set up as a result of that partnership meeting, and it was developed for critical industries and critical employees of business as a disaster mitigation and business recovery tool for critical employees to go in and retrieve data and I.T. systems, so that they could keep up and running and not lose their business. It's a program that would require little effort on the part of the County. The cost is borne by the private sector industries. And it was -- as I said, it was initially developed for private business recovery, but it's developed into a tool that we can use on the government level for disaster mitigation. It's really, really something that we feel that would be a benefit to us in times of emergency.

And just to touch a little more on that, in August, I had attended the national round-table on mobilizing private sector resources for post hurricane impact, which was held at NYU. It was attended by recovery experts from the private sector and all levels of government, from the Federal Government right down to local government. Some of the key concerns that were raised by the private sector were about credentialing and identification, and it was as a result of problems that they encountered with relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and certain relief efforts for flooding in this area, New Jersey and New York. And some of the solutions that were discussed at this conference were to pre-identify employees with eligibility to access an incident area, to establish an oversight on the credentialing process, and to synchronize credentialing across different levels and jurisdictions of government, and this program actually gives us all of that.

As government agencies, we don't have the ability, nor do we have the desire, to act as commodities distributors during times of emergency for recovery purposes. To be effective, what came out of this conference was that that type of effort should be left up to the private sector experts who do that all the time that are proficient at providing those goods and services, but they would need some guidance and our emergency police responders would need some guidance along the lines of who gets into the area, and this program, it was actually set up for that.

The implementation of this corporate access system in Suffolk County would be a tremendous step in helping us towards disaster recovery, especially on a large scale disaster, and it's a cost effective tool for the private sector and certainly very cost effective for local government.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. How about a 30-second promotional statement?

MR. PICARILLO:

Thanks. Well, just let me say, I'm not a vendor. We are a not-for-profit company. We offer the program for governments to utilize if they foresee a need, a need for this. Currently, the program is operating in New York, the five Boroughs of New York City, it's operating in Nassau County, which has yet to promote the program, because they prefer to do an Island-wide type of promotion. The program is used in Buffalo, New York, Boston, Massachusetts, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Stamford, Connecticut, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and we do also have programs in development now in Westchester and Rockland Counties, as well as in the State of New Jersey. Our hope is to have a nice, tight regional program where businesses can get that feeling, that self-assured feeling that in an emergency, government cares about them, cares about their business recovery, and has provided them a tool in the form of a partnership to be able to get back into their business and begin their business recovery efforts.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Thank you very much. If there are no questions, okay, thank you, gentlemen.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Not for them.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Legislator Mystal.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Has the Suffolk County Police Department reviewed this project, and you guys are okay with it?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes, I can -- I've been in touch with them and they are behind it. Okay. Let's start with tabled -- yes, Legislator.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I actually had just a quick question. I got a little bit of follow-up correspondence from the Probation Department, and I was just wondering if I could perhaps ask a question.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

To --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Is the representative from Probation here?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes, the Director is.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I think I see Mr. Desmond back there.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, Director Desmond.

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

Good morning.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Good afternoon -- morning. It's still morning, sorry. With that clock in the back, you never know what's going on around here. We have to get somebody on that.

I want to thank you for sending over some correspondence to my office regarding some of the vehicles in your fleet, and we can speak more about this, we can have a conversation more in depth. But I just wanted to just bring to your attention, some of the vehicles my independent analysis of the list that you sent over show that all of the Chrysler, Sebring model vehicles that you show as having lights only, no siren or anything else, my independent analysis of that shows only one of those vehicles are actually equipped with lights. So I'll give you the -- as we move forward, I'll give you the numbers of those vehicles, because I think we have some discrepancies in this list.

In addition, I have a number of vehicles on here that say -- when it says "equipment installed", say "none required". And based on our prior conversations, I was just wondering what led to that assessment, what those vehicles -- what applications those vehicles were being used in that he we can definitively say that no safety warning equipment is required for those vehicles. That seemed -- there are a large number of vehicles on here that say none of that equipment is required, so I was

wondering if you could explain that to me.

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

If you don't mind, I would love to meet with you privately and go through the list in detail. I'm not -- I don't recall that list, the "none required", which vehicles are on that, but I'd be very happy to go through it in detail with all the vehicles we have in the fleet.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay, because there's about 20 or 25 vehicles on this list that say, in "equipment installed", just say simply "none required". And, as I said, over the months of discussing this in committee, I think we've discussed a number of scenarios where I think it would be prudent to have at least basic warning equipment in the vehicles that our officers are driving out on public roadways. So it was somewhat surprising to me to see so many vehicles just with a statement that says no equipment is required in those vehicles. So I'll have you speak with my staff and we'll definitely set up a meeting to discuss these individual items.

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

Definitely, as quickly as possible.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you, Director. And, Legislator, I'd appreciate you sharing with the rest of the committee the outcome of your discussion. Thank you.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay. Tabled Resolution **1409 - A Local Law establishing crime prevention requirements for scrap metal processors (County Executive).**

LEG. MYSTAL:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by myself. Motion by Legislator Mystal, second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Caracappa).**

I.R. 1482 - A Local Law prohibiting sex offenders from residing in close proximity to libraries (Romaine).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to table by Legislator Browning, I'll second it. And a comment, Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah. I did meet with a Mr. Verbese from the Suffolk Libraries. He was upset about this bill, that they were never approached and brought into the picture at all on this bill. I have met with them, with Laura Ahearn, who I guess she's not here today. However, I am working on making sure that they get the notifications that they need, just like schools do. And I have also reached out to a State Legislator, because we are looking at -- not only are we concerned about where they're living and, you know, with libraries, as far as the quarter mile residency restriction issue, but the fact of the matter is, is sex offenders can still walk into a library and nobody can check on them.

So I have been working with Assemblyman Alessi. I've spoken with him and I've requested that they put in legislation to restrict the ability for sex offenders to go to the children's section and the teen department. So again, I know that there's a lot of talk about how we're opposing sex offenders in libraries. This is not an opposition to it, it's just that it's not a good bill and we need to do something better and more effective.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Legislator Losquadro, on the motion.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you. Well, I have to disagree with that and say that there are many areas where we are frustrated with other levels of government, specifically the lack of support from Congress on federal immigration issues. We are consistently frustrated with the State, and in the absence of this State law, I think it's prudent for the County to act to protect our own residents, so I'm still in support of this bill. I will be opposing tabling.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And then the last comment, unless someone else wants to, that based on our resident expert, Laura Ahearn, and we've been doing a whole look at causing exclusionary zones, and right now, the latest assessment would be -- is that there are a couple of pieces of legislation here that would, in fact, cause a possible exclusionary zone, so -- and that's the reason for tabling. And we're still looking at it, but we just don't want to "throw the baby away with the bath water". So we've got a motion to table and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

One opposed. *(Vote: 5-1-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Caracappa)*

I.R. 1503 - A Local Law prohibiting text messaging while driving (Schneiderman).

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to table by Legislator Nowick, I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Caracappa)

I.R. 1542 - A Local Law prohibiting sex offenders from residing in close proximity to senior housing.

LEG. BROWNING:

Table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to table by Legislator Browning, I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Caracappa)

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I.R. 1749 - Requiring all Peace Officer training to be conducted by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I.R. 1797 - A Local Law enacting a Social Host Law to deter the consumption of alcohol by minors. I'll make a motion to table for public hearing.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Public hearing's not closed, right?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

No.

MR. NOLAN:

Right, it's recessed.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay. Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Caracappa)***

I.R. 1855 - Adopting the Corporate Emergency Access System for the use during periods of restricted public access and execute related agreements as necessary (County Executive).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Caracappa)***

LEG. NOWICK:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

On the motion, Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I just wanted to understand it better, if Counsel could just explain it a little to me. Corporate Emergency Access, is that -- is that when the --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

They explained.

LEG. NOWICK:

Well, I stepped out for a moment. Is that when the cell phones are down?

MR. NOLAN:

Well, just from the presentation earlier, they're setting up a system where business people can get back to their places of work after a disaster. It's a system that allows necessary people to get back to their business, so the economy can start moving again after a disaster occurs.

LEG. NOWICK:

I apologize, too, because I had stepped out. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. I think we had a motion and a vote; yes? Okay, great.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Introductory Resolution 1940 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$700,000 from the New York State Department of Transportation for the LIE/HOV Enforcement Program in Suffolk County with 100% support (County Executive).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve to the Consent Calendar by Legislator Losquadro, and seconded by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Caracappa)**

I.R. 1951 - An amendment -- Amending the 2007 Capital Budget and Program and providing funds in connection with the replacement of Caumsett radio tower at Caumsett State Park, Town of Huntington (County Executive).

LEG. MYSTAL:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Losquadro. I mean, I'm sorry.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll second that.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. That was Legislator Mystal that made the motion, and second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
(Vote: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Caracappa)

Okay. Seeing no other business, I will close the meeting.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Motion to adjourn.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much. Motion to adjourn and second.

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:43 A.M.]

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