

***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, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on November 29, 2007.

***Members Present:***

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

***Also In Attendance:***

*Presiding Officer William Lindsay - District #8*  
Legislator Steve Stern - District #16  
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Ian Barry - Assistant Counsel to the Legislature  
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Leader  
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Leader  
Robert Calarco - Aide to Legislator Eddington  
Katie Horst - Aide to Legislator Eddington  
Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Marge Acevedo - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Kara Hahn - Director of Communications for Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Lori Murphy - Aide to Legislator Losquadro  
DuWayne Gregory - Aide to Legislator Mystal  
Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Nowick  
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern  
Kevin Cepelak - Aide to Legislator Cooper  
Jim Maggio - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Ben Zwirn - Assistant County Executive  
Brendan Chamberlain - County Executive Assistant  
Brian Beedenbender - County Executive Assistant  
Dennis Brown - Bureau Chief/County Attorney's Office  
Richard Dormer - Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department  
Robert Moore - Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department  
Aristedes Mojica - Inspector/Chief of Dept's Office/SCPD  
Noel DiGerolamo - 2nd Vice-President/PBA  
Alan Otto - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Mike Sharkey - President/Deputy Sheriff Police Benevolent Association  
Michael Rando - Deputy Sheriff Police Benevolent Association  
Vito Dagnello - President/Correction Officer's Association  
Matt Bogert - 1st Vice-President/Correction Officer's Association  
Joe Williams - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services  
John Desmond - Director/Suffolk County Probation Department

Danny DeValle - Vice-President/Probation Officer's Association  
Maria Perez-Lent - STOP DWI  
Debra Alloncius - Legislative Director/AME  
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  
Joseph D Sullivan - Newsday  
Stephen Bozzo - Times Beacon Press  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

***(\*The meeting was called to order at 9:39 A.M. \*)***

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

If everyone would please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Browning.

***Salutation***

If we could remain standing for a moment of silence for our personnel that maintain domestic and foreign security of our country.

***Moment of Silence Observed***

Okay, thank you very much.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Mr. Chairman, if you would indulge me for a second while everyone is still standing.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes, absolutely.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I know we're going to recognize Presiding Officer Rizzo come Monday's meeting, but I thought it would be appropriate here, he served on the Public Safety Committee for many years. This morning is his funeral and he served in this Legislature for over 20 years and I was proud to be his Deputy in 1997 when he was Presiding Officer. And I ask that we all keep his family and his memory in all our prayers and thoughts as we move forward over this weekend. He was just a great man, he did so much for this County, so much for this body and I think we should continually hold his memory in our thoughts.

***Moment of Silence Observed***

Okay, thank you very much.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Thanks, Jack.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, I'm going to start with the public portion and I have two cards. You'll have three minutes to speak and I'd like to call Dr. Joseph Laria.

**DR. LARIA:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members of the Legislature, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you

for providing me with this opportunity to be here this morning to speak in relationship to IR 2215 on the DARE Program.

I am here to support my -- the proposal for the Health Smart Program as an enhancement of DARE. And I stand before you today with a pedigree of 30 years as a Superintendent of Schools in New York State, 25 of the last years here in Suffolk County. And during those years, I have been enormously supportive of the DARE Program and see great value in it and have attended almost every DARE graduation. So I'm not here to talk negatively about DARE, I'm here to talk positively about Health Smart which I refer to as DARE Plus or DARE Nice. The contrast is significant in terms of the grades; currently grades five or six are part of DARE with ten sessions and grade seven with seven sessions. Help Smart, in contrast to that, goes K-6, grade seven or eight and then nine or ten, so it's a K, middle school, secondary approach. The target population of students; currently we target 19,000 students in grade five, 12,000 students in grade seven, but in contrast the Health Smart will target 42,000 students on a continuum through grade K-12.

In terms of staffing, the contrast is significant. We have 26 wonderful Police Officers in DARE who serve as outstanding role models for our children, but that will be enhanced; even though we will have ten Police Officers, we will have more than 26 State certified teachers County wide. So it's a blending of the Police Officers with certified teachers. But more importantly, members of the committee, the DARE curriculum currently targets tobacco, alcohol, drugs and peer pressure. The Health Smart, which is DARE Enhanced, DARE Plus, DARE Nice, goes beyond that; in addition to tobacco, alcohol, drugs and peer group pressure, we go into nutrition, exercise, bullying, unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, internet safety. So the Health Smart offers a wholistic approach, a more integrated approach to high risk behavior and it presents a continuity and expansion of curriculum. In my opinion, it's worthy of consideration. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you very much. Could you just stay there, Legislator Losquadro would like to ask you a question.

**DR. LARIA:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. I was actually going to ask this of the Police Department, but I think you're better suited to answer it, because when I first presented this question to the Police Department they did not know the answer and even now, after research, you would certainly be more qualified. My question is the State has an existing health curriculum, does it not?

**DR. LARIA:**

Yes, it does.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Will this program, to your knowledge, be able to dovetail with the State health curriculum? Will the health teachers who are currently teaching the State curriculum be able to fit this in in their current program?

**DR. LARIA:**

They are already. You know, in my experience, this is one of the points I was trying to make to the Legislative body here today, that there's a great deal of overlap and many of the strands in the core curriculum of the State are already being addressed through the DARE Program. So there is an overlap of service and there's a duplication of service and I think --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I wasn't asking about the DARE Program, though, I was asking about the Health Smart Program.

**DR. LARIA:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Because this seems to be an expanded scope. How does this fit in with the existing State health curriculum? My concern is that resources will not be available in districts that are already strapped for staff, that if this is going to be -- if a school district chooses to take part in this program because it is voluntary, that essentially they would be putting -- I hate to use the term, but an unfunded mandate on themselves. Would they be required to pick up additional staff to be able to not only complete the State curriculum, which the State requires that they complete, but also this curriculum? Are we going -- would the Health Department and the Police Department be putting enough staff forward to be able to cover the additional portions of this that do not overlap with the State curriculum? That's what I'm worried about.

**DR. LARIA:**

Well, Legislator Losquadro, the Health Smart approach is an integrated approach through a funded program, through BOCES, to help all districts in Suffolk County address the mandates of the State Health curriculum. So to answer your question directly, this enhancement of DARE satisfies the health curriculum of the State. And it's not an added mandate --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, when I asked the Police --

**DR. LARIA:**

It's a cost of doing business already.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That's why I wanted to ask someone in the education system, because when I asked the Police department they didn't have answers to any of this.

**DR. LARIA:**

In my experience, in talking with my colleagues, superintendents, principals, teachers, they embrace the approach of the Health Smart. Not that they don't agree with DARE, the Health Smart is part of the health curriculum.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Caracappa.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Hi, Joe. How are you? Thanks for coming. You've attended many DARE graduations, as you said.

**DR. LARIA:**

Yes.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

And I'm sure you've sat in the classroom while a DARE lesson has been going on.

**DR. LARIA:**

Yes, I have.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

You've seen that interaction between the children and the Police Officer that's one-on-one, or classroom at a time.

**DR. LARIA:**

Right.

*(\*Legislator Stern entered the meeting at 9:48 A.M. \*)*

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

What's your feeling about taking that classroom-at-a-time approach, that one-on-one time approach away from children and making it, from what I'm told, an assembly-type production or speech or education seminar by the Police Officer through a series of grades which we know are less intensive, less one-on-one, that does not -- personally I feel does not have that same important quality of that bonding relationship between the child and the Police Officer; do you and your colleagues support the fact that that's going to be taken away from our children? I know you said your colleagues are supporting the Health Smart Program as a whole and moving towards -- in this direction, but how do you and your colleagues feel about basically robbing our children of that very important program between Police Officer and child?

**DR. LARIA:**

Legislator Caracappa, I don't believe that there will be any robbing of a bond. In my experience, the Police Officers have been positive role models and I believe they will continue to be as part of this program.

The bonding and the deficiency, if you will, as I see it from my vantage point of being there every day on the job for 25 years plus, the children have exposure to Police Officers in either the 5th or 6th grade for ten sessions and in the 7th grade for seven sessions, end of story. What this enables children to have is a continuity, and that's what I referenced in my opening remark; there is a continuity of staff, there's a continuity of curriculum, K-12, so children will have exposure to Police Officers more than just 5th or 6th grade and in 7th grade. So I think it's an enhancement, I don't think there is any diminution of benefit whatsoever.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Again, we can, you know, agree to disagree, but that more intensive approach between Police Officer and student is taken away. And I know -- and we've all sat through assemblies through high school and junior high and elementary school and, yeah, it was great, it gave us 20 minutes or a half hour to get out of class from instruction and we sat there. To be quite honest with you, I don't think it ever stuck with me, it was just a chance to get out of class and you listen to a speech for a little while.

I don't know if any of my colleagues, and I look them in the eye and you tell me, you've been to DARE graduations, we all know that; have you ever sat in a class and watched an instruction go on between the Police Officer and the children? Have you ever actually sat in there and watched the classroom activity? It's unbelievable. And to take that away -- now, granted, I think the Health Smart curriculum has some benefits to it, but the essential -- and I'll say it -- I've said it once, I'll say it a million times; the essential part of DARE is that bond in that classroom between the Police Officer and the child and when you take that and you make it an assembly-type forum through an extended amount of grades, it doesn't do the job.

And there's one positive outcome that comes out of DARE. We can debate curriculum day-in and day-out for year after year, as we have for the last ten years. There's one constant, that relationship between child and officer that lasts a lifetime, and we are taking that away from them if we take away the Police Officers out of the classroom.

And I respect your opinion, I'm not trying to attack in any way, shape or form. But we are making a serious, serious mistake if we move away from the current DARE Program. Yes, we can enhance the curriculum. Yeah, maybe we can even take what is being proposed by way of Health Smart and give

it to the Police Officer to teach by way of curriculum. And I know DARE is on a copyright and they have, you know, a stringent curriculum to follow, but we can always change that or work to change that. But again, taking those cops out of the class, it would be detrimental more than I can say.

And politically speaking, I really align this to almost as high a mistake as the Governor made with drivers licenses for illegals. You know, it's going to backfire and it's wrong and time will tell.

**DR. LARIA:**

Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you very much. Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yes, good morning, and thank you for your testimony. I have a lot of questions, but I'm going to wait to hear all the other testimony so I can keep my mind open.

Just in relation to what Legislator Losquadro asked, I wanted to ask you, when you spoke about the State curriculum, is that something that goes on now every day at the school? Is there a mandated course for nutrition and bullying?

**DR. LARIA:**

Yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So that is all happening now as part of the curriculum in your school and every school here in the State?

**DR. LARIA:**

Correct, a State mandated curriculum.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So this is already happening.

**DR. LARIA:**

Yes, it is, Legislator.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay.

**DR. LARIA:**

And that the Health Smart is a BOCES funded program which addresses the State health curriculum; so the answer to your question is yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, so this is already --

**DR. LARIA:**

Yes, it is.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And what would be different about that particular program that you're doing right now and -- I mean, that's not the Health Smart Program you're doing, that's just a program that's mandated, right?

**DR. LARIA:**

Well, the Health Smart --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

It's health class.

**DR. LARIA:**

-- is part of the health curriculum.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

It's health class. But right now, is BOCES paying for that right now?

**DR. LARIA:**

It's a funded program, but the districts have to have a health curriculum.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So in the health curriculum, is there a drug and alcohol program facet?

**DR. LARIA:**

Yes, yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yes, so right now you have all that.

**DR. LARIA:**

Correct.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, I just was trying to make that clear. Thank you.

**DR. LARIA:**

And it goes into the issues that I mentioned in my opening statement, nutrition, exercise, bullying, etcetera.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, I just wanted to understand if you're already doing that.

**DR. LARIA:**

What I'm saying in my statement, that's why I call Health Smart DARE Plus or DARE Nice, because it envelops and enhances what DARE is already doing. And if I might, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes.

**DR. LARIA:**

The primary purpose of DARE -- with all due respect to the Police Officers, and I don't mean this pejoratively -- the primary purpose of DARE is to deal with a core curriculum, not to bond with Police Officers. But children will have an opportunity to bond with Police Officers on a K-12 continuum rather than just three grades.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you very much. I think our presentation will address that. Okay, thank you very much, Doctor.

**DR. LARIA:**

Thank you. Thank you very much for the opportunity, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

If Jill Gierasch could come forward for three minutes?

**MS. GIERASCH:**

Good morning, Members of the Legislature. I presently am the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in the Sachem School District. I've worked in the Three Village School District as well as the Bayport-Bluepoint School District.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak before you today. My reason for speaking with you is in regards to the Enhanced Health Smart Program. In the past several years, Sachem has taken advantage of the DARE Program, specifically at the 5th grade level; this program was always well received by students, parents and teachers. The students learned many important lessons about the risk of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. The Police Officers who presented the program always had a positive impact at the school. Children looked forward to the lessons and the interaction with the officer, as you stated. However, in light of the curriculum changes in Sachem, I feel the new Enhanced Health Smart Program will meet our needs more directly.

As you may know, Sachem has 12 elementary schools, this means a diverse population with diverse needs. This past spring, Sachem adopted the County's program Health Smart. We have over 300 plus elementary teachers in grades Kindergarten through Grade 5 who serve over 6,600 students. The majority of our teachers took advantage of the summer training provided, whereas the remaining were trained September through November. Overwhelmingly, the curriculum has been regarded as outstanding. You may not know, but having 300 teachers agree on one thing in an elementary -- throughout elementary schools is phenomenal and I have to say, Health Smart has really done that, I'm not sure how because I've presented many curriculums and never has it been received overwhelmingly by a staff.

The curriculum focus in the elementary schools is on healthy attitudes and behaviors, safety and injury prevention, nutrition and physical activity as well as the tobacco and alcohol prevention. Teachers have embraced this program and feel the lessons are current and comprehensive and meet the needs of the students of today. More importantly, with the new Enhanced Health Smart, it will allow our schools more flexibility. We can now have a dialogue with the Police Officers about where our schools may need more support and attention; specifically budgeting, cyber bullying and internet safety. The new program will afford us the opportunity to tailor the presentations which address current issues and topics. And although it may be the prevention of tobacco and drug use, we will not be limited to those topics or the format of the program.

I applaud the County and the Police Department for their willingness to change. Although a program may be good, we should always be working together to make things better. I believe the County has taken the first step in partnering with the schools to do just this. Schools and programs stay stagnant for too long, we need to start moving ahead at a more rapid pace.

This comprehensive health and life-skill education program, although it has a similar program to DARE, goes above and beyond. As with any program, it's important to see the plan through; as the year progresses we will provide feedback and work together to make the following year an even richer program. Thank you for the opportunity.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. If you could just stay there for a minute. Legislator Caracappa has a question.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm slightly confused here; are you saying Sachem is supporting the removal of Police Officers from the classroom?

**MS. GIERASCH:**

Well, the Police Officers will certainly be part of the program, as they will be the ones providing the presentations. And as you stated earlier, I know --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

In an assembly forum.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

Well, in some cases the schools can work with the Police Officers in how they want to best utilize the program. I know you said it's going to be an assembly forum for several grade levels, whereas it might be just to serve one grade level. Some schools may want the Police Officer to speak with a specific group of students; the school can tailor the program to meet the needs of whatever is going on within that school.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Well, to be quite honest with you, with ten Police Officers County-wide to do the program, I highly doubt you'll have that ability. So my question was to you, Sachem School District's official position is to take the Police Officers out of the classroom as it currently exists, yes or no?

**MS. GIERASCH:**

We are not taking the Police Officers --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Ben, I'm not asking you the question.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah, but I'm just saying --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Mr. Chairman.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

These questions are, you know, how --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I understand, but let's --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

When did you stop beating your spouse? I mean, the way the questions are phrased, Mr. Chairman --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Excuse me.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

She came here and said that they've been training all summer long --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

You said that -- you have said --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON;**

You know what? Listen, listen --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

You're asking a question, they're supporting Police --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

You're out of order.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

You are out of order, Ben. Come on, with all due respect.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

What I will ask is that if you don't feel comfortable answering, we have a presentation that will be going all over this and we can continue there, so.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Mr. Chairman, the speaker came up and she's the Deputy Superintendent on Curriculum, she said that the school has been training with this curriculum over the summer, which I'm getting to my next question. My direct question is is the Schem School District supporting the removal of DARE officers out of the classroom?

**MS. GIERASCH:**

We are not -- like I said to you, we have not decided how we will be using the Enhanced Health Smart Program. Some schools -- like I said, I have 12 elementary schools -- some schools may have a Police Officer working specifically with the classroom whereas others may use an assembly-type program. I cannot answer that for you right now. As we move forward with the program and we meet with the different principals in the 12 elementary schools, they will tailor the program to meet their needs.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Has the Schem School District discussed this with the PTAs, the parents about what seems like the major possibility that the DARE officers are coming out of the classroom of their children?

**MS. GIERASCH:**

We have not spoken with the PTA about the DARE being eliminated.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

But you feel comfortable coming here today to say that the Schem School District is supporting the assembly-type process with Police Officers doing it under the Health Smart Program as opposed to the current DARE Program.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

Yes, we are.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

But you haven't discussed it with the parents yet.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

No, we have not.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

And you said that you've been training teachers to go this route over the summer. And it's great that they all love the curriculum, and like I said earlier in my statement, the curriculum may be wonderful and maybe it should be added to the DARE curriculum or be part of the DARE curriculum as it currently exists. I'm kind of confused, are we -- am I being told through that statement, are we being told as a committee through that statement that this has been in the works since I guess early, late spring?

**MS. GIERASCH:**

I don't know if we're talking about the same things.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Well, that's why I'm asking questions.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

And that's what I'm saying, I'm going to try to clarify. Sachem has adopted the Health Smart, not Enhanced Health Smart, the Health Smart curriculum through BOCES. We have trained our teachers in Health Smart.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

What's the difference?

**MS. GIERASCH:**

It is a K through 5 --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Explain it to us, we're -- this is all new to us.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator, I think the presentation should make that clear and you'll have plenty of time to ask questions. I don't believe that this --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Mr. Chairman, Sachem -- I represent half the Sachem School District and I'm being told by one of their major administrators about the fact that they've adopted this program, and I'd like to know more about it as the representative from there; you know, albeit not for much longer. But, you know, I'm going to -- I've been deluged with calls from people from the Sachem School District outraged over the fact that they're reading that the cops are coming out of the classroom. And I'm very concerned that I have a Superintendent, a Deputy Superintendent coming here saying that they've adopted the curriculum, they're working on it. I want to know the difference, I want to know if the Sachem School District actually supports taking the cops out of the school; these are very important questions germane to what the testimony was.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Do you feel you answered the question or do you --

**MS. GIERASCH:**

Yes, I do. Like I said, it's two different things; we're talking about Health Smart and we're talking about Enhanced Health Smart. Sachem recently adopted, as part of their board policy, the Health Smart curriculum as the K-5 curriculum. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Oh, I'm sorry, we lost her.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Oh, I'm sorry.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

As I look up, she's --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Ms. Gierasch, if you could just pleasure us with one more question?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I'm sorry, I didn't realize you were -- I look up and you're gone.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

I'm sorry.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I had a quick question, and as a professional and it dovetails with Legislator Caracappa's statement. I'm a former Town Councilman and now Legislator, so I've been in a lot of classrooms -- you know, Joe was asking the question -- I have been in classrooms where DARE has been taught and I've noticed, particularly in some communities, that there are places in Suffolk County that we have seen where Police are often considered and looked at in a negative view from the streets and the like of young people growing up and that they do have this bonding. When they come in, I'll never forget, you know, Officer Rich; Officer Rich was like a hero to so many young people in a lot of my communities when I was a Town Councilman.

Have you looked at that aspect in making this decision and pulling them out of the classrooms? I just want -- I want your professional opinion because you've been to a couple of school districts now and you recognize this issue, I'm sure, that this may be the first time that some of these young people are actually working with a policeman and looking at him in a positive light and that is to be encouraged. And I just wanted to get your professional opinion on that.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

And like I said, we're not criticizing the DARE Program at all.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I understand that but, I mean, it's just a loss.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

That has been an absolute asset to the DARE Program that that Officer, yes, actually works with like a specific classroom, that was a positive part of the program. But as the curriculum person for the district, we're looking at it as a whole, a whole curriculum.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

In a wholistic -- okay.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

Correct.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

So you're saying that this outweighs -- the benefits that you're proposing and the changes of the program outweigh the issue that maybe we're losing that bonding to that young person who may have never had a positive view of a Police Officer.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

At this point I can't really say that because we haven't participated in the Enhanced Health Smart Program. But I do feel -- my father is a Police Officer, so I do feel that, yes, that bond, that relationship, how you view an officer, how children see, especially at the elementary level, you know, that this person is a friend, somebody you can reach out to.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

That's my point, yeah.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

Yes, that is absolutely a part of it and I'm hoping that that doesn't -- is not taken away as we have officers in the school and do tailor the program to our different needs; we're going to keep that in mind as we do --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

You could assure us that that piece --

**MS. GIERASCH:**

We want that piece to continue.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

-- and that concern is part of the evaluation of the program? Because I think that would be a major loss and I agree with Legislator Caracappa on this issue.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

And as I said at the end, you know, we hope to give the County feedback as to how the program worked this year. But you know what, sometimes change is good and just --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I understand that.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

-- dealing with drugs and alcohol and some of those things, we have other topics that really could reach our kids and support our classroom teachers in the Health Smart curriculum.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much for your presentation.

**MS. GIERASCH:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you very much. Mr. Zwirn, if you would like to have your opportunity, and maybe you could introduce our guests and we'll start with the presentations.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Thank you. I apologize for being out of order. But if I just might, I mean, I have great respect for Legislator Caracappa, he knows that; he's a member of this esteemed body. But when he compares the move to Health Smart Enhanced from the DARE Program to the Governor's proposal to grant licenses to illegal aliens, I think we've gone a bit too far.

I would ask --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Nothing compares to that.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I said politically.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But this isn't a political issue.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Oh, yes it is.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, let's --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Yes, it is.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

No, it's not.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Let's move on and have the presentation and we'll discuss it.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, I just would like to just say one comment before I introduce the panelists. This isn't a political issue, this is about education and protecting the children of Suffolk County, that's what it's about. It's not politics. The DARE Program has been shown by study after study not to be working, so let's view smart government, let's come up with an alternative. And before we get criticized and before you jump at school administrators, listen to the program. I mean, I would expect the Legislators to come in with an open mind, to at least hear --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, that's why you're here today and that's why we have our guests and that's why I wanted this presentation, so that everybody can hear the information as I have. So let's introduce the people.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Okay. I will introduce the Commissioner of Health, Dr. Chaudhry will be here to speak, I invite him up; Commissioner Dormer, Chief Moore from the Police Department; we have Barry Rosen and Martha Kahan from BOCES will be here and they will give a joint presentation. We'll start with Dr. Chaudhry and I will take a seat until I can be out of order another time.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Ben, you know I didn't compare it to the DARE Program. I said politically it would backfire, as the Governor's program did.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you for that clarification. Okay, Doctor, did you want to lead us off?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Yes, please. Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, everyone. I normally, as the Health Commissioner, don't present before the Public Safety Committee, but I'm doing so this morning very happily because I see this as an excellent opportunity to talk about a collaboration between the Department of Health Services and the Police Department on what we see as really an innovative way to ensure the health and safety of the school children of Suffolk County. And so the Police Department and the Department of Health Services have gotten together and we are promoting an enhancement of the Health Smart curriculum, but perhaps I should begin by talking about our success with the Health Smart curriculum.

*(\*Presiding Officer Lindsay entered the meeting at 10:12 A.M. \*)*

The Health Smart curriculum began really about five years ago as an effort by the Department of Health Services, working with those who put the curriculum together, to seek a way to educate our school children throughout the County on important issues, important topics that are important to adolescents. The curriculum meets or exceeds the national and New York State Health Education standards on all such topics. Its topic include all of those identified by the Centers for Disease Control as causing mortality in adolescents; they include tobacco cessation, alcohol, other drug use, nutrition, physical activity, intentional and unintentional injury and behaviors that can result in HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies.

Now, when we began with this program about five years ago, we had a handful of school districts that took us up on the curriculum and the response was just phenomenal, and in the last five years

the program has grown in the County such that now we have 37 school districts participating at various grade levels, some from Kindergarten through 12th Grade, reaching some 42,000 students. So the Health Smart curriculum has, in my mind, been a success. And in our partnership with BOCES, the Department of Health Services sees this as an excellent way of delivering a health curriculum.

What the enhanced curriculum, the enhancement of the Health Smart curriculum seeks to do is to do something that we have not been able to do with the existing programs, and that is to collaborate and work very closely with the Police Department and have Police Officers involved but in a more expansive way than ever before. My understanding is with the DARE Program -- and like the other speakers, I'm not here to bash the DARE Program, I think it has a lot of pluses, but the DARE Program has also limitations; for one thing, it only focused on the five western towns. What we seek to do, in working with the Police Department in this collaboration, is to really have something in place for the entire County, not just the five towns and not just the 5th, 6th and 7th graders. I have two boys myself who are in middle school and high school who have gone through the DARE Program, what this enhancement of the curriculum seeks to do is to affect all age groups, from Kindergarten through 12th Grade. But we don't force this on any school district; as I said, we have 37 school districts who have participated with this and we seek to have more in the coming years, but we don't force this on anybody. There is a New York State and Federal mandate to have a health curriculum and I'm very pleased to see that so many school districts have taken up the Health Smart curriculum. And what I'd like to see with this collaboration, and I'm fairly confident that this will happen, is that this collaboration will lead to even more school districts coming on board, if they so choose, because I know some school districts have their own programs.

So from my point of view, this is an excellent opportunity for us to work together to work on health and safety issues, and I'm happy to answer any questions that any of the Legislators may have. Thank you.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I have questions. You want to wait?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah, why don't we hear it.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Commissioner, Police Commissioner?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, Mr. Chair. Well, if I may, I don't want to take any of the comments away from the professionals that we have here today, but I would like to maybe answer Legislator Caracappa's concerns about removing officers from the school; I think that that seems to be a big issue and it may be an issue with parents and PTAs.

I should mention, by the way, that the Suffolk County Police Department have many youth programs that are involved in the schools as we speak and these enhancements, outreach to our schools and our students have occurred since 2004. We have a School Resource Officer Program where many officers visit the schools on a daily basis, interact with students and teachers and administrators; this program was initiated in 2004 and it's been expanded. We didn't take the officers away from regular patrol, they still conduct the regular business, but when they have downtime they do go to the schools.

As you all know, PAL has an extensive outreach to our students in all the schools, and thousands of children have contact with Police Officers who are assigned to PAL. Our COPE units interact with the

students and the schools on a regular basis, they give presentations in the schools. And this is an ongoing process, especially in the areas of gangs and violence and, you know, the new 21st century issues that we deal with.

We have a Police Explorer Program which has been expanded since we came on board in 2004. Many students from the school districts are involved in the Explorer Program; again, they're exposed to Police Officers on a regular basis.

We have a Youth Academy which we've also expanded, that's where youngsters from the schools are brought in to the Police Academy and given a curriculum, it's, you know, a mini Police Academy curriculum where they are exposed again to Police operations, Police procedures, etcetera. We have a Summer Youth Program which was in place from the time that Commissioner Guido was the Police Commissioner, it is still going in many of your districts where our kids are exposed again to Police Officers.

The Health Smart Program that we're talking about today will still have Police Officers in the classrooms exposed -- the kids will be exposed to the officers in a more comprehensive manner. As it was mentioned by other speakers, only 5th and 6th and some 7th Graders had contact with the Police; we now have tailored this so they will have contact from K through 12, certainly K through 8. And we talked about the assemblies; up to K through four will be individual classroom instruction, five through eight will be assemblies, and in the high schools will be assembly.

The Sheriff's Department, and I'm not here to talk for the Sheriff's Department, but they have a great program which is a grant for gang presentations in the schools. And Sheriff Vinny DeMarco just received a grant for Sheriffs Deputies to go in to the schools in Suffolk County, it's a County-wide program, and they're going to be exposed to Sheriff Deputies. So I wanted to point out that the Police are in the schools as we speak, a lot more than they were before 2004.

And we, by the way, are listening to the professionals. We didn't come up with the studies in the Police Department that showed again that DARE wasn't really doing what it was supposed to do. And we're not here to bash DARE, as other people have mentioned, but we want to take what's best from DARE and include it in the Health Smart curriculum. Again, we want to make sure that our kids are having the best in this day and age, in the 21st Century.

I should mention that in 1988 when DARE was in -- was brought in to Suffolk County into the school districts, we didn't have the internet, we didn't have cell phones, we didn't have gangs and other issues that we have to deal with today in the 21st Century. We didn't have the flexibility in the DARE Program to address these issues because they didn't give us that flexibility. We have asked for that flexibility over time, they're not willing to change. Legislator Caracappa said why don't we go back to them and ask them to change? Well, it's not that easy. They're a copyrighted entity, they're run from the west coast of this country, they may not be familiar with the issues that we deal with in Suffolk County.

We think that we know what's going on in Suffolk County relative to safety, we think the professionals in the schools know what they need. And this collaboration with the Police and the professionals, the Health Department and the schools, will give our kids a better program and make it better for them. And I would hope that everybody keeps an open mind on it, give it a chance; give us a chance to do this and let's look at it over time and if we have to adjust we can do that. But I think that it's important that we keep our kids as the number one priority here today. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. If I could get now -- Mr. Rosen, if you could introduce yourself and Martha.

**MR. ROSEN:**

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. My name is Barry

Rosen and I oversee a department within BOCES that includes our Eastern Suffolk BOCES Student Assistance Service. We are the largest school-based substance abuse prevention program in Suffolk County and have been in operation for 20 years. At present, our agency places 26 Student Assistance Counselors in 16 school districts --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Sir, pull that microphone right in front of you, it keeps moving back and forth.

**MR. ROSEN:**

Yeah, that's my problem. It will place 26 Student Assistance Counselors in 16 school districts and three BOCES sites to work with youth at risk of alcohol or other drug use. In 2002, we were awarded a contract by the Health Department to fulfill the school-based component of the Tobacco Control Program.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Which means cut.

**MR. ROSEN:**

One of the primary reasons BOCES was selected was due to our long-standing involvement with Suffolk County school districts and our expertise in the area of alcohol and drug prevention. We could not be more supportive of the importance of teaching young people to value their lives when it comes to choices around alcohol and other drugs; that's what we do for a living. I have the pleasure now to introduce Martha Kahan who is sitting to my right. Martha --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Put me on the list.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

You are, you're on the top.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And me, Jack.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Go ahead, I'm sorry.

**MR. ROSEN:**

That's okay. Martha, along with the Health Department, has been working since 2002 in implementing the Health Smart initiative. It really has been an unbelievable endeavor which is why we're at the point I think we're at today, the success has been phenomenal. And I think she'll be able to address your concern, Legislator Caracappa, because I think we did consider the importance of the bond of the Police Officer in the school. And I also think she'll address your concern, Legislator Nowick, about the health curriculum and how it fits into the already existing standards in the State and the Federal Government. So it's my pleasure to introduce Martha Kahan.

**MS. KAHAN:**

Good morning. Thank you. I'll try not to move too much. My name is Martha Kahan, I am the School Liaison for the School Health Education Initiative, I work for Eastern Suffolk BOCES Student Assistance Service.

In the five years that we have been funded, we have trained over 1,500 teachers from 35 school districts, 13 BOCES sites and five private schools in a comprehensive K-12 health curriculum entitled Health Smart.

Prior to even being awarded the contract and in anticipation of the opportunity, we conducted a national search and discovered this state-of-the-art curriculum which was created by highly

experienced prevention specialists, two of whom sat on the committee that developed the National Health Standards in 1985. Health Smart has been carefully constructed based on prevention science evidence that identifies characteristics of effective health education programs. Moreover, it meets or exceeds national and New York State standards for health education and addresses the six areas of risky behaviors identified by CDC that are known to cause morbidity and mortality among adolescents. These behaviors include tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, behaviors that result in intentional or unintentional injury, unhealthy dietary patterns, insufficient physical activity and behaviors that result in HIV/AIDS, STI's and unintended pregnancy. Parent letters and activities are woven in throughout the curriculum and we have recently had all parent components K-6 translated into Spanish.

Our protocol to ensure implementation includes a requirement that schools sign a Memorandum of Agreement stating that teachers will implement the curriculum. Additionally, each year we survey teachers we train to learn whether they are implementing the program and whether they need any technical support. And finally, health educators from the Health Department visit classrooms to document that the program is being used and to see the reaction of students to the material. The response we get from teachers and school administrators is extremely positive. We believe that we are having a significant impact on the health and wellness of Suffolk County's children by providing a needed service that too often is neglected as the result of the high importance placed on Statewide assessments.

In 2006, the County felt that creating collaboration among Suffolk Police, Health Department and Eastern Suffolk BOCES had the potential to enhance an already comprehensive health education program for students K through 12. The plan is to continue training teachers to implement the Health Smart curriculum. In addition, officers will be assigned to supplement the instruction of professionally certified educators in classrooms and assemblies in Grades K through 8. We look forward to this new collaboration and expect even greater success in the years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. I have a few questions here. Legislator Caracappa.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Mr. Chair, if I may?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Oh, yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

With the permission of the Chair, could I make a few more comments --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Sure.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

-- that may clear up some of the questions before they're asked? So it may speed things up if I would be allowed to do that.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Some brief comments did you say?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I will be brief. I will try to be brief, but I think that this is such an important subject that I think it should be covered thoroughly so that we get it on the record why the Police Department, in collaboration with the Health Department and BOCES, did what they did and why they did it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Go for it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I think that's important for everybody.

The enhanced part of it is the ten Police Officers, because Health Smart curriculum is in place, will include all of the existing topics as well as internet safety and other safety issues that may be identified by participating school districts. That's a key to this, school districts will have a say in the curriculum and what they want our officers to talk to their students about.

Unlike the less flexible DARE curriculum, the Enhanced Health Smart curriculum can be tailored to the needs of specific school districts. The transition from DARE Program to Enhanced Health Smart will take place at the beginning of the third quarter, that question may come up; this will enable participating districts to transition appropriately. Details on the procedure will be provided shortly to the schools districts.

The decision to implement this Health Smart Program in lieu of Drug Abuse Resistance Education, DARE, is based upon numerous factors, the foremost being our goal of providing a rich and more robust health education platform for K through 12 students. There is a wide range of evidence that DARE is largely ineffective. In considering this, Suffolk County officials, including the Police Department and the Health Department, had three options; to continue with the same program, DARE, as it is, that was one; number two, to cancel it completely, pull completely out of DARE; or number three, to amend the program to make it better. The Suffolk County Police and the Health Departments have chosen number three, we want to make it better.

The Enhanced Health Smart Program will take whatever good concepts there are from DARE and combine them with a comprehensive Health Smart curriculum. This is very important, that we're not going to completely abandon the concepts of DARE. The Enhanced Health Smart Program will provide a Police presence with Suffolk school children beginning in Kindergarten and spanning their entire primary education years. The DARE Program had been limited primarily to 5th grade. The decision to implement the Enhanced Health Smart Program is based upon factors including a 2002 study conducted by the Federal government's General Accounting Officer -- Office indicating that long-term evaluation of the DARE Program, quote, "Found no significant difference in illicit drug use between students who received DARE and students who did not." A 2001 Suffolk Legislative Task Force Report found, "No credible evidence that the DARE Program was effective in decreasing long-term drug use."

The discontinuation of the DARE and the implementation of comprehensive health and life-skill educational programs at a number of municipalities and schools across the country. These programs which were discontinued were geared towards addressing -- and the new programs they put in place were geared toward addressing a broader range of youngsters behaviors and decision making situations, as in the case with the Health Smart curriculum. I thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Chair. We're open for questions.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. Legislator Caracappa.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I have questions for everyone on the panel; I'll start with BOCES. This is the same BOCES that does this or did or has done the Smoking Cessation Program for Suffolk County, right? Yes or no.

**MS. KAHAN:**

This is -- hi, Legislator Caracappa.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Hi. How are you?

**MS. KAHAN:**

We provide several services under our contract with the Health Department.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

The same Smoking Cessation Program that was written out of the budget by the County Executive

**MS. KAHAN:**

No, that was, I believe -- and maybe I can yield to the Health Commissioner, it was the Adult Cessation Program that the County Executive tried --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Still, it was the Smoking Cessation Program cut and now people actually have to pay for that program on a sliding scale basis.

**MS. KAHAN:**

BOCES has nothing to do with the Adult Cessation Program, that's a separate program under the --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I thought you just said the adult.

**MS. KAHAN:**

We provide training to school personnel to provide smoking cessation for youth; that is still part of our contract, that's still something that we've been providing and will continue to provide as we have been doing. Those are youth cessation programs for kids caught smoking on school grounds or students who wish to volunteer to participate in a smoking cessation program; we've been providing that all along and we hope to continue to do so.

I believe what you're referring to is the Adult Cessation Program that is administered by the Health Department under the Tobacco Control Program and there was an attempt to cut that in the past, yes.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

And BOCES had no part of that, the adult program, whatsoever?

**MS. KAHAN:**

No, we only provide the school-based component of the County's Learn-To-Be-Tobacco-Free Program.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Well, the reason I brought that up, my fear is we go in this direction and then, you know, you're cut from the budget as part of the contract as quickly as it's implemented. And it's a valid concern seeing that things that have been very important to this Legislature over the years cut so quickly, especially as it relates to youth agencies, whether it be in schools or within the community.

**MS. KAHAN:**

May I add one thing about that?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Sure, please.

**MS. KAHAN:**

That's a fear that we have lived with each year and that's why some of you may know me because

I've come to your offices and tried to tell you about what kinds of services we provide so that you will know just how important and what is at stake if our contract is terminated, so.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you very much. Doctor, you mentioned in your comments that you firmly believe that the Police presence will be more expensive now within the schools under this program, but my question to you is how is that possible when your own testimony said we're taking instead of just the five western towns under DARE with the amount of officers that are providing it now, we're cutting it to ten and going County-wide? How do you explain a better Police presence as intensive as it currently is?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Well, I'm going to defer to Commissioner Dormer about the specifics --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

But you said it.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

-- of the program, but what I will say is this program does provide an opportunity for exposure to our school children throughout Suffolk County, from Kingergarten through 12th Grade, to both the existing health curriculum and a Police curriculum. There are some things that we cannot provide through the Department of Health Services and through our funding with BOCES, and Commissioner Dormer alluded to that, things that are -- that constantly change but currently include things like cyber bullying and internet safety. And these are the types of things that working with the Police Department, this will now enable us to do this all across the County and not limit us to just two or three grades or five towns, but really the entire County.

As far as the specifics, as was alluded to, this is something that we're going to work out with each specific school district in terms of how they would like us to work with them in terms of the Health Department and the Police Department, in terms of assemblies, classrooms, how often should the exposures be. This is something we hope to implement by -- after the third week of January. And some of those details we don't have the answers to, but what we seek to do through this enhancement of the curriculum is greater exposure to the children across all age groups across the entire County.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Greater exposure I understand. But do you -- for the record, do you feel it's going to be, with less officers and moving into ten towns as opposed to five, more intensive by way of Police presence?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

If I may?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

No, I'm asking the Doctor because he made that quote on the record.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Repeat the question for me, please?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

You feel -- are you backing up that claim that you said on the record just during your statement that Police presence will be more intensive County-wide with less officers?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Police exposure.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Now exposure, there's a diff -- again, exposure.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Well, I mean, we're going -- you know, as the Commissioner mentioned, and I don't want to speak for the Police Department --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Exposure can be a Police -- a cop car driving past a high school, you know, that's exposure. How intensive --

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

I'm speaking from the point of view of the Department of Health Services. The Commissioner spoke about how there already are existing programs where Police Officers come into the schools. What I see this enhancement of the curriculum doing is providing an opportunity for the two departments to collaborate and talk about how best we can work together to expose children across all age groups, from Kindergarten through 12th Grade across the entire County, something that to my knowledge the DARE Program did not do because it was limited and restricted. Plus, we talked about the flexibility of the curriculum; with this enhancement we can talk about any number of issues that come up that are town specific, school district specific, school specific. And so that's the part, from my point of view as the Department of Health Services Commissioner, that I like.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

All right, Commissioner, how do you get ten Police Officers into classrooms as intensive as it currently is County-wide, as it currently exists with -- how many Police Officers now in DARE, 17?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Twenty-six.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Twenty-six? Twenty-six in five towns as opposed to ten towns.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Ten he said.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Well, no, it's 27 in five towns now and now you're going to have 10 Officers in ten towns. How do we keep that intensity in the classroom or in schools with the Police Officers? As the Commissioner, I'm sure you have a plan and I'd like to -- I'm sure the committee would like to hear it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you. I should clarify, by the way, that the Suffolk County Police Department only covers the five western towns. Health Smart is a County-wide program, and I think that Dr. Chaudhry, that was his emphasis, that it would be County-wide, but the Suffolk County Police Department will be in the five western towns. We have looked at the commitment of the officers and we've come up with the 10, I've been told by the people that run this program that 10 officers will be sufficient.

I should mention that the DARE officers that are now working in the school districts in the five western towns do not do it full-time, they still do patrol duties, and a lot of people don't know that but we do get patrol time from them, so it's not a full-time commitment. We think that -- we believe we can do it with the 10 officers, it will be sufficient. If we have to adjust down the way we can adjust, that's what we do in the Police business. But again, we think it's doable, we think it's the right thing to do.

And with the assembly process from 5 through 8 and all the way up to 12, if that's what the school districts require, we have other resources that the 10 officers can call on to supplement them with a

presentation, whether it be internet safety, gangs or what have you. So we have that flexibility now and we think that we can do it and that a lot more kids will be exposed to Police Officers in that type of setting which we think will be a good thing. I understand your question about the bonding but --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

No, right now I'm concerned about logistics. You know, the bonding is -- well, you know where I am on that. Have you seen that this has been planned for sometime now, where it's slowly coming out, testimony after testimony? Do you have a work schedule planned for the Police Officers; can you share that with the committee? How are they going to be deployed, when they're going to be deployed, when this is going to start? We'd like to know.

And believe me, I'm the last one who likes to micromanage the Police Department or any other department for that matter but, you know, we do have a level of oversight here, that's our job. And if you're ready to kick this in, I'd like to see a workable work chart, so to speak, with relation to these 10 officers under this new program; I'm sure the Chairman and the committee would like to see it as well.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, you know, it depends on the school districts that sign on to this. So we have to get response back from the school districts to let us know who's interested in it and then we will plan the logistics of it. We will adjust at that point. We're looking at implementing this thing at the end of this semester of the school session which will be the third week in January, that's when DARE will end in Suffolk County and we will be in the Health Smart business, the Enhanced Health Smart.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

So you're ready to do away with DARE now, but nothing has really been planned by way of logistics and the Police Department.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I wouldn't agree with that. There's a lot of planning involved in this. We have --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

At this point in time.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, we've identified 10 officers who will be involved in the program. The only issue we have now is what school districts we're going to be in, and we're waiting for the school districts to get back to us. We have time to do that, there's enough lead time to do that and we can kick off in the third week of January without much of a problem. I don't see that as an issue. We have done some planning on this and we're ready to go.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

You mentioned three options that were presented to you as it relates to the DARE Program; what were those three again? One was doing away with DARE altogether.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

One was leaving DARE --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Right, one.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

When all the studies and the information that we have, from the professionals by the way, not studies done by the Police Department, by the professionals in the business and from the Health Department and BOCES, we could have left an expensive program in place which really wasn't serving our kids properly, that was number one option. Number two option was to pull out of it

completely and just pull all the DARE Officers out and leave it to the school districts. Number three was to take what was good from DARE and include it in the Health Smart curriculum which was the third option; we choose to do that because --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Well, what about a fourth option, Commissioner?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

-- we thought that that was the right thing to do.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Understood, understood; obviously that's why we're here today. But what about a fourth option? You know, the schools are -- have embraced Health Smart, as Sachem as mentioned today, it's being taught by way of curriculum to teachers across the County. But what about this fourth option; do the Health Smart and keep DARE as is? A belt and suspenders approach. You want to talk about taking care of our kids, looking out for our kids, this way you have this wonderful curriculum for which we all think is groundbreaking and is being accepted all over while you still have the intensive bond with the Police Officer in the classroom. Why not both? You know, is this all about dollars and cents now?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no, and I think that that should be dispelled right off the bat. We have not mentioned money. It is an expensive program, by the way, but that's not why we're doing this. And I mentioned and I think other people mentioned in here that we didn't have flexibility under the DARE curriculum to address 21st century issues.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Right, so do the Health Smart and then do the DARE, this way you have the best of both worlds.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no. Well, the safety issues --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Why do we have to combine it? Why do we have to eliminate any one of them? It's a simple question, why do we have to? Because this wonderful curriculum coming forward now, why do we have to diminish DARE because of it?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, we want to address issues like internet safety --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Which is done in Health Smart.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Cyber bullying.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Done in Health Smart.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Cyber bullying, gangs.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

It's actually -- if I may interject, it's not being done in Health Smart. This is part of the limitations of the Health Smart curriculum, it's focused on health education. And one of the things I like about this program is that this would enable the Police Officers to do what they do best and talk about things like predatory practices on the internet and cyber bullying; these are areas of their expertise

that we would work together with.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Right, and we'll do it in an assembly forum which is about as, you know, boring as a Space Management meeting. You know --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Mr. Chairman, if I --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I'll just wrap it up with this, Mr. Chairman, because I don't want to monopolize the time, and I know you have a rule in this committee.

It keeps being said, "Well, we're listening to the professionals, we're listening to the professionals," and I appreciate that, they know much more than we do. But people sitting on this committee, we listen to constituents and I don't think -- I think that's being lost nowadays in our elected officials. It seems like everyone wants to listen to professionals and have this attitude of, "We're going to save yourself, Suffolk County residents, from yourselves."

When are we going to start listening to constituents again? They want the DARE Program, they want cops in the classroom, we all know that. We have been through this for ten years and every time it's been brought up, whether it was Commissioner Gallagher or the current administration, this discussion has lasted about a week before the people have come out and said, "No way in heck. We want this for our kids." When are we going to stop listening to professionals and pols and pundits and start again listening to the people we actually represent?

Like I said, politically speaking, Mr. Zwirn, this may backfire, as it did in something more recent in the news. I'm not comparing the two, but I think we're losing sight of what we're supposed to be doing here and that's representing the public and the voters and the true, true well-being of their kids, and that's why we're here and let's not lose site of that through studies and professional opinions.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Before you go, I just want to respond, because I happen to have over 28 years of drug prevention education. I have many certificates and a degree and I did a program very similar to DARE before there was DARE. And as Legislator Caracappa knows better than anybody, I'm not afraid to take a hard issue on.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

That's right.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And I will always think of the constituents. And this, I have to tell you, is another hard decision, because in 1986 I got information from a Harvard Review that a single approach is not effective. We've known this for over 20 years and yet school districts have often gone with DARE because it takes care of what the people want, but it's not an effective drug prevention program.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

(Inaudible).

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I coauthored a curriculum, K through 12, in 1992, but part of the program has to be a

comprehensive approach. And I'm -- I think this meets a part of it, but I'm calling on school districts to meet the rest with parenting education; and I know BOCES does parenting education, I hope that becomes a part of it.

I think that getting the media involved. I mean, I've heard some wonderful commercials against smoking and things like that, we need more of that, the newspapers, the radio, the TV. If we do a comprehensive approach, we can win this battle because we haven't won the war. I'm saying that we have a good chance to win the battle. But we're losing site because I'm not just going to do what people say is best when I know it's not working. I think that's why I was elected, to do the right thing and sometimes it's the hard thing, but I know I want drug prevention. And I've been clear for two years, whenever I heard anything about DARE going I was clear, I am not never going to support doing away with our piece of drug prevention, but I want it to be effective. I want the people to get their money's worth and I'm not going to settle and I'm not going to let people -- I think there's enough people now that know I will not be bullied, I'm going to do what I think is right, I hope everybody can see that and it doesn't become political; if it does so be it, but I want the right thing done for our constituents. Mr. Zwirn.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman, just ten seconds.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I know I can sound sanctimonious on this issue and I'm in no position personally to sound that way on this issue. I have the highest respect for the Police Department and I think you know that, Commissioner, and for yourself, you do a great job, and I have high respect for the DARE officers and what they do. And I have the highest regard for our teachers and our educators through not only my district but throughout the County. But, you know, I've been around I guess too long at this point in time, a lot of people are probably thinking, and I've just seen it too many times; this is not what the people want. And I apologize for sounding maybe abrupt and rude in my assessment of that, and I certainly didn't mean to, I respect your opinion and where you're trying to go and to promote efficiencies within the Police Department. Again, it's just history repeating itself and is it worth the time and the effort?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. Mr. Zwirn?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yes, thank you. And I welcome Legislator Caracappa's comments. It's an emotional issue, it's a passionate issue and sometimes the County Executive's representatives can get out of order, but we can have this kind of debate. This is what's so good about the committee system and the Legislature in Suffolk County, because we're going to air all these things and try to prevent as much information as we can going to the public.

But let me just say, back in 2001, the Legislature and a number of the members who are here today also voted at that time to commission a task force to evaluate DARE, because there must have been some questions at that time how effective was it. And as a result, this document was presented after some research was done, at the request of the Suffolk County Legislature; that document exists and you can't ignore the findings in this document. And let me just read from one passage and you can --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

By the way, I just want to let you know, I made sure that everybody in the Legislature got a copy of that, so.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If you go back to even on just page two, and I'm not going to go through the whole document, but you said what precipitated this, why were we looking at this for such a long period of time. "In 1998, the Federal Government declared that DARE was no longer a research-based drug prevention education program. The DARE Program is no longer included in the list of Effective Prevention Programs identified by the National Institute of Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health." Now, that's not Commissioner Dormer, that's not Dr. Chaudhry, it's the National Institute of Health which has some credentials, if we're going to accept anything. But it was comments like that and the studies that were done on the DARE Program across the nation. And a number of cities, including the City of Rochester which was the first city in the State of New York to adopt the DARE Program, also eliminated the DARE Program.

I think what we're trying to do here in Suffolk County is recognize the shortfalls of the program, how can we make best effective use of our resources, how can we help and protect the children of Suffolk County? We think this is smart government. We're saying a program that has been critical and maybe not working, how can we make it better? And that's -- with all the passions and the debates, and we understand -- and I hear what you're saying, Legislator Caracappa, you want more Police Officers in the classrooms, you think that's a help, and you don't like the experts telling you that it's not because intuitively you feel that it does work, and we can appreciate that. We think that this program is better, it's smarter and we would like -- and we think on the merits it can get the support of the Legislature, we hope it does. We would like to give it a try. If it doesn't work, we can always tweak the program, but we think we've come up with something that doesn't eliminate the program but does try to make it better with the resources that we have available.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you very much. Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Well, I just want you to know, I'm listening and I'm open to suggestions, but just for quick answers. The Health Smart Program is in place now, that's what I'm understanding.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

However, there are components of the DARE Program that are not in the Health Smart Program? What makes it enhanced? If you change it, it becomes, as one of the Superintendents said, the Enhanced Health Smart Program, so what then makes it the enhanced as opposed to the Health Smart Program in place at every school now?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, Health Smart does not include a Police component right now.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, but does Health --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And the enhanced part would be the officers --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

The officers.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, supplementing the Health Smart.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Does Health Smart include a program now, probably not, on drugs and alcohol?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

It does. So you're doing all of that now in Health Smart, the only addition is to put the Police Officers. Next question; the Health Smart -- and I was trying to understand what the Superintendent was saying. The Health Smart that is in place now, is that paid for through the BOCES grant, the one that's in place now?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Yes, the Department of Health Services funds BOCES to -- and we work together in partnership to deliver the curriculum and teach the teachers, if you will, to deliver this curriculum to the school children.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So in no way does the funding change if it's enhanced, that just remains the same, the funding. Okay, so it doesn't change in any way, you don't get any more money if you do it enhanced or --

**MS. KAHAN:**

(Shook head no.)

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, I just wanted to clear that up. The other thing I wanted to -- yes?

**MS. KAHAN:**

There's a cost of living increase that changes the contract but not substantially, and it has nothing to do with the additional Police component.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. The other question I wanted to ask is it sounds to me like the Health Smart Program that's in place now, is that an assembly-type of forum now?

**MS. KAHAN:**

No, it's taught by classroom teachers.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

All right. So if it changes, maybe/maybe not it's going to be assembly, but more likely it's going to be an assembly; is that what I'm hearing?

**MR. ROSEN:**

No.

**MS. KAHAN:**

The Health Smart --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

No. Well, when the Police are there it will be an assembly.

**MS. KAHAN:**

Well, we recommended, and I believe what the Police are going to do is offer the Police Officers K through 4 in a classroom setting, because developmentally kids aren't really appropriate in an assembly setting at that age, but beginning in 5th grade, kids are a little bit more mature and can

withstand an assembly-style delivery of information; so K-4 would be classroom and 5-8 assemblies.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Well, wait, hold on, so 5-8 it's assembly either way.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**MR. ROSEN:**

No.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

No; that's what I'm trying to understand.

**MR. ROSEN:**

It's a good question. The Health Smart curriculum, the way we -- the process of Health Smart is the Health Department -- Martha, along with the Health Department -- monthly trains teachers from school districts who have decided to implement Health Smart. They then go --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Excuse me. Dan, you've got to relax for a second, you've got to relax, just a second, please, just a second. My Legislator on the right is just chomping at the bit.

**MR. ROSEN:**

So we train teachers to go back and deliver --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, I don't want to know how you train, I just want to know when -- Health Smart in your school district -- let's take a school district, Sachem School District; okay, we have Health Smart. So K through 5, Health Smart is in an individual classroom; then five -- oh, K through 4, then 5 through -- no.

**MS. KAHAN:**

No. Health Smart, as it is now, in the Sachem district for example, is taught by individual classroom teachers K through 5.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

In the classroom?

**MS. KAHAN:**

In the classroom.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Not in an assembly.

**MS. KAHAN:**

Not in an assembly.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Then when does it go to an assembly?

**MS. KAHAN:**

The Police would be delivering assembly -- the assembly component.

**MR. ROSEN:**

But the Health Smart curriculum, the curriculum part, even in 6th Grade will still happen in the

classrooms.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Still be in the classroom, unless the Police show -- the Police Officer shows up, then --

**MS. KAHAN:**

It's an addition.

**MR. ROSEN:**

It's an addition. That's the enhancement, the Police will come 5 through 8.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, I'm sorry it took so long to understand that.

**MR. ROSEN:**

That's okay.

**MS. KAHAN:**

It's all right.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

The officers come out of the classroom and go to an assembly, that's the assembly part.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, all right. I'm just trying to get this.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Legislator Nowick, could I add one other piece? The enhanced part is not just the physical presence of the Police Officers, it's their expertise that cannot be provided through the enhanced -- through the existing health smart curriculum.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

We focus on the health issues, the Police Department provides their expertise.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Is there any way in the Health Smart Program that brings -- bring the parents in? Because I'm looking at nutrition, bullying; do the parents come in to these assemblies, do you teach these parents at all, or is this --

**MS. KAHAN:**

There are parent components that go home.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Go home; what does that mean?

**MS. KAHAN:**

That the curriculum includes handouts for parents.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, but the parents never come in to the assembly. I mean, you never sit the parents down and --

**MS. KAHAN:**

We haven't started -- the assembly is something that would be in the future. Presently, and for the past five years, this is strictly something being taught by classroom teachers in a classroom setting with materials that go home to parents.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. And I'm not knocking it, I'm just asking questions, I'm just trying to understand. Are there -- I know there are statistics that the Commissioner alluded to and Ben Zwirn alluded to that DARE does not work. I don't -- I just want to understand how this -- see, what I think is that -- I did a legislation on DXM and I learned a lot about middle school children and they don't -- they do things that are very foolish and they start very young. How -- I'm trying to understand how this Health Smart Program that uses drug and alcohol just as a component rather than a full -- right now DARE is all about drugs and alcohol and I think tobacco as well. How can a program -- please explain to me and I'm not knocking you; please, I am open-minded. I'm just trying to understand as a Mom, and my girls are grown, but how can a program that incorporates so much and just treats this drug and alcohol problem just as a little subsidiary, how can that be better for our kids? Is there proof that it's better? I'm trying to understand, is there more success with a program that has less of a component of drug and alcohol teaching?

**MS. KAHAN:**

I don't believe it's less when it comes to tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. But just backing up for a moment, just as a reminder, the Health Smart curriculum is a comprehensive health curriculum. We expect teachers to teach about 30 minutes a week, K through 6, and then --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I know that.

**MS. KAHAN:**

And if they do that, they are fulfilling the New York State standards for health education.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And they're doing that now.

**MS. KAHAN:**

Right.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

They still teach it now. One of my fears is that the children who sit in these classrooms and listen to nutrition and they listen to bullying -- and those are, by the way, all very important things for young people to learn. Are they really -- I'm concerned about this drugs and alcohol and from what I'm understanding, emergency rooms and first responders are getting an incredible amount of calls about young people on drugs and it's all over, Bridgeport and all over. So my concern is how can it hurt to keep DARE? And my other question is DARE is a -- you say that's a program that's incorporated or --

**CHIEF MOORE:**

A trademark.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

What is it?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It's a trademark, yeah.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Trademark. Why is it that we, as Suffolk County, have to use a trademark? Can we not make our

own program with Police Officers, like a substance abuse, like a SARE? Why do we have to do DARE?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, that's why we're doing this. Now, if I may --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

But this is incorporating bullying, nutrition, HIV, so many different things. I'm just concerned that this very, very, very important substance abuse problem is being mold -- melded -- it's being incorporated into a big -- one big classroom, and that's one of my concerns.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, if I may. And I think the question, it's an excellent question, if the interaction with the Police Officers is going to be continuous, K through 8. Remember, DARE is a one-shot, the officers have them for one semester and that's it.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

But when the Police Officers come in, did you say they're going in to an assembly or they're going to go into --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no, not necessarily. K through 4 it will be classroom instruction, because again, as was mentioned by Marsha --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And they go into there.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, and then 5 through 8 and up through 12 will be assembly.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

You see --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Unless, unless a school administrator requests that the Officer give a classroom instruction or the teacher, we're flexible enough to do that; DARE did not allow us to do that, to deviate from their curriculum.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

That's why we need SARE, Substance Abuse.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator, I just wanted to add, because you're right on. You failed to mention that when DARE was 16 lessons it was cut back to 10; when they cut those lessons, they cut the very basic part of drug prevention which is the self-esteem. I've talked to lots of DARE Officers, they were very upset with that, but when it was cut back they said -- they're talking about concrete things, but the very basis that they spend three or four weeks building on the self-esteem was cut right out of the program, so you're right on.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yeah. And again, I'm listening but I do have concerns. And the other concern I have, and I'll let Legislator Losquadro go before he breaks his hands in half, isn't there a ratio, teacher-to-student, that's acceptable in New York State? Is there a ratio? So in other words, for these young children, isn't it one teacher to maybe 21, 24 children; is there any type of a ratio that is a standard for New York State?

**MS. KAHAN:**

I'm afraid we don't know.

**MR. ROSEN:**

I don't think so.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

No?

**MS. KAHAN:**

I don't know.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

There's no -- so you could have 35 kids in a class to one teacher in an elementary school, it doesn't matter?

**MS. KAHAN:**

No, I was saying I don't know.

**MR. ROSEN:**

I think so, I think it depends on the school district.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Because I'm wondering an assembly of a hundred kids with a Police Officer as opposed to 20 kids to a Police Officer. See, I'm thinking that a Police Officer and 20 kids can interact a little; I don't know if they can do that in an assembly. So that's one of the problems, just things that we have to look into and digest.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, that's a good point. But just remember that when the Officer gives a presentation to a Kindergartner or First Grade, that's not the last contact that we'll have with that -- with these children. When they go to the 2nd Grade, the 3rd Grade, the 4th Grade, they'll still get classroom contact with this Police Officer dealing with the issues that we're talking about, the safety issues which will include, by the way, self-esteem and drugs. Officers are still going to concentrate on that even though it's part of the Health Smart curriculum, because these are the issues that the Police deal with in a community; gangs, the internet, the computer, cell phones, identity theft, gambling. These are issues, by the way, 21st Century issues that weren't on the horizon, some of these things weren't on the horizon two years ago.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Gambling, for example, in our schools is now becoming an issue; we need to address that with our youngsters.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I'm going to pass the microphone on. As I said, one of the problems is I do worry about a child getting lost in a big assembly. You know, there are young people that can go to colleges that are like a Penn State that are huge and they can do well and there are some that need to be in a smaller, private college; you understand the analogous here. So I do worry about an assembly vis-a-vis a small classroom.

**MR. ROSEN:**

And I can talk about this forever, because it is something that we deal with every day with kids, how do you -- how do you help kids not get involved in drugs and alcohol? The common theme to Health

Smart and what the research shows you is the "Just say no" approach will not happen; "just say no", whether it's in a classroom or an assembly, will not happen. And not that the other will, but what you really want to help kids with is in all of these areas help them understand themselves in relation to others.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, just one last question. If you -- to the school because you're the experts, just one last question and I'll let it go. If you had the Health Smart Program in place and you could do DARE and it didn't cost you a dime, would you rather do both?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

That's a good question.

**MR. ROSEN:**

You know, we've been thinking about this and I guess what we came up with speaks for itself. You know, rather -- as the Commissioner said, rather than do the same thing that, we've come up with this new plan.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

No, no, no, but if it was -- to all of you, if it didn't --

**MR. ROSEN:**

I'd like to answer to the question, is I'd like a chance at trying what it is that we're planning to do, because I think it's more comprehensive; I don't know if it is.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, all right. Thank you.

**MR. ROSEN:**

But I think if there's too many messages coming from too many different directions --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, but remember, my question was if it was free and you could have both --

**MR. ROSEN:**

My answer is not about money.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, I just want to know.

**MR. ROSEN:**

Let's think -- and I think that's what Legislator Eddington was talking about. Let's do something that makes sense comprehensively, let's not be a district that says, "I'm going to call in this one, I'm going to call in th is one," and then you have a kid who's sitting there who's lost. Let's try to combine the health issues with the Police issues so that there is one clear message.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I know I said I'm finished, but I can't think that both could hurt.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Exactly.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I can't think that that could hurt.

**MR. ROSEN:**

I really don't know.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I can't think that a program alone -- well, you know what? Go ahead, Dan. I'm sorry, I said I'd be quiet.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And thank you, Legislator Nowick, from me twitching next to you, but I think I was going to run out of ink soon. You said 37 districts are participating currently in the Health Smart Program; how many districts are there County-wide, 70 something?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Sixty-nine?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

About 70, right?

**MR. ROSEN:**

Yeah, seventy.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay, so about half are participating currently. And these are numbers that I believe you should have if we're looking at integrating this in January. How many that currently participate in Health Smart currently participate in DARE? Folks, if we're doing this in January you should have these numbers.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I don't have the numbers in front of me.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

I can get those, I don't have them in front of me.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

It's almost December. How many schools that do not participate in Health Smart currently participate in DARE?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I think your question was the schools, I think it's 37 have Health Smart right now --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

How many of them are participating in DARE.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I don't have the answer to that. I do know that we are -- have DARE in 202 schools right now. Not all the school districts in Suffolk County --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

But as you heard from Sayville, there are multi -- some larger districts have many schools within their district, so the number of schools isn't really relevant to the number of school districts; that's the number we need to get at here.

So if a school chooses not to participate in Enhanced Health Smart and DARE will not be available come January, then they have -- they have no option to get any Drug Awareness Resistance Education in one form -- and I hate to use that acronym because I know that stands specifically for DARE, so they have no option from the County to get drug abuse programs; would that be correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, there -- no, my understanding is that through Health Smart --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

But if they don't currently participate in Health Smart.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, we'll still do it. If they request it --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, you told me 37 schools are currently participating in your Health Smart curriculum, correct? So that's about half in the County.

**MS. KAHAN:**

But --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

My wife's a teacher, I'm getting to something here. I know when my wife writes new curriculum, when the State changes things -- she's a math teacher -- they write new curriculum in the summer so they have a chance to implement and integrate changes before the school year starts. So the school district doesn't currently take part in your program, in the Health Smart Program, which about half of the districts in this County don't, and nothing will be available in January, where is the flexibility to the schools? Are they going to have to change mid year? Is there any option to them other than to take part in this enhanced program; and if there is another option, what is it?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Legislator Losquadro, I hope this answers the question. I've been getting a few phone calls from the school districts asking about the enhanced version of this program and how this will move forward. I got a call from one school, I don't remember the name of which one, but they did not have a Health Smart curriculum, and I said, "But surely you have a health curriculum," they said, "Oh, yes, we followed New York State guidelines and we've developed our own," and I said, "That's great." They said, "Will we still have an opportunity, since we don't have Health Smart, will we still have an opportunity to get Police Officers to come in to talk about all the other issues that you've alluded to in your letter through BOCES about Enhanced Health Smart," we said, "Absolutely," and we've checked with the Police Department and that is true. So school districts will still have an opportunity to have Police Officers come in; correct me if I'm wrong, Commissioner Dormer.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, that is correct.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

But if they're not -- the Police component of this is meant to dovetail specifically, and obviously a lot of thought was put into this, dovetail specifically with your Health Smart Program to make the Enhanced Health smart. So if school districts are doing their own curriculum, there's going to be a gap somewhere because it's not the same curriculum that you've established that the Police Department component is meant to dove tail with. You have no knowledge -- I mean, there is a State -- yes, they're following the State curriculum, but they have flexibility. So the -- and if they're choosing right now to supplement their program with the DARE Program and your enhanced Health

Smart is meant to dovetail specifically with the Health Smart curriculum, I see a potential gap for those approximately one-half of the school districts in Suffolk County that do not participate in Health Smart, because you haven't worked with them up until now. I mean, that seems pretty basic.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might, there are some school districts in Suffolk County that don't participate in the DARE Program.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, that's why --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

And they have their own curriculum.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- I asked the question before. If we're planning on doing this in a little over a month's time, I don't see how we don't have the numbers of how many that participate in Health Smart currently participate in DARE, how many who currently do not participate in Health Smart currently participate in DARE.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, we have the list of people --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I mean, this seems to be a very relevant number.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

We have the list of the school districts that don't participate in DARE, and it's certainly not a big leap to find out --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Have you -- but that's not what I asked. Have you bothered --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I'm just saying, but then you compare that --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- cross-referencing those two up until this point?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, I don't know if they have but it certainly could take, you know, about 30 seconds.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, I think that would be an integral part of developing a plan.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Okay. Well, I don't think it's -- it's certainly not a --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That seems sort of a dismissive reaction to something that is --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

No, but it's --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- I think very relevant to developing a curriculum.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

You have five school districts that don't -- there are only five school districts that don't.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Especially, I know school districts put a lot of time and effort into developing their curriculum and they pay teachers additional money at times to write curriculum. So if a school district is now faced with a situation where this enhanced Health Smart, the Police component maybe doesn't match exactly with the curriculum they're going to have in place next spring, are they going to have to change mid-year? Where is the flexibility to the district? And if they don't, then the only people who lose out are the children. And at that point, are school districts forced to change their curriculum or rewrite their curriculum to close that gap between the Health Smart curriculum and their own curriculum if they choose to avail themselves of the Police component of Enhanced Health Smart? Or at that point do they just look at it and say, "Well, I guess we really don't have a choice. If this is all they're offering is this Police component, I guess we've better just change to the Health Smart Program." And I don't think that's a good model --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

That's would be good.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- or giving school districts flexibility, because at the moment, only half of them have chosen to take part in Health Smart of their own valition; that's correct, isn't it?

**MS. KAHAN:**

Uh-huh.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So what's going to have the other half suddenly change their mind and decide that Health Smart is best for them other than perhaps to say, "Well, if we're going to avail ourselves of this Police component and it's meant to dovetail together, I guess we just better switch to it." Of course I'm -- this is all speculation on my part, but to me this is sort of simple accounting; if only half of them are choosing to participate of their own valition, then half of them are saying this isn't best for us.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

I'm going to try to answer that question. The Health Smart curriculum, as I alluded to, is something that has gained more and more acceptance by the school districts.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I understand that.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

We're up to -- glass half-full. We're up to 37 school districts and we hope --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Up to.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

-- that down the road we'll have more school districts.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

But we're planning on doing this in January --

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

I understand.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So this is where we're up to, but we're talking current numbers.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

I understand. And what I've told those school districts that have the existing Health Smart curriculum, we will work with them to make sure that the transition to the enhancement of the Health Smart curriculum is seamless. Now, of course there will be some kinks, I'm sure, because whenever you change your curriculum it just doesn't happen, as you've alluded to, over night, I recognize that.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Absolutely.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

So those that don't have a Health Smart curriculum, they have some curriculum related to health care and looking out for adolescents and that's where the Police Department has indicated that while this is best delivered -- we feel, sitting at the table -- as a package deal, if they don't have the Health Smart curriculum, the Police Department is more than happy to provide the Police component that I can't provide and that BOCES can't provide, we don't have that expertise as it relates to those areas.

So I don't know if that answers your question. We're trying to do this as seamless as possible without disrupting the school districts, but there will be some --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, thank you, Dr. Chaudhry, I appreciate your input, but no, it doesn't answer my question because half of the school districts currently don't participate and their curriculum is going to be somewhat different than the Health Smart curriculum, to a small degree or a large degree, I don't know which it is and we can't say that here. But half of the districts currently in Suffolk County are not using this curriculum and the Police component is meant to dovetail specifically with the curriculum that you're putting forward.

Now, we were talking about parent involvement. I go to DARE graduations, try not to miss any unless I have a meeting here. The DARE graduations are actually a very important component of engaging parents in the process. The parents are very proud, they show up, hundreds of parents in the room, they're watching their children go through this, they are exposed to this process, they see what their children have been taught, they see the Officer there, it gives them an opportunity to get or to engage in that dialogue with their children. If it's just presented in a classroom atmosphere or in an auditorium atmosphere, however it is, and it's just handout that are going home, I think you lose -- we're focusing on the children here, but I think you lose an important component of the parents' engagement in the process. When they get to go to those graduations and they see those children there -- and again, it engages them in that dialogued with their children and I think that's a very important component to this.

Now, back to the Police Department for a second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Could I let Mr. Zwirn --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Oh, I wasn't aware I had a question for Mr. Zwirn, I was going to ask the Police Department a question.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

No, but I just wanted -- but there will still be a graduation.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Oh, there will be a graduation.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah, I thought that would answer your question.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

In each grade level, or will it only be at -- because we're talking about doing this throughout multiple grade levels. Would we have a graduation each year, would it only be at certain milestones; how would that work?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

You raised excellent points and these were points that we recognize was a value in explaining what we're doing to the parents and the greater community. And in our discussions, what we were thinking about was having some sort of an award ceremony from the transition points, from elementary to middle school, middle school to high school and so forth. I think to try to have a graduation ceremony every year is not necessarily the way to proceed in terms of resources.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Nor do I, so that's why I'm asking.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But I think we --

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

But we did recognize the value.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But also, I think Legislator Nowick mentioned it too. I mean, at the assemblies, it also would be, I think, a good opportunity for the parents to be involved, because parental involvement, by all the reports, by the experts and non-experts, it's critical for the entire success.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, Legislator Nowick mentioned it and she was told no, the parents will not be there in those assemblies.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, the school districts will have that opportunity. It won't be -- the Police Department is not going to set that up, but if the school districts invite the parents in, they're invited to the graduations, I don't see any reason why the school districts wouldn't invite them to the assemblies.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

It's open-ended.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That's -- I think Legislator Caracappa's turn there about being open-ended is exactly right. Right now we have 26 Officers covering the five western towns, the Suffolk County Police District; part-time versus full-time, we can get into that, but then you would be talking about 10 Officers covering the entire County. Let me ask you, would there --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Excuse me?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

The district, Police District.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, that was my question. The 10 officers would still only cover the Suffolk County Police District, correct?

**CHIEF MOORE:**

Which is what they do currently.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So have you had contact --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- with the east end Police Districts and will they be able to supply manpower to take part in this program for the east end schools in the five eastern towns?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

If this program moves forward, our goal is to work with the Police Departments in the five eastern towns.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So that's a no, you haven't had contact yet. I mean, we're talking about -- if this program moves forward, we're talking about doing it in a month. What has been done with the east end towns to see if those Police Districts will take part in this new process?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The east end districts for the most part have their own DARE Programs, and if they want to participate in the Health Smart with the school districts they can still do that; if they want to continue with the DARE programs they have out there, this will not impact them.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The Suffolk County Police Officers showing up, they will have their own Police Officers in the classrooms.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So wait a minute, so why are we even talking about expansion to the entire town here?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

It's the health curriculum component.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Because what you -- I understand that, but the Police component, you still only have jurisdiction, so to speak, over the five western towns; the five eastern towns and those police departments and their willingness to take part in the Enhanced Health Smart Program has yet to be determined, is that correct?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

It's up to them.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

It's up to them, but that would have no impact on this program going forward.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, we're here touting that this is going to expand to the entire County.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The health curriculum portion, the Police Department personnel --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, no, no, no, we're -- this is the first I've heard --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If there was a misunderstanding, I'm trying to make that clear now.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That's the first I've heard of that. This was put forward that the Enhanced Health Smart Program was something that would benefit students County-wide,

**MR. ZWIRN:**

That the 10 Suffolk County Police Officers are going to go across the entire County?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That's what all of us heard, that's what I heard.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, the health curriculum portion yes, but the Police Department personnel will be in the western --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

But the enhanced portion is the Police component. The only portion that the east end towns --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

No.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- can take part in is the Health Smart Program; and I have the person from BOCES who knows this nodding. So the Enhanced Health Smart, the part that we've been sitting here talking about for the past God knows how long still only applies to the five western towns.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The Police portion, yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes. Okay, thank you for clearing that up. The five eastern towns, if they choose to participate in this, and this is something that the County is putting forward, do you think they might ask us for more revenue sharing money? Is this something we might want to take into account?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

They do all the time.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That's very funny, Mr. Zwirn, but --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But it's true, they always ask for more.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

But is this essentially, as I had mentioned before, a mandate? Could the eastern schools characterize it that way, that they say, "You know what? We are going to change over to this and we want to take part in this, so now we want our Police Departments to fulfill the enhanced portion of the Health Smart program." And are those Police Districts going to come back to the County and say, "You guys put this together, we need to put Officers in these classrooms, you guys owe us more money."

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But they're already there in the classrooms with the DARE Programs; if they need less officers, then they'll have more money to spend on patrol."

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

How do we know we're going to need less officers? We've just been hearing that we -- this could be a fluid process, we could decide it's not enough officers and we're not having enough involvement in the classroom, we might want more officers.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, the east end towns --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I haven't gotten a single straight answer here today.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, I know that's how you feel, but that's --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

We're planning on doing this in a month and we can't even hear a straight answer on how many schools that currently participate in Health Smart currently participate in the DARE Program, or how we're going to deploy the officers to those schools, to the schools that currently take part in DARE that don't have the Health Smart, which I think is an even more important component. Because those schools are now going to be left without any option other than to take part in this enhanced portion which may not fit in with their curriculum entirely.

I think there are major, major problems. I think that trying to move towards an updated program is a laudable goal, but I think there are a ton of unanswered questions here and trying to move forward in a month's time with this --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

(Inaudible).

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- I don't think is plausible, and I think you're going to put districts in a very bad position here. And not having even engaged the east end towns after characterizing this as a County-wide program?

The east end schools -- do the east end schools already have the ability to take part in Health Smart?

**MS. KAHAN:**

Yes, and they have.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Some of them have availed themselves of that, yes. They don't have the ability to avail themselves of Enhanced Health Smart through the Suffolk County Police Department, it would have to be through their own Police Departments.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Right, that's what they do.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And we have not -- the Suffolk County Health Department has not contacted those Police Departments about taking part in that, correct?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Correct.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Correct. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I contacted the Health Department.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I'm going to make this very quick. I want to thank Legislator Nowick for filling in a lot of the blanks before, she had many of the same questions I did.

I just wanted -- one, on the graduation issue, I'm not sure it makes sense at all to have a graduation program. As much as I love going to them and I go to them regularly, it's something that -- I don't see it.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

(Inaudible).

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

But that's besides the point. I wanted to just quickly go back to what Lynne was talking about, and I think it's Dr. Chaudhry here. I want to know that when we spread out over a number -- we're talking about the exposure, I think was your language, both with BOCES, you're spreading it out over a number of years, you're including more concepts into the program and that all sounds good, but is there a science behind the concept? I've heard all about the bad things about DARE, that it doesn't work and stuff like that, I'm not sure I'm hearing that there's science behind that if we spread them out over three or four years having a more consistent message over a longer period of time, that that works better. What is your basis for making this round-house comment that this is a much better idea, this is a much better -- this is much better for a teaching method and stuff like that; what's behind this?

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

I'm going to have Commissioner Dormer comment on the Police aspect of it, but from the health

point of view, there's plenty of data nationally to suggest that --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

There is.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

-- repeated exposure beginning in early grades, starting in Kindergarten believe it or not, is the best way to tackle some of these issues. There's these "adolescent" issues that actually occur earlier and earlier, it seems.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Than even having a concentrated 10 week program or a 16 week program, it's better.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Correct, correct.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Commissioner Dormer as far as the Police exposure.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, thank you. Again, the flexibility that will be built into the Health Smart, Enhanced Health Smart, we didn't have that with DARE.

And just realize, too, that these 10 officers will be supplemented by the other experts in the Police Department. The Gang Units, the internet Crimes Unit, the Computer Crimes Unit, which is the sexual predator unit; they are available to respond to assist the Officer that will be giving the assemblies, especially these areas that we're talking about. So we can do that. We have the flexibility to do that now in the school districts, or we will have the flexibility that we didn't have before with DARE. And I think it was mentioned before about saying no to drugs and making the right decision has not worked. There's absolute that you can never --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I heard the negatives of the DARE Program. I got that part in my head.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, but -- yeah, but, I think that we have to be able to deviate from what the DARE curriculum requires right now to deal with what's happening with our kids in the schools and in society so they don't tune us out because we're giving them information that they know is not accurate, that's not reality. And I don't want to get into the details but if you read all the studies, they tell you we're not reaching our kids properly; they're tuning us out, that's why we haven't reduced drug use and other violence in society which, by the way, the Police deal with all the time. And I think Legislator Nowick mentioned emergency rooms and the issues -- you know.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I got it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

So we all know that there are problems. We think that this is going to be the right thing to do.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

And that's what I want to know. In your professional opinions collectively that having a 16 week program is not as effective as having, say, once a week or once every -- once a year having a Police Officer in and having it spread over a period of five, six, seven years is better; it's better science. It makes more sense to you professionally that that is a better program to get this message out and

be successful; you all agree?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes.

**MR. ROSEN:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER CHAUDHRY:**

Yes.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Okay, I wanted to hear that.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Browning.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

He just said a lot of what I had asked; I wanted to ask. And Legislator Losquadro, again, one of the concerns of mine is if a school district chooses not to use Health Smart they have nothing. There is no DARE program, there is no DARE alternative for them to turn to; correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I disagree. We are still available if that school district wants us, the component that we just talked about with that flexibility, with all the resources that we have available to go into that particular school district, we will have that available. We're offering that to the schools so they can opt for us to come in. Now, it was mentioned before --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Through DARE.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

-- on the record that there are a number of major school districts in Suffolk County that never had DARE, that never opted into it. And we anticipate that some school districts will not sign up for the Enhanced Health Smart Program; we don't know that number yet because we have to hear back from the school districts.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

It's just that I -- you know, this shouldn't be a political issue, like Ben said.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yeah.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

It should not be a political issue. It should be about what's best for our kids, bottom line. And as a parent with kids who have gone through the DARE Program -- I mean, I've asked my kids and they feel, you know that they really don't think it worked. The two older ones said they they don't think it worked, my youngest one's too young yet to be able to give me an answer on that. So as a parent, I want to keep an open mind to what's best for our kids.

And, again, you know, 10, 16 weeks in 5th grade I believe is not enough. I believe that it's something we have to do K through 12. We have to beat it into their heads as much as we can from the beginning to the end and be a broken down record so that eventually by the time they get to 12th grade, maybe by the time they get to 8th grade, they got the message as far as drug awareness is concerned. But, you know, the one part that Legislator Caracappa brought up was the Police part. You know, my kids could care less. Their father's a cop, so they could care less about

having a Police Officer, you know --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

That's a shame.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

But I know a lot of kids are exposed to the Police Officers and that the Police Officer's the friendly guy. Again, the assembly issue, if a school district says, "You know what? We don't want to do the assembly; we want that more one-on-one," is the Police Department willing to do that one-on-one with the school district if that's what the school district chooses?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, we're flexible in that arena. If the school district makes a specific request, we certainly will respond to them.

You know, you mention about the assemblies. These students that are in the assemblies have been exposed to the Police from Kindergarten all the way up to the assemblies. So it's not like their first time seeing the cop. These officers have been in the school engaged in the curriculum with the children from K through 8 and in classrooms K through four, so it's not a one-shot deal. It's a constant exposure to this curriculum and to the safety issues that we're talking about. So it's not just a one-shot deal that we have right now with DARE.

And that's one of the criticisms, by the way, and we're not here to criticize DARE, but it's a one-shot thing, and kids need repetition, they need to hear this all the time. And we, by the way, give presentations in the Police Department to parents about internet safety in particular and bullying and gangs; these are the big issues in some school districts. And we do send people out, our experts, to give presentations to parents and PTA's, so we're very active with the school districts throughout the Police District. We do not go outside the Police District because that's what we do.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Yeah, my son was telling me, my son's in 7th grade in the Middle School and he told me, "Oh, yeah, we have a Police Officer comes to visit us." And I know even when the DARE Officer goes to the elementary school, even though they're just targeting the 5th graders, all the grades know, "Oh, this is Officer" -- in fact I remember Officer Pat, my daughter's 26 and Officer Pat was the DARE officer.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

You just said they didn't care about having the cops.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

But they do remember the name. But again, they don't; they don't. The reality is, again, it's making sure that the kids get that relationship with the Police Officer and that's the one thing. You know, Health Smart can teach all the other stuff, but there is that Police component. And I know you're saying the enhanced is there.

And again, another thing is that rather than just having them come in to do assemblies or talk to the kids, is there a way even that we can have that community Police Officer while he's on patrol, that he could stop in when the kids are on their lunch breaks and just pop in and say hello?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, we're doing that right now, Legislator Browning.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Our School Resource Officer Program has been expanded so that we do -- so that we do have

contact with just about every school district in the Police District right now, okay. School districts that never had a Police Officer interacting in their schools are doing it today. We've trained these officers how to deal with issues in the schools, education law and the restrictions that the schools have with discipline, etcetera. This is very important. The schools are very supportive of this, they like the idea. They have a contact if they have an issue in the school, rather than calling 911. And this, again, is the right way, this is the right way to deal with our schools and our communities. And so there's a lot of enhancements; not just this Enhanced Health Smart, but the officers involved and the Enhanced Health Smart will have these resources available to them to supplement their presentations. And it runs the gamut from internet stuff to bullying to gangs to gambling, all the issue that kids have to deal with deal with today that they didn't have to deal with 19 years ago when DARE was introduced into Suffolk County.

We have to change with the times, that's what we're saying. And listening to the professionals, we sat down with the professionals who said, "Come up with a better way to take care of our kids," and that's what we're doing.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Thanks. I just, you know, again as a parent, too, I want to keep an open mind and realistically look at what is best for our kids; not what's politically sometimes the right thing to do, because I'm not going to get elected if I don't support one way or another. What's more important is our kids and that they get what they need, and that's where I stand.

So I'm not going to say I'm opposed to the DARE Program. Yes, the program is a great program, but again, we have to keep an open mind.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. Legislator Mystal.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

I'm going to make this very short. I'm very well acquainted with DARE because when DARE was first introduced in my district, when it was brought to Suffolk County by the late Maxine Postal, she was the first one to have it and the first school it was tried in was the Amityville School District. And I'm pretty well acquainted with it. I attended a lot of their graduations and the classroom, I've been there.

One of the things I wanted to ask you, Commissioner, is that what I found, at least in my district, you know my district very well, is that the kids will go to DARE, they'll see the cop, they go, "Oh, big deal," and then they go right out, even those that may be impressed, they'll go right out, go to the McDonald and get harassed by the cop; not the same cop. Okay? They go to DARE and they see the cop and they'll do a little bonding in the classroom and they'll walk out to the McDonald and get harassed because a group of black kids are hanging around in the corner. Whatever's happening that took 15 minutes got destroyed for about three, four, five years by one contact.

So I am looking at doing something else. You know, I know DARE doesn't work, but we've known it for 10, 15 years. We know it doesn't work. I mean, it's a feel-good program at this point where everybody likes it. They like the little graduation. We've had study after study that show from the Federal level and from my own Legislature that say it doesn't work. Now, it may work in certain parts of the County, I'm not saying it doesn't work for some kids.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

(Inaudible)

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Some parents may love it because they think, you know -- I'm finding in my old age I'm becoming more and more of a liberatirian. Some parents, may love it because they say, "Okay, let them do it, then I don't have to talk to my kids about drugs. I don't have to talk to my kid about, you know,

problems, so let them do it." And my thing is that, you know, maybe it works for some people, but on the vast level that we are talking about, it does not do anything to have 16 weeks for those young kids. And then after that you leave them at the mercy of peer pressure for the rest of their lives where they're -- you know, and there's nobody else giving them anything, you know. And I think I'm willing to give what you guys are doing a chance to see if -- we've had DARE for a long time, and let's give this one a chance to see if it works. Now, if it doesn't work -- we've had a war on drugs for how long now? For how long have we had a war on drugs? Have we made any dent in it? We spend tons and tons of money on the war on drugs, we haven't made a dent.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

So let's give up.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

I'm not saying we give up. I'm not saying we give up. What I'm saying, what we are doing right now doesn't work. I'm talking. I'm saying what we are doing right now doesn't work, let's try something else. Maybe that will work. To stick with something that we know is a failed program doesn't make sense, let's try something new. Maybe that one won't work either, but then we'll know. Let's try something else after that. We can't keep doing one program just because we want to feel good about it and then we know it doesn't work. Let's try something else because this one is a loser.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. That's my saying, if you do what you've always done, you get what you've always got.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

(Inaudible)

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

You know, Legislator Mystal just said something interesting. But I can't help thinking now, now this has just like opened a Pandora's box. So DARE doesn't work, so we say, so we're going to do away with the intense DARE course one-on-one and we're going to have a health, nutrition, bullying, cyber space -- oh, yes, a few drug and alcohol courses in there, too. Maybe what we need to do is keep all those health -- because those are all important -- maybe then increase DARE, increase it, increase it and keep -- if our children are at home, if we try to teach our children at home, "Clean up your room, clean up your room," and they don't clean up their room, we say, "Okay, forget it." See, I'm afraid we're giving up on the kids with drugs. If we're incorporating -- are we making it luke warm now? Are we making that drug education luke warm? Please convince me otherwise. I'm looking to help the kids any way; if your way is better, please tell me how less is better.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, we're not giving up on the kids, that's why we're all here today talking about this. That's why we've said it's so important. We've put a lot of thought and energy into this coming up with a better program. You mentioned expand the DARE; we don't have the flexibility to do that. DARE tells us what to do.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

That's why we need SARE.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We don't tell DARE what to do.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

That's why we need a County --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You can't use DARE.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I guess we'll be here forever, Commissioner. I just needed to say I just hope we're not making anything luke warm. You understand what I'm saying?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no, you don't need a watered down version.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Is there going to be more drug education? Bullying is important but I want to know that we're going to pound into these kids every day and night about the dangers of drugs.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It's the way you pound it into them and it's what you pound into them, and it's got to be done in a particular way. And I think the Police Officers do have a function and a purpose with the enhanced Health Smart. Working with the education -- the educational component, we think it's the right way if we work together. We think we will have an impact on our kids. We got to give it a shot. We've got to try it because the old way wasn't working, and I think most people agree, not just the professionals, but most people agree that it's not working. It's feel-good. It's very nice. My kids went through DARE. I know exactly what it's like, just as Legislator Browning mentioned, and I've talked to my kids, the older ones. I've done an unscientific survey and what I get back is that it's great, they liked the officers, they loved them, but does it have any impact on their alcohol and drug usage? That's the bottom line.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. You know what? I'm just going -- I think you -- or helped at least clarify it somewhat for Legislator Nowick. Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. Commissioner Dormer, Chief Moore, God, I wish he was back in the room because it sounds like you have a very serious problem in Legislator Mystal's district. It appears as though the Suffolk County Police Department are harassing minority youth in Legislator Mystal's district and destroying relationships with the young people in his district, especially outside McDonald's. I'd really like him to come in here because it sounds like you have a very serious problem there. It sounds like if not for the treatment of the officers to the youth in his district, we might have better results with DARE. I'll let that go. I'm sure you track human rights violations and you track complaints throughout all the districts in Suffolk County, and I'm sure you don't see anything particularly anomalous in Legislator Mystal's district. So I'm just sort of wondering where that claim of harassment came from, but I'm really going off on a tangent there.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You know, I can't let that pass. Since 2004 --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, I'm surprised you let it pass when Legislator Mystal said it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no, no. He didn't ask me to do anything. I will talk to him privately about the issues if there is a complaint, a specific complaint, we will address it.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I mean, this was said -- this was said in a public forum, this is a matter of public record. He made a claim that people are being harassed in his district and I was just surprised that you didn't respond

to it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Should I mention what I wanted to mention?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Please.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Since 2004, in Suffolk County Police Department, complaints, civilian complaints are down 31%, which is an amazing drop in complaints.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Commissioner Dormer, I happen to think the Police Department and its officers are doing a wonderful job.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you, I appreciate that.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I was just responding to a statement made on the record that seemed to indicate that in a particular Legislative District that there was a claim of widespread harassment. Now, like I said, we're going off on a tangent. I would like to get back to Enhanced Health Smart.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

You know what? I would like to stop you for a minute, because you mentioned it. I heard it differently, because I heard an example of a single incident, and since Legislator Mystal is here, maybe he can clarify it and then we'll go on.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

I said you have a DARE Officer come to a classroom --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yeah.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

-- and do a little bonding and then the kids get out of school and they go to a McDonald's where they have all in groups, okay, and the Police will come sometimes and make a move, and they consider that harassment for themselves. Now, did I say there was widespread harassment in my district of kids? No. I said all that work that the Police Officer may do in one DARE session is destroyed for five or six years because the kids themselves felt harassed.

Now, whether or not you or I or the Police Officer characterize that as harassment is a different matter. The kids themselves see themselves being harassed sometimes by the Police who want them to move because they may be causing a little bit of a disturbance and the neighbors may be saying, "Those kids are gathering, we want them moved." So the Police Officer responds to the demand of the neighbors and make the Police (sic) move.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Can I get those Police down in Farmingville, those same guys?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I think part of the problem here is every one of us sitting up here were elected by our constituents. And as you can hear, there are a lot of questions regarding this, a lot. And the fact that we are now -- we are now at a point where we're being told this is a fete accompli, this is going to happen in a month's time. And the best I can come up with here is this would be analogous to the Suffolk County Legislature passing a Local Law without holding a public hearing, without telling the elected representatives what was happening or giving them a chance to have input in the process.

Because I have a number of questions that I've asked here that I think are very relevant that there aren't answers to, yet I'm being told this is going to be implemented in a month. We're being told this is going to be something that's going to benefit people County-wide, yet the East End Police Departments haven't been consulted about how they will integrate in an Enhanced Health Smart Program. Legislator Eddington, I will ask you as the Chair of this committee, were you involved in this process?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I was consulted a while ago about the possibilities and I said that I would like to have it brought to all the Legislators --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

After Election Day.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

-- before we have this discussion. It wasn't done in the way that I preferred, but the other alternative I heard was ending DARE, and I was adamantly opposed to ending drug prevention education. So I had my chance to give input as -- not basically as a Legislator, but as a long-time drug educator. And so I would have liked to have us to all have meetings before this, but it seems like time was an issue so.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Legislator Eddington, actually I am intensely disappointed in the timing of this, because we're -- I feel like we're beating our heads against the wall. We're offering this commentary. And I was very clear when I said earlier, if something doesn't work, I'm all for changing it, I am all about adopting and overcoming and keeping up with the times, but I don't see that this has been completely thought out. I don't see that we have all the information to move forward on this in a month's time.

And, you know, do I have -- I'm just curious. Do I have to put in writing my request for how many schools currently take part in Health Smart and take part in DARE, how many schools currently do not take part in -- take part in Health Smart and currently take part in DARE, or will I just -- will that information be forthcoming? Do I need to put that in writing, or will I get that information?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, we made note of that. I have it right in front of me. We will try to get that to you by the end of day. Oh, not the end of the day, no, the Chief says not by the end of day, but we will get it to you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I appreciate that. But I think that information should have been forthcoming to all of the Legislators. And I'm very disappointed that my colleagues who represent the East End end are not here, because sometimes because it's only two Legislators and the population density is lower on the East End, even though those two -- those are the two largest districts in terms of land mass and population, I'm very afraid that the East End is intensely under-represented here being that their Police Departments haven't even been contacted about how they will integrate into this or the fact that they may just choose to just keep taking part in DARE, even though we're saying it's a program that doesn't work.

So I have a lot of questions. Commissioner Dormer, I thought you opened up a door when you said you would give the schools flexibility. If I heard that and I heard that on the record and I was

Superintendent of a school, I would say, "You know what, it's not intensive enough for my school, I need a cop in every classroom." And based on your statement of flexibility, they would have reason to believe that the Police might entertain individual requests from districts to put larger amounts of staffing on.

Again, I think there are many loose ends here. I do not think this is ready today to go. I am all for seeing a change in a program that is going to get our children better educated to the dangers that they face in society. This is not ready to go in my opinion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Lindsay, Mr. Presiding Officer.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I apologize if some of my questions were answered before, I had to step out of the room. And I guess this would probably --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Jack, did you get me on the list?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Probably the folks from Eastern BOCES would be able to answer this for me. The biggest change that I see here is that instead of teachers being in the classroom for the 10 sessions, a lot of the teaching is going to be taken over by teachers in the classroom; is that correct?

**MR. ROSEN:**

Rather than Police, teachers, yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Yes, by teachers. So do you feel that the teachers, the classroom teachers have enough time in their schedules on a weekly basis to teach this curriculum?

**MR. ROSEN:**

Yeah. It seems to be -- as Martha said, and you might have missed that, we're asking for 30 minutes a week. And we give them the curriculum as well, so it's not like they have to plan for the developing their curriculum.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Right. But you're thinking, you know -- and again, we're talking about 30 minutes a week every week for every grade, K through 8 or K through 6?

**MS. KAHAN:**

I'll answer that. Hi, it's funny, we just had a Health Smart training the other day and part of our training, our full-day training of teachers, at the very beginning of this day consist of addressing this very issue, because teachers have so much assessments and so much pressure on them to do so many things on other academic areas that health very often falls by the wayside, and they walk in with a certain amount of resistance, because time is an issue. And I would say 99% of our evaluations say that they came in -- at the end of day they came in with a tremendous amount of fear that they would have a lot to do, and by the end of our training, they all see how easy this is to implement, how user friendly the materials are, and consistently say how excited they are to go back to their classrooms to implement the program.

So I think that we breakdown a lot of those barriers that teachers walk in with where they're concerned about how they'll fit this into their very busy days. And by the end of that training, we have won them over because the materials are so excellent and they get excited they know that they are such an important person in the lives -- I mean, for a lot of children the teacher is the most consistent adult in their lives. And I think they come to see how valuable they are in terms of making a difference in the health and wellness of their students.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So districts where you've rolled this out, the consensus is that they will find the time to implement the program?

**MS. KAHAN:**

Yeah, and we're asking them to conduct one 30 minute lesson a week for 30 weeks, not all 40 weeks, because there are all a lot of other things that are on their -- you know, on their busy schedules. But if they conduct 30 minutes a week for 30 weeks, K through 6, and then at the Middle School a one semester course, because that's generally how Health is taught at the secondary level as a one-semester course, either in 7th or 8th grade and then a one-semester course in high school, they will be in fulfillment of the health standards.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

The new program, has any of the district in the five eastern towns signed up yet?

**MS. KAHAN:**

Yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And they're going to do that in conjunction with their Police Departments in those five eastern towns or you don't know?

**MS. KAHAN:**

I don't know. It's my understanding that Suffolk County Police only provides the DARE Program to the five western towns, and the five eastern towns -- and by the way, I'm an east end resident -- the east end towns have their own Police forces and they conduct their own Police programs.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Well, some of them conduct DARE. My daughter is in the Hampton Bays School District and Southampton Police conduct DARE. And I think I heard the answer to this, but the existing -- I mean, in my district right now, Legislative District, which consists of, I think five different school districts, DARE is for the most part conducted in the fall and they're finishing. And that program, Commissioner, will they have a chance to finish including the graduation?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, that's correct. We anticipate about the third week in January, and they will have a graduation, yes.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And the other thing that you mentioned, and again, forgive me if this was answered already, but in K through 4, the Police Officer will actually come in the classroom and have the kids one on -- not one-on-one but in a classroom setting? How many times during the 30 weeks will a policeman be in the classroom?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I don't have that in front of me.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

K through 4 is individual.

**MR. ROSEN:**

K through 4 is individual, it's one classroom presentation in K through 4.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

One.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

A year?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

One a year.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

One a year.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

It just keeps getting better.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I'm wrapping up, I'm sorry. Yeah, I guess that answers the questions I have.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, and I think this might be our last question. Legislator Caracappa.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. I know I spoke at length earlier, but having listened to the presentation it's become crystal clear as to what we're dealing with here. This was something -- I think the Health Smart Program is excellent. I think it's going to be well received and has been well received within the school districts. But obviously -- and anyone that hasn't picked this up, Suffolk County and the Police Department, with all due respect, is using the Health Smart Program to hide behind, to do away with DARE once and for all. It's absolutely clear based on the testimony we heard, it's absolutely clear as to the facts that there are no facts that they can -- that are compiled. It's absolutely clear, because it's so open-ended and they're supposed to go into this a month from now. It's a ploy.

They have been trying to do away with DARE for over ten years with three different Commissioners that I have worked with, this is their chance. It doesn't interact with Health Smart whatsoever. It's an easy way out. They're hiding behind it. And to say it's not political is crazy.

What also came out in this discussion is that it's been talked about with Legislators and professionals for months upon months upon months, and only a certain select few of us heard about it by chance, either in the newspaper or Legislator Nowick bringing it to our attention at the last Public Works Meeting. And to do it that way, bring it out days after Election Day, you're going to tell me that's not political? Well, I'll tell you, it's political and it's bad politics.

Go ahead, Ben, come on up. I don't know how you explain. You have been working on it for months and months and months and all of a sudden the announcement is made days after Election Day; how do you explain that? And that's not political? It's absolutely clear what we're dealing with here. It's doing way with DARE and introducing a wonderful new Health Smart Program. My solution is the way to go; you keep DARE the way it is, keep cops in the classroom and you enhance it with this great program.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you, Legislator. And I will call the witness. And Mr. Zwirn, would you like to respond?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah. We said from the very beginning -- and you can call it political if you want, it is not political. This is about kids, it's about protection of our children and the best way to do it in our schools with the Police Department and with this Health Smart Program. BOCES has a good representative for producing these kinds of programs.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

They're doing a great program.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I appreciate that. But when I hear your comments, Legislator Caracappa, if we rolled this out in the middle of an election, clearly you or certain members of this Legislature would have politicized it, that's what I'm hearing that you would have politicized it.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

How would I have?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, that's what you're saying. You're saying it's political and that's the reason it hasn't been brought out. The program is ready to be rolled out. Whenever this was going to be done, it was going to have some discussion. We have brought the professionals in here today before the Public Safety Committee, we will continue to have an educational process and have an open dialogue. But the fact is that this program and the DARE Program for years has not been working according to every -- just about every study that's been done and even commissioned by this Legislature in earlier time. We're trying to do something that will work.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Why wasn't it brought to the public's attention when you started working on it? That's my point.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And representatives.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

And the representatives.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If we had done this program behind the --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Why didn't the public have full disclosure when you started working on this instead of hearing about it days after Election Day?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

When you're working on a program you don't start on day one, you try to put facts together, you put a group together to try to discuss it.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

It's not even done yet. It's so open-ended, we heard that for the last two hours. We can't get answers about staffing, we can't get answers about school districts even participating. School districts don't even know it's happening yet. How is that --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

This program will be rolled out --

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

-- well thought out? And to be implemented in a month?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

It's at the end of the period, starting a new period of the school year.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. So I guess what I'm hearing is that we need much more information to be presented to not only us --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

-- but the public. And you have -- if this is going to happen at the end of January, you have a month, basically, to really -- or a little more to make sure that these questions have been answered, because if we have the questions, our constituents will have the questions too. So I think we need a better PR job to sell a new program. Okay? So I think that's what I'm hearing from everybody. Could I get a shake of heads that, yes, you will all be involved in this.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Absolutely.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Thank you very much for your presentation and your answers to the many, many questions.

Okay, we're on a record meeting today.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Don't anybody talk about my Health Committee and how long it lasts.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

How long is it going to last today?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Thirty minutes.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, let's start with the *Tabled Resolutions:*

***1542-07 - A Local Law prohibiting sex offenders from residing in close proximity to senior housing (Schneiderman).***

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to table by Legislator Mystal.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Horsley. All those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
One opposed. Abstentions?

***IR 1749-07 - Requiring all Peace Officer training to be conducted by the Suffolk County Sheriff (Eddington).*** I make a motion to table.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**  
Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Tabled (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).***

***1797-07 - A Local Law enacting a Social Host Law to deter the consumption of alcohol by minors (Montano).***

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**  
Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Motion to approve by Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. BROWNING:**  
Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).***

***IR 1977-07 - A Local Law to prevent sex offenders from being housed at general population emergency shelters (Browning).***

**LEG. BROWNING:**  
I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**  
A Public Hearing?

**LEG. BROWNING:**  
No, the Public Hearing was closed.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Motion to approve by Legislator Browning.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**  
I'll second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
***IR 1978-07 - Establishing a Sex Offender Alert Program (Browning).***

**LEG. BROWNING:**  
I'll make a motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Legislator Browning makes the motion to table. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed?

Abstentions? *Tabled (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).*

***IR 2064-07 - A Charter Law to expand sex offender notification requirements to include public libraries.***

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I'd like to make a motion to table, but I may withdraw because I spoke with the Sex Crimes Unit and we will probably be able to do this without legislation. Okay?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

2064?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Sixty-four. Motion to table.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

The library?

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Yep.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, motion to table, I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *Tabled (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).*

### **Introductory Resolutions**

***2082-07 - Amend Resolution No. 656-2007, extending the deadline for the Underage Drinking Task Force (Stern).***

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Caracappa.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by -- who was that?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Me.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Horsley. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).*

***IR 2095-07 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal funds awarded by the US Marshals Service to the Suffolk county Department of Probation and authorizing the County Executive to execute related agreements (County Executive).***

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, Legislator Losquadro, motion to approve. Second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved and placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).**

***IR 2122-07 - Accepting and appropriating \$7,647.50 in sub-granted funds from the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc., for the Wyandanch Weed and Seed Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice with 85% support (County Executive).***

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Mystal, second by Losquadro, Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).**

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Co.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Cosponsor.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

***2132-07 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$27,623 from the United States Department of Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Training for a Port Security Program with 75% support (County Executive).***

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion by Legislator Losquadro. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstention? **Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).**

***IR 2133-07 - Accepting and appropriating \$33,226.00 in sub-granted funds from the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc., for the Wyandanch Weed and Seed Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice with 84.5% support (County Executive).***

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion by Legislator Mystal.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

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

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Co.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

***2215-07 - To establish policy for continuing DARE Program in Suffolk County (Alden).***

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to table by Legislator Losquadro, second by --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I mean -- I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Legislator Mystal, second by legislator Horsley.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Good Lord, I was going to make a motion to approve.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I'd second that motion to approve.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I third it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I'm sorry. Okay, we have a motion and a second.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

On the motion, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

On the motion, Legislator.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Obviously the tabling that's before us takes precedence, but I just wanted to put on the record Legislator Alden planned on being here today for the discussion, it's his bill, and I know some of us are cosponsors, but he did want the record to reflect that he is at the funeral of former Presiding Officer Rizzo.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you very much. On the motion, Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Again, let me reiterate that I am in no way opposed to modifying or changing a program to see it made better, but I think it was very clear from the testimony that we heard today that this is not ready to move forward. I think it would be prudent to establish a policy to continue DARE until such time as we see fit that the information is forthcoming to us, that we are comfortable with moving forward with a new program. I am -- I cannot make it more clear, based on the questions that I asked and the lack of answers that I received, that this program will not be ready to go in a month's time.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, thank you. Mr. Zwirn.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The only thing I would just say with respect to this legislation, this would lock in the DARE Program as it currently exists. We don't own the DARE Program, the DARE Program is copyrighted. If the DARE Program changed next year and we wanted to continue DARE, we'd in violation of this resolution.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, thank you very much. I have a motion and a second. All those in favor?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

What? No.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Hold on, I'm sorry. On the motion? This says that it can be changed by resolution of the Suffolk County Legislature, so we're not locked in to everything -- anything. The Suffolk County Legislature could, at its will, change. We are the duly elected representatives of the people, so part of this resolution acknowledges that and we can change it. So we're not locked in to anything, the Legislature has the right to amend or change this as we see fit throughout next year.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Caracappa.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I don't think that WHEREAS clause is necessary because the title speaks for itself, seeing that DARE, D-A-R-E is copyrighted and we do follow that copyright; as DARE changes, we would change with it. So we're basically establishing a policy to continue the DARE Program, regardless if it's in its current form or future form. So even though, again, it also has that caveat of the wording in the resolution, I don't think Mr. Zwirn's concerns bear itself out as it relates to the bill at this point in time.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Mr. Brown, no? Okay, cool. All right, then I have a motion and a second. All in favor?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

To table, right?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

To table. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Opposed.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Opposed.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Abstentions? Motion carries. *Tabled (VOTE: 4-3-0-0 Opposed: Legislators Caracappa, Losquadro & Nowick).*

*IR 2222-07 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$84,000 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to enforce motor vehicle passenger restraint regulations with 84.5% support (County Executive).*

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Horsley. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).***

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Motion to adjourn.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to adjourn by Legislator Mystal, second by Jack Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM\*)***