

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Of the**

### **Suffolk County Legislature**

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on May 8, 2008.

#### **Members Present:**

Legislator Jack Eddington - Chairman  
Legislator Kate Browning - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Wayne Horsley  
Legislator Daniel Losquadro  
Legislator Lynne Nowick

#### **Also in Attendance:**

*Presiding Officer William Lindsay - District #8*  
Legislator Jay Schneiderman - District #2  
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Clerk of the SC Legislature  
Robert Calarco - Aide to Legislator Eddington  
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Leader Losquadro  
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Leader Cooper  
Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Nowick  
James Montalto - Aide to Legislator Losquadro  
Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Michael Cavanagh - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Kara Hahn - Director of Communications/P.O. Lindsay's Office  
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Kevin Cepelak - Aide to Legislator Cooper  
Jim Maggio - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Ben Zwirn - Deputy County Executive  
Brendan Chamberlain - County Executive Assistant  
Richard Dormer - Suffolk County Police Commissioner  
Robert Moore - Chief-of-Department/Suffolk County Police Department  
Aristedes Mojica - Inspector/Commissioner's Office/SCPD  
Ed Webber - Chief/Suffolk County Police Department  
Robert Ponzo - Chief of Patrol/Suffolk County Police Department  
Dominick Varrone - Chief of Detectives/Suffolk County Police Department  
Kevin Fallon - Deputy Inspector/Suffolk County Police Department  
Robert Kearon - Bureau Chief/District Attorney's Office  
Dennis Brown - Bureau Chief/County Attorney's Office  
Michael Sharkey - Chief-of-Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Joe Williams - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services  
Chris DeVecchio - Nominee/SC FRES Commission  
Paulette Bartunek - Director/Human Rights Department  
James Dahroug - Assistant to SC Probation Director  
Laura Ahearn - Executive Director/Parents for Megan's Law  
Noel DiGeralamo - Vice-President/Police Benevolent Association  
Lou Molinari - Treasurer/Police Benevolent Association  
Jerry Gilmore - President/Superior Officer's Association  
Lou Dini - Trustee/Superior Officer's Association

Larry Farone - Treasurer/Superior Officer's Association  
Russ McCormack - Suffolk Detective's Association  
Matt Bogert - 1st Vice-President/SC Correction Officer's Association  
Daniel delValle - Vice-President/SC Probation Officer's Association  
Mike Rando - Suffolk County Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Assoc.  
Rabbi Stephen Moss - Nominee as Chair/SC Human Rights Commission  
Donna Napoli - Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau  
Patsy Hirschhorn - Smithtown Veterans Youth Bureau  
Kevin O'Hare - Smithtown Veterans Youth Program  
Kim Jama - Smithtown Veterans Youth Program  
Louis Raffone - Heckscher Youth Program  
Janet Gilmor - William Floyd School District  
Jim Hornef - Youth Mentor  
Edmond Moore - Citizen Corp Council  
Donald Dobby - Chief/Village of Amityville Police  
Brian Scott - Sergeant/Village of Amityville Police  
Gerard Gratton - Lieutenant/Village of Amityville Police  
Bruce Pescitelli - Detective/Village of Amityville Police  
Ernie Thompson - Sergeant-PBA President/Village of Amityville Police  
Bryan Burton - Police Officer/Village of Amityville Police  
Chuck Flynn - Chief/Village of Lloyd Harbor Police Department  
Ronald Bifonzo - Sergeant/Village of Lloyd Harbor Police Department  
Ray Hubbs - Chief/Village of Huntington Bay Police Department  
Ric Bruckenthal - Chief/Village of Northport Police Department  
Bob Cappadona - Resident of Babylon  
Debra Alloncius - Legislative Director/AME  
Debbie Eppel - SC Public Information Officer  
Hope Collazo - American Red Cross/Community Service Program  
Rick Brand - Newsday  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken & Transcribed By:**

Lucia Braaten & Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographers

***[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:46 A.M.]***

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. If I could get everybody to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, that will be led by Legislator Nowick.

***(\*Salutation\*)***

If we could remain standing for a moment of silence for all those that serve our country overseas and domestically.

***(\*Moment of Silence\*)***

Okay. Thank you very much. Okay. I'm going to start with the public portion, and I have Kevin O'Hare first.

**MR. O'HARE:**

Good morning. My name is Kevin O'Hare. I'm a resident of Kings Park. I'm President of the Smithtown Veterans Youth Program. I'm here -- hopefully, we'll save these programs. I understand we may have good news today. But I just want to say one thing about Police Commissioner Dormer. Two weeks ago, after our last hearing, I had the -- he took my call. We had a little conversation on the phone, explained exactly how our program worked. And I want to say thank you to him and the work he has done, not only through the Veterans programs I run, but also through the Civilian Police Academy, where I'm Vice President. And I would like to say, to work with him, I run a five-day program, I will give up two days a week, instead of five, to put the officers on patrol, and also give up one hour, instead of 8 to 12, 8 to 11 to help work with him and the needs that he has with his police officers going on patrol. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Thank you, Kevin. Louis Raffano -- Lou Raffone.

**MR. RAFFONE:**

Yes, good morning. My name is Louis Raffone. I am the Director of the Heckscher Youth Program. I was here at the last meeting. I handed out fliers about the Heckscher Youth Program. I hope you had a chance to look at our website to see all the different things that we do at our Youth Program. I just hope we can reconsider of having the police officers down at the Youth Program. I've been looking for a new location. Hopefully, it will work out that I can still have the police down there, because they help out a lot. We do a lot of different things. It's -- we have educational programs, besides just having music and games for the kids.

But, again I, would like you to reconsider on the Heckscher Youth Program, having the police officers down at the park. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. Chief Donald Dobby.

**CHIEF DOBBY:**

Good morning. I'm Chief Don Dobby of the Amityville Village Police Department, and I'm here today on behalf of the Mayor, Peter Imbert, the Village Board, member of the Amityville P.D., and also members of Lloyd Harbor, Huntington Bay, Northport, and Head of the Harbor P.D. We want to express our concern over the latest County Police policy to charge back Village and Towns for Detective services.

Amityville has been in the business of policing for well over 100 years and has never had a Detective service to handle felonies. Since the development of the Suffolk County Police Department 48 years

ago, we have enjoyed the opportunity to work with some of Suffolk County's finest. I thank the current and past Police Commissioners for fostering the cooperation and for sharing their resources, and it's too numerous to count how many cases have been solved and closed because of this cooperation.

Apparently, last week, Suffolk County P.D. discovered that Detective funding for agencies outside of the Police District were being drawn from a Police Fund 15 and not the General 01 Fund, where it had been. This, of course, posed an immediate problem. It is the solution to this problem that we feel is unfair and could be devastating to the Amityville Police Department and other smaller departments on the western end. Incidentally, East End Departments have their own Detectives and kind of share and cooperate with each other, which we don't have. We're kind of islands on our own on the western end.

Over the past few days, we have reached out to some of the people who have knowledge of the framing and architecture of the Police Charter and the establishment of the Police District. This framing was all done from the small building in the Village of Amityville. Our retired Police Chief, Woodrow Cromarty, advised us that his Uncle Arthur, as in Arthur Cromarty Court Complex, at the time was the Town Supervisor and was a key player in the construction of this Charter. They devised a system that would allow residents of Suffolk County the opportunity to keep their local Police Departments, or choose to become a part of the Police District. If a municipality kept their local P.D., it would receive Detective and support services from the newly-established Suffolk P.D. The cost of these services would be provided from the General Fund. They did not devise a system that was illegal or that would hurt their own Village Police Department. The model for this was Nassau County, who, for over the last 83 years, has provided services to Towns and Villages without a chargeback system.

We also reached out to James Caples and John Gallagher, both former Police Commissioners, who acknowledged putting monies for Detective services for West End Police Departments outside of the Police District in an 01 or General Fund, and that was approximately for one-and-a-half Detectives in the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth to cover all the West End Departments.

Amityville P.D. has 26 sworn officers and averages over 6,000 documented calls of service for a year. We cover approximately two-and-a-half square miles and have approximately 12,000 people. We have our occasional homicide, rape and fatal motor vehicle accident, but have a fair degree of felonies, assaults, robberies, burglaries, all requiring assistance from the First Squad. Last year, we had seventy-two-hundred instances that involved some type of interaction with the First Squad.

I stand before you today and ask you to, please, call for a thorough review of the records and past practices involving Detective services for outside agencies outside the Police District. I'm extremely confident that the evidence found from this 48-year history will resolve this matter and restore the funding to the original and appropriate General Fund.

I thank you at this time and this morning and in advance for any attention you can give this most serious matter. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you, Chief. Is there anybody else that wanted to address the Committee? Okay. Then I'm going to ask the Committee to consider taking -- before we have our presentations, I have three appointments, and I would like to take them out of order and allow these people to just make a brief statement and then move on to their work stations.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

A motion to take out of order I.R. 1151, I.R. 1370, I.R. 1406, and I.R. 1407.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I make a motion to take them out of order.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion by Legislator Browning, I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Okay. Let's start with 1151, if Mr. Moore could come forward.

***J.R. 1151 - Appoint member to the Suffolk County Citizens Corps. Council, Edward Moore.***  
Mr. Moore.

**MR. MOORE:**

Yes. Good morning. And I just want to say that I'm very interested in this appointment. I'm a resident of Hampton Bays and I'm an 18-year member of the Hampton Bays Volunteer Fire Department, also President of Hampton Bays Firemen's Benevolent Association. And I'm very interested in this Committee, getting involved and serving and helping out with it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Any questions?

**LEG. BROWNING:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Thank you, Mr. Moore.

**MR. MOORE:**

Thank you all very much for this appointment, looking forward to it.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

***J.R. 1370 - Approving an appointing -- appointment of Christopher DelVecchio as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission.*** Mr. DelVecchio.

**MR. DELVECCHIO:**

Good morning. It would be a privilege to serve on this Committee and work with the Commissioner and other people on the Board; 30-year veteran of the Fire Department, still active.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. Legislator?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

If I could just ask what you hope to accomplish in this position, what you feel your responsibilities will be. Give us a brief idea of what you'd like to -- would like to do coming into this position.

**MR. DELVECCHIO:**

Well, they work with other members of the Board, you know, on grounds, of the fire grounds, and

see what needs to be done and what has to be accomplished.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

In particular, given your years of experience, anything in particular you feel would be an object that you would want to accomplish?

**MR. DELVECCHIO:**

Not at the present, no. I'm going to work with the Committee. I haven't been on the Committee, yet, but, you know, I don't know their full aspect --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay.

**MR. DELVECCHIO:**

-- which I'm getting into.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Browning.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Good morning, Chris.

**MR. DELVECCHIO:**

Good morning, Kate.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I do want to say, I know that his appointment was unanimously decided by the Commission. And, as a constituent of mine with the Mastic Fire Department, I can tell you that I don't think there's a time when Chris is free. You see him at the Mastic Fire Department working very hard for his community. So I want to congratulate you. I'm making a motion to approve. And I'd like to say, I wish you a lot of luck. Thank you.

**MR. DELVECCHIO:**

Thank you, appreciate it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. We have a motion to approve, I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you, Mr. DeVecchio.

**MR. DELVECCHIO:**

Thank you very much, appreciate it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. *I.R. 1407 - Approving and appointing Rabbi Steven A. Moss as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission.* It's a reappointment. Thank you, Rabbi.

**RABBI MOSS:**

Good morning. And also, the other resolution to be Chair.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right. I figured I would do this one first and then --

**RABBI MOSS:**

Oh, okay. Thank you. It is a pleasure to be before you once again. And I do want to, first of all, thank all of you and the entire Legislature for its constant support of the Human Rights Commission and the County's Anti-Bias Task Force. My first appointment was during the first term of County Executive Gaffney, so I believe that this will be my 17th year as both Chair and member, which I think is a record in the history of Suffolk County. I'm not sure why I'm still here doing this, but it is work that I feel is very important. And I certainly hope that I have, through this work that I've done, but most particularly the work of the entire Commission, have truly enhanced the human rights of those in Suffolk County. And we work very hard to do that and to ensure, also, that we have a very efficient and effective professional staff headed by our Executive Director, Paulette Bartunik, who's also here this morning.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you. Any questions? No. Your reputation sustains everything you said. So I'll make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *(Vote: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Horsley)*

*I.R. 1406, the approving and reappointment of Rabbi Moss as Chair of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission.* I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *(Vote: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Horsley)* Thank you for your service, Rabbi.

**RABBI MOSS:**

Thank you. God bless. Good morning.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. We have a couple of presentations, two fairly brief, and then one that I'm sure will be a little bit more lengthy. If Cheryl Felice is available, could she come up, please? Could you just slide down a little bit, Computer Tech?

**MS. FELICE:**

Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for inviting AME to speak on behalf of our members who work at the Police Department.

Before I begin my presentation, I would just like to compliment you for the appointment you made in Chris DeVecchio. He is a distinguished member of AME. He's a proud Committee Member and a former Unit Officer, and a finer selection I don't think you could have found. So congratulations to Chris and to your appointment.

We're just heading up the PowerPoint show. What we wanted to speak with you today on is the issue of staffing. AME has made a plea with the Legislature to consider an Agency Oversight Report, so that the Legislature could take a more comprehensive look at some of the staffing issues within the Departments. One of the reasons is because we are the public servants and we deliver services to the County that are vital in nature. One of those areas that AME has all of its members in is the Police Department, the Civilian Unit over at the Emergency Dispatch. And Chairman Eddington, I'd like to thank you for joining AME on a tour of the center, so that you could get a real feel for some of the situations that our members are experiencing in trying to deliver those services to the County residents.

Some of the -- some of the calls that go through 911 are no longer just related to emergency calls. Now, just general information calls and cop tips call all go through the 911 switchboard. It's a

problem when the volume of 911 calls is at such a peak that the calls for information are prioritized and do go to the bottom of the list. Nonetheless, the 911 operators do have to handle those calls in the order that they receive them. They work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, nights, days, weekends, holidays. The days that the civilians work at the Emergency Dispatch Center are similar to the police officers where the shifts they work always change. They never work the same days, they never work the same hours, they never have the same days off. So it's quite a sacrifice for this group of workers in delivering the quality services that they do.

Some of the demographics that you'll see on the PowerPoint show, once we get up, is the Suffolk County residents, we -- as publicly stated, we have between a million-point-four and a million-point-five residents, 912 square miles, which means that's fifteen hundred and fifty-six persons per square mile. Our sister County, Nassau County, is 1.3 million residents, 287 square miles, and 4,650 persons per square mile, certainly a vast amount of difference in the area that is covered.

Now, there's two -- there's two slides in here in particular that we'll bring your attention to and that's the amount of calls that were experienced in Long Island, and these are the 2006 numbers. We put this report together for you in February. The 2007 numbers weren't available at that time. But the 911 calls that went over to the Suffolk County dispatch totaled 1.24 million calls for 133 operators, that's either 911 or dispatchers. In Nassau County, Nassau County had 875,000 calls for 193 operators. So Nassau County has 100,000 less residents, two-thirds less square miles, and yet has almost one-third more dispatchers for a little less than a quarter difference in the amount of calls. Okay. Here we go. Are you advancing for me?

**MR. OLIVETO:**

Sure.

**MS. FELICE:**

Okay. Why don't you go to the next slide. Again just to reiterate, it's a 24/7 operation. And here's the County demographics that I just spoke of and the difference between the residents of Nassau County and Suffolk County, a very big difference. You could go to the next slide, please. And here's the calls that we just reiterated. Again, 133 dispatchers for 1.24 million calls, versus 193 dispatchers in Nassau County for significantly less calls.

Once again, we just want to point out that Suffolk County's own efficiency report recommended that the staff of dispatchers and operators need to increase by 30%. And remind the Legislature, too, that it is a constant problem when vacancies continue to soar, staffing positions continue to decrease, and yet the volume of work increases just the same.

Next slide. Again, we want to remind you that, of course, in the County Executive's Administration and his budget, he encourages to have the courage to say no to the things we want, so that they -- so you have the capacity to say yes to the things you really need.

As you'll see in the next slide, we just want to reiterate who decides what we really need when an emergency call is made to Dispatch and not enough operators are there to answer those calls?

As has been reported, even by Members of the Legislature, that police emergency calls have been put on hold because of the high volume at peak times. Nonetheless, we want to remind you that what if it's your child, what if it's your house, what if it's your neighbor? We in AME have also reported that a budget is more than just a set of numbers. We must not lose sight of the fact that the function of government is to provide services to its citizens. Suffolk County cannot become more concerned with the ratings and surpluses than we are with the welfare of our residents. The independent review in Budget Review in 2006 also stated that the recipients of County services have another scale by which we are measured and our rating is not as favorable, in fact, it's problematic.

Now, since this -- and we'll go to the next slide, because what we really want to point out is at the

time that we put this show -- this slide presentation together, ten SCIN forms were yet to be signed to hiring by the County Executive. Those ten SCIN forms were signed and canvas letters went out to the members. This slide, what we want to point out is how long it takes to canvas a person for a 911 Operator and/or Dispatcher and getting them on the job fully operational. And any time a hiring freeze takes place in this particular area, it puts this process back even further. Since those ten positions have been signed off on, five individuals could not be hired, because they did not successfully complete the psychological. Of those five that were hired and were trained, the pressure of the job was so great that only one remained.

So what it takes for the personnel is to pass a Civil Service test first. It's approximately one year for the announcement, for the test, and then for the results. Canvassing and background investigation takes six to eight months. On-the-job training takes another six to twelve months to handle seventeen to twenty-four, approximately, sector cars in each precinct. And the starting salary for these two jobs are 31,000 for the 911 Operator and 34,000 and change for the Dispatcher.

So you can see, when government and politics stands in the way, imposing a hiring freeze, such as what we witnessed in -- at the end of last year, when the 1% sales tax was withheld from the County and the hiring freeze was put on, affecting areas like this perhaps needs to be reconsidered, and perhaps in areas with the Police Department the Legislature could encourage the County Executive to consider an automatic refill, because of the time it takes to hire and train the individuals on the job. And you can see just how difficult it is to get -- to get people adequately trained and on the job.

And just in conclusion, we would just like to reiterate that AME remains available for Labor Management cooperation, public sector officials and Union Leaders. When they're willing to enter into cooperative arrangements, the evidence suggests they are usually -- they usually find the cooperation results in improved services, both in the delivery of public services and the quality of the work life. And that source is quoted from the role of Labor and Management in delivering quality government services. And we remain available to work with the Legislature and the County Executive's Office to come up with a reasonable solution, but, nonetheless, wanted to make you aware of some of the obstacles that are presented when hiring issues are -- when obstacles get in the way of hiring, in particular, in the Emergency Dispatch area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Thank you, Cheryl. I must say that the two photos -- you know what they say about a picture, speaks a thousand words -- did scare me a little. Cheryl, what -- how many more people would be needed in the 911 Unit in order for that unit to be at -- work at peak efficiency.

**MS. FELICE:**

Well, if you look at the efficiency report that we cited that was done in 2006, it was quoted at approximately 30% more. So 30% of 130 would be about -- what is that, three times thirteen? It would be about thirty-nine, approximately. I would say approximately another 30 to adequately handle the amount of calls that were there.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Another 30? And, Budget Review, what would the cost of that be to the County? And you're right, numbers are not everything in this case, but I'm just trying to --

**MS. FELICE:**

We don't know how accurate that number is; just citing from a report that was done by the County.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

I'd say it would be roughly a million-and-a-half.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

One-and-one-half million, for an additional 30. And that would be what? You feel that then 911 would run most efficiently and there wouldn't be that -- being put on hold, which is very scary.

**MS. FELICE:**

It is quite frightening. And the other issue that we didn't raise in the slideshow, but I would like to make you aware of nonetheless, is the high stress level that is being experienced by our members in the Dispatch area and the amount, the increased amount of heart attacks, stress-related issues, members that, while they're working, have been taken off the floor due to the stress level while they're working.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And that, of course, could be alleviated also with 30 more people.

**MS. FELICE:**

Correct, because these -- as a 30 -- as a 365-day-a-year operation, 24/7, if someone cannot work, someone has to cover the shift, and overtime is rampant.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And there's 30 more needed. And how many did you say were there now?

**MS. FELICE:**

A hundred and thirty-three.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Do you have any remedies? I mean, what I'm hearing is that we could hire 30 more people, but, at the end of hiring those 30 more, you may end up with eight people.

**MS. FELICE:**

And that's why I think -- and while we are grateful that the ten SCIN forms were signed off on, more SCINs need to be signed, because, as you can see, you have a 10% retention rate.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**MS. FELICE:**

That's one of the problems in the hiring, because people don't really know what these jobs are about until they're sitting in front of that radio. And, you know, we were there, you know, Legislator Eddington, to see. When that stress call comes in, the 911 operator has to be cool, calm and collected --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right.

**MS. FELICE:**

So that they deliver the services and can get enough information from the caller to be able to give it to Dispatch, so that it effectively gets out to a sector car --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right.

**MS. FELICE:**

-- and help can be sent on the way. If that person isn't adequately trained, or overstressed, or have already worked a couple of doubles that week, you don't know how those -- you know, how the services would fall off and who would be put at risk.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I can comment, because, as you might know, my daughter had to call, or my son had to call 911 for my granddaughter a number of months ago. And I have to tell you, I have to compliment your staff, I mean, they were right there. And the police response time, they were there -- I was at the house in four minutes and there were two police cars there before me. So it is working, but the stress level is killing the people. So I want to compliment them doing so much with so little, so --

**MS. FELICE:**

And one of my Officers, our Third V.P., Deborah McKee, is a Dispatcher. She started out as a 911 Operator. So, you know, she is in constant contact with the members over at Dispatch, and that's where we're -- what we are really appealing to you to consider. The stress level at that particular job is at its breaking point. And while help was on the way with 10 SCIN forms, there's only one that has remained, and who knows even for how long.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Thank you very much for your presentation.

**MS. FELICE:**

Thank you very much for your time.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Noel DiGerolamo, PBA Vice President, if you could come forward and brief us. I see you have your support staff.

**MR. DIGEROLAMO:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Legislature, attendees, guests, I appreciate your giving me the opportunity --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Speak a little closer into the --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Noel, if you could just pull that microphone in to you.

**MR. DIGEROLAMO:**

Certainly.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you, Legislator.

**MR. DIGEROLAMO:**

I appreciate being afforded the opportunity to come and address this body about concerns, significant concerns, that the Police Benevolent Association has.

For those of you who do not know me, I'm Police Officer Noel DiGerolamo. I represent the Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association as the Second Vice President. And, as I said, I'd like to go over concerns that we have within the Department and within the County.

Last year, we came and spoke before the Legislature and we expressed some concerns back then, and this body collectively came up with a remedy of hiring 75 police officers in order to try and

alleviate some of the problems within the County. Well, at that time, the Police Commissioner came and stood before you and told you everything was fine, that there were sunny days ahead, and that he did not need anymore police officers. Subsequently, that 75 was reduced to, I believe, 66, which we're now down to 56 in the Police Academy. As of right now, those 56 bodies that are left will actually present a negative number upon the Police Department. The 56 that were hired in December of last year are not adequate to keep up with the retirements of January and this coming July, so that number, in turn, will be a negative impact upon the Department.

As evident by the utilization of COPE, Crime Section and Gang Units, the patrol force is being depleted and is unable to accomplish their mission on their own. On a regular basis, the patrol is being reinforced by COPE Officers, Precinct Crime Section Officers, and Gang Officers. Now there are some that would have you believe that this happens on a rare occasion, that it doesn't happen that frequently, and it's only in a time of shortage, but I have over 400 cases already, just since January of this year, that those officers were removed from their assignments and put into patrol. And there's a very simple question. If that happened 400 times, who's doing their job? When does it get caught up? Why are we stealing from Peter to pay Paul?

The Police Commissioner and the County Executive have claimed that when they came into office -- and I know numbers are difficult, so, please, bear with me, but it's important that you realize these numbers. They claimed that when they came into office, there was 957 officers assigned to the patrol function, and they claim today that there are somewhere around 1,060. But what they're not going to tell you, that I am here to make you aware of, is that they inherited a class of 130 from the previous administration that was sitting in the Police Academy. And in Spring, it was an early Christmas for them, they received that 130 infused right into the Patrol Division. So they were pushing nearly eleven hundred bodies at the time, which, again, would show that we are negative from that number today. They don't acknowledge the fact that there were officers in the Academy, and they're never called to task on that. Nobody questions why they eliminate those from their numbers.

As of right now, today, the patrol staffing level is less than it was in 2004. And the Police Commissioner will come up to you and he will provide you with different numbers and tell you where people have been moved from one spot to another, and claim great efficiencies within the Department. I ask you, when he is sitting here, request a list of names, where they are, where they have gone, who retired. "Did you hire someone to replace that?" "Where are the real numbers?" "Show it to me on paper."

The reality of staffing is this: Fact. In each of the seven precincts throughout this County, the Precinct Crime Section Officers and the COPE Officers are at equal or lower staffing levels than they've been in the last three to four years. It's a fact that the County Executive eliminated the DARE Program, and he replaced it with a version called Health Smart that provides less than half of the direct police contact with those students that are in that course. It's a fact that they are eliminating the Safe Summer Youth Program, probably one of the only programs specifically designed in the summer to help get the youth off the streets and into some organized program, and it gives an opportunity for the officer to foster a relationship with those children, with those teenagers. I know people don't like to recognize this; however, in Suffolk County, we do have a gang problem. And, like organized crime, gang is very much kept secretive and quiet. And these officers have an opportunity to foster relationships and get information, and information is vital to the police function. So we may be trying to save some pennies today, but the cost of future enforcement and incarceration are going to far exceed the minimal savings out of a summer youth program.

Last hearing before this body, the Commissioner said, I believe it was over 20 officers he needed full-time for the Safe Summer School Program, and he was asked to, please, provide more detailed information on that. I hope that question is followed through, because with seven precincts, three officers working full-time, let's not forget those words, "full-time", don't tell me that it's an officer who was taken for ten minutes and you're claiming that you need a body.

What we've come to find over time is that there's a lot of play on words. Can they deny that there has been a marked increase in drive-by shootings? Legislator Browning, in particular, you had one recently. There's been a couple around. Are they going to deny that that's been increasing? Again, the play on words. Forty-one School Resource Officers. The County Executive says he has 41 School Resource Officers. That is absolutely not true. There is no truth to that statement. He could say that he sent 41 people to a course for School Resource Officers, but he does not have 41 dedicated School Resource Officers in the schools, they're Patrol Officers. The vast majority of those bodies are Patrol Officers full-time, and they drive by a school and they'll stop in and say hello, and then, when the radio goes off, they leave. Ask them to deny that. Ask them to prove that that's not an accurate statement, and then ask them to give you the names of those 41 officers who are full-time School Resource Officers. They can't.

The Marine Bureau. The County Executive has ordered the elimination of posts at Marine Bureau. This is at a time when the population is going to swell by tens of thousands. It makes no sense, it's insanity. You're talking about an Island where you'll have 70, 80,000 people and you're not going to add any police. How do you intend to deal with the problems that arise when you don't have the staffing? And you're not on the mainland, you can't just send people over. What do you do when there is a problem? We can no longer function on luck and prayer. The fact is that their plan is in place right now to reduce staffing this year by 25% in Marine Bureau. They've ordered the reduction of up to 50% of the boats. Again, on a daily basis, depending on staffing, up to 50% of the boats will go down. They've ordered the elimination of foot posts, all-terrain vehicle patrols. How long is this going to go on?

Just last week in Huntington, we had the Saint Anthony's Crew Team that had an accident. They took on water and it ended up -- started with, I believe, seven students. And they tried to get help, we had 12 people in the water looking to get rescued. That boat is the first one to be put down every day in Marine Bureau. That is their plan in writing, to put that boat down and have no coverage in Huntington.

We see what they're doing with Highway Patrol. The County Executive is attempting to eliminate Highway Patrol. Now, they'll sit here and they'll say, "Well, we're looking to get tax dollars, we're looking to get the State to give additional funding." And I understand if they want to take a fight with New York State and try and get some more funding for the highways, but you don't do that by threatening to eliminate the public patrols of the highway, the police patrols of the highway. You're basically calling for the willful abandonment of government's primary objective, to protect life and property. And you're saying, "It's not on us, we'll just leave." And if it wasn't for the eleventh-hour conversation that got him to stop, we would have less people on the highways today. And again, as we approach the summer months, when the traffic going west to east is going to increase tremendously as people go to vacation, as people go out to the Hamptons, to Montauk Point, as people from the City come to enjoy Fire Island. The L.I.E. and Sunrise Highway are the main arteries of this County. Going east and west, you have no options. And are we just going to abandon that? Are we going to sit by and sit quietly and not challenge him when he says, "I'll just leave the highway"? I think we have a greater obligation than that to the citizens.

Sitting here today are the Chiefs, Chief of Department, Chief of Patrol, Chief of Detectives, the Police Commissioner himself. Ask them, are they supportive of abandoning the highway? What's their position? Have they made that position known? These are the police professionals. These are the ones that the County Executive and the Commissioner sit before us and talk about hundreds of years of experience. Well what are they saying about it? Did they make a recommendation? Did they say, "We shouldn't do this"? And if they did, did they put that in writing? Did they send him anything saying, "This is why I disagree"? And will the Commissioner share that with us? Who is running this Police Department, is it the police professionals or is it the County Executive? Is it run by budget, or is it run by the need of police services? These are some very hard questions, but if they were easy, we wouldn't be sitting here talking about them.

You know, the Long Island Expressway has over 4 million vehicles monthly traveling on it. Even the District Attorney sat here before you requesting additional patrols, stating that he wanted to create greater enforcement on those highways. He even called the plan of reduction a "recipe for disaster," was his quote. But the County Executive just keeps doing whatever he wants, pushes forward, unquestioned. Why is that? Why is he being allowed to play with public safety?

All of you here I provided with many pages of documented incidents of delayed responses. As of this point, we have captured over a thousand times that police officers were delayed excessively in getting to a house or to a location where a resident has called for help. I use the word "captured", because that's all we're able to get. We're not granted access to all of the Department's raw data. The way we get our information, as crazy as this may sound to you, we have to ask. We have to ask people in Patrol, "If you had a bad night, can you tell us? Can you let us know when it was, so we could try and find out what's really going on?" Because the Commissioner will sit here before you and he'll say his response times are 6 minutes and 22 seconds, or 7 minutes and 18 seconds for a different priority, and I'm here to tell you that's not accurate. I have pages and pages of calls, some that take in excess of ten hours to get to. We all know the truth. That person isn't even there anymore. They left, they went to bed, they went to work, they gave up. They lost faith in this Department. Ask him why, when he tells you about response times, he uses the word "from time of dispatch". Why doesn't he use the words "from time of call inception," "from time of 911 receiving the call"?

We had the AME sitting up here talking to you about the lack of staffing at Headquarters, the busy signals that they get. Absolutely true, we all know that. And to compound that, that dispatcher that's holding on to the call doesn't have an officer to give it to, that's why. That's why they calculate it from dispatch, because there's nobody available. All it takes is one incident and everything falls apart. They are not prepared to handle emergencies.

Last week, we had one incident of a pursuit, one pursuit that ran from west all the way out east. There are dozens of calls, dozens of 911 calls that were left holding for a half-an-hour or longer because of that one pursuit. What happens if there are two or three? Do we just tell them call back tomorrow? How do we address these problems?

They'll tell you that we're cherry-picking the calls. Well, if they think we're cherry-picking, I ask them to, please, grant us full access and we won't cherry-pick. We won't just ask, we'll be able to actually get in and look at it, look at the -- look at the true data that only they have. And you have to jump through the hoops of FOILING it to get it and it's delayed, and you're given stuff that isn't accurate, that's not what you're looking for.

They're not documenting the response times accurately. It makes you think, what else aren't they documenting accurately? Well what we've come to find out now is that they've changed the way they classify crimes. The crime statistics are being manipulated. Certain crimes that are felonies are now classified as misdemeanors. Burglaries are now larcenies. Why is that? That's so that we don't have to show an increase in crime.

Now, I have the President of the Detective's Association here with me who could better address what his members are being called to do. Ray, you want to expand on that?

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

Mr. Chairman, Ray Griffin.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you for coming, and I'll recognize you. Thank you for that five-minute presentation. Somehow, time seems to change when you walk into this chamber. Go ahead, Ray.

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

All right.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you.

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We spoke briefly yesterday at a very moving ceremony dedicating parkland to a local American hero, Lieutenant Michael Murphy. And during our brief discussion yesterday, I had mentioned I would be attending this meeting. And I had not requested to speak to this body, nor had I done any true research. I knew the -- my brothers and sisters in the PBA have done some research. I can verify what the Vice President stated regarding the reclassification of certain crimes. Can I give you numbers today? No, I cannot, because I did not do any research. Just quickly, some Burglaries are classified down to a Larceny, to a misdemeanor. Others are reclassified to a Criminal Trespass, again, a misdemeanor. Criminal Mischiefs are reclassified from a felony, based on a damage, back down to a misdemeanor, if they can't prove the types of damage. Grand Larceny Auto can be reclassified down to an Unauthorized Use.

Now, all of our squads are under extreme manpower pressure, just as the PBA is. Myself and the County Executive, over the last couple of months, have met and he understood that we were down approximately 30 Detectives when we started our discussions. The County Executive, in the last two months, has reassigned to our Division 17 new people, which takes some of the burden, not all, some. The problem that I see is not the County Executive sees our problems, but he's got to pick from the fruit of the PBA in order to give us more people. So, it starts, we have to boost their numbers so that we can get our numbers.

And if you have any other questions for me, I will be glad to answer them.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Does anybody have any questions?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yeah, just the --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

If you could elaborate a bit on the reclassification of the crimes. Who's responsible for doing that?

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

That, again, I have to do research. Some can be responsible, from a first-line Supervisor, saying that, "This is not good enough." He caught somebody in a stolen car, he wasn't stealing it for anything other than a joyride, so we're going to make it an --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Unauthorized Use.

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

-- unauthorized Use, yeah. Criminal Mischiefs, I've been told that if, let's say, your car gets trashed, if it doesn't -- if you don't have proof of the amount of damage, they'll automatically downgrade it to a misdemeanor. If you come back with a detailed bill showing the amount of money spent on repairs, they'll put it back up to a felony. That's the type of thing. But, again, because I was not prepared to address this body, I didn't do a great deal of research today for this. I was here more to back up our PBA.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I just was more wondering who make makes that determination and at what --

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

That can be from the first-line Supervisor.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And if the District Attorney's Office were to, at that -- then move forward with the prosecution and make a determination based on new evidence, bills of the amount of the damage, does -- and you might not have the answer to this question, but does the classification then change if the charge -- if the District Attorney makes the determination?

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

Yes. He has the right to move the charge up to a higher level.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Right.

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

Or he can take a higher level charge that was, in his estimation, not worthy of a trial and move it down to a misdemeanor.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Of course. I was just wondering how that factors into the statistics that we get, if it's changed after the fact by the District Attorney's Office one way or the other.

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

I'm led to believe that most of the changes occur before it gets to his office. When it goes to his office, obviously, we have the plea bargaining process, which is a whole other gamut.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

All right. Thank you. I look forward to working with you more on this as you get more information.

**MR. GRIFFIN:**

Okay, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Then --

**MR. DIGEROLAMO:**

One second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

You got one second, yes.

**MR. DIGEROLAMO:**

Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I apologize. I just wanted to elaborate on one thing that Ray had said. When he talks about picking from the fruits of the PBA, there are very slim pickings at this point. As you all know, the budget is for far over what we have. There are over 300 unstaffed positions of the PBA in the County budget. I don't know why, but I could tell you that they're there. And, frankly, you're giving the impression of a service that we're not providing. The taxpayers are not receiving the services of those 300 people that are in the budget. And we need to act soon in order to rectify this, because, as I'm sure the Commissioner will agree to, any hiring of staffing will take a

12-to-14-month turnaround time, that these officers need to go through an investigation, testing, and further qualification before the Academy. And once they go through the Academy of six months, they have an additional two after that of field training. And what's going on right now is nothing more than a budgetary shell game of moving money from one spot to another and saying that positions don't exist. We like to hear words such as "transparency" and "candor", but we don't see it, we just hear the words, and it's up to everybody in this body to deliver on those words.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. And, Mr. DiGerolamo, I'm sure you're aware, when those numbers were first presented to us of the number of Precinct Patrol Officers, I'm sure you're aware of the conversation that I had with the Commissioner, and I referred to it as a simple accounting. If we have 75 more officers on patrol and we have 75 less officers in the Department, well, I took basic accounting, that means you have to reassign 150 people. Where did those 150 people come from? And, at the time, after months and months of going around with this Committee, we were never able to really get a satisfactory answer, because there were partial redeployments from areas like Applicant Investigation. They would go out for a little while, but then they would come back. And there were units that were -- that were moved around, but were never fully redeployed. And I always knew this to be the case, but we could never get a straight answer out of which units were being depleted, because, like I said, it always seemed to me a very simple method of accounting. You have to take people from somewhere to be able to fill these positions and --

**MR. DIGEROLAMO:**

Well, I think a way --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- you know, to hear Crime Section and COPE, and especially the Gang Units is perhaps the most troubling, and other areas that, you know, again, we can't get any information on, computer crimes, you know, areas that are growing, not only in severity, but in difficulty for the Police Department to deal with them as the -- as the number of crimes and the severity of crimes increases. It seems very counterintuitive to be reducing the staffing in these units at a time when the problem is increasing.

**MR. DIGEROLAMO:**

And the Commissioner will tell you about all of the new details that he's created to address specific problems within the County. And I don't dispute that he has created some sections in order to do that, but you have to staff those areas, and where do those bodies come from? And when they sit here and they speak of efficiencies and restructuring, an easier way to get to the end result here is ask him, "Where are the names? Give me a list of the names. And will that name come up on any other list that you will ever provide for me?" And see how many times those names are going to cross from one list to another.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you.

**MR. DIGEROLAMO:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

You know, what I'm hearing is a problem that existed in a school district I worked with, where there was five social workers and 11 buildings, and the Superintendent would constantly say, "Oh, we

have a social worker in every building." And I really -- I'm really looking for when -- the Police Commissioner to come up and to set us straight, that we get some honest reporting. I don't want to play those kind of games, because then I have to run around, or all of us, and try to see who's telling the truth. I just want the truth. I want to hear, if we need to get more funding, then how are we going to do it. But I'm trying to get what you're saying, a list of people, where they are. And it seems to be like two-and-a-half years I've been trying to do that and it's very difficult. So I'm hoping we're going to resolve this issue today. I appreciate you guys coming out, and thank you very much for your presentation.

**MR. DIGEROLAMO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I'm going to ask the Police Commissioner to come up. I apologize for keeping you here. So we're complaining about not funding Police, and we're keeping, you know, all this staff here, but I wanted you to be here to be able to hear first and not have you go first and then have people say things, so that's why I've asked you. I'm sorry that I've kept you, but I think it's important that you hear what's going to be said. Thank you, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you. I'll wait until everybody is settled. Chief Varrone, who's the Chief of Detectives, is certainly going to have input into this presentation. But, if I may, with the indulgence of the Chair, make a short statement. I thank you.

This is Police Memorial Month throughout the country and in Suffolk County. And I would ask everybody to keep in their thoughts and prayers the families and the officers that lost their lives in Suffolk County, 21 of them, serving the people of Suffolk County, and we're honoring their memory this month. Next week is Police Week. We'll have a ceremony where we recognize, again, their sacrifice. And I thank you for allowing me the time to mention that.

Before I get into the presentation, which is in response to the Chair's letter to me sometime ago where you asked a number of questions, a lot of questions, which I'll be very glad to share with you. But a very disturbing presentation just a few minutes ago by the PBA Representative. And I have no problem listening to statistics on staffing and where people are and what the Police are doing, and response time, and that kind of thing, I understand that. I understand where the Unions are coming from. You know, I think we all understand that. But, when somebody accuses this Police Department of manipulating statistics, crime statistics, my antennas go up. And I want to publicly state or request right now that if the Unions, the two Unions represented here today, the PBA and the Detectives, have any information or documentation that they can bring forward that I can bring to the District Attorney, so that we can sit down and examine this, and if there is a problem, I would like to know about it. I don't want somebody throwing out stuff in a public forum like this with a very serious allegation. I'm assuming that the Committee and everybody listening to me understands how serious that allegation is and how serious we take it. So I would ask that they bring forward the information and we will deal with it.

Now, I mentioned the District Attorney. Obviously, if there's a criminal act involved with this manipulation of statistics, this allegation, there would be an obligation to prosecute the people that were involved in this. So I want you to know that this goes to the core of the integrity of everything that we do and not something that we would take lightly. If the PBA, or the Detectives' Association, or anybody else had information that this was occurring, they had an obligation to bring it forward so we could address it.

I thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me to, you know, mention that, because it's such a serious issue.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Chief, just to interrupt, that's exactly why I wanted you to be here and why I asked to you go last. I wanted you to hear what was going to be said and be able to respond. I'm tired of hearing two different conflicting stories at two different times. I want everybody here that's concerned, so we can deal with this. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes. And thank you, and I thank you and the Committee for giving us the opportunity to give you the facts, no spin, even though I'll be accused after this meeting of spinning it. I'm going to give you the facts as we know them. I don't make them up. They're what -- the information that we have in the Police Department, and we can back that up.

I know that there was a mention made of -- with the President of AME, and I would like to address that with the ECOs, Emergency Complaint Operators and Dispatchers, who, by the way, do a terrific job and we're very proud of them, and I tell them that on a regular basis, because I'm in the communication system in where they work on a regular basis, talking to them, finding out what their problems are, what the issues are. It is a stressful job. I agree with the President of AME, that it is a stressful job, we recognize that. And I'm not sure if the Union has a program to deal with stress, with employee stress. I'm not sure if they do, but I know that Suffolk County Police has an Employee Assistance Unit that can deal with stress, and we have professionals that will speak to them or deal with them on -- in a confidential way about any stresses that they have. Our people know that, by the way. This is not, you know, hidden. Every employee in the Police Department is aware of this Unit and the confidentiality.

You know, the Chief just mentioned to me -- and I know that stress is a killer, not just in the policing business, but in a lot of occupations. And the PBA President and I collaborated together in coming up with a procedure, a directive from me to my officers, to all the officers in the Department to -- how to deal with stress and substance abuse, and all the other issues that are plaguing society, and are particularly pervasive in the police business because of what they do, the type of work that police are engaged in. And I'm very happy to report that the PBA President, Jeff Frayler, agrees with me, that we had to do something. For example, for example, if an officer is under stress and there's something going on in their life, whether it's off-the-job or on-the-job issues, they can turn in their weapons without having a stigma attached to it. It will not negatively impact their assignments or promotions. Never done before in the police business, where the order went out telling the officers, "Come forward." It's a sign of strength, not a sign of weakness, to ask for help. And I'm very happy that the PBA joined with me in that effort, and I was assured by the PBA President that he would support us in this effort to keep our officers and all our workers safe.

The Complaint Operator issue: And again, I don't make these numbers up, they come from our payroll records. Somebody gives them to me. A civilian worker gives them to me, so nobody manipulates the figures. In January, 2004, we had 64 Emergency Complaint Operators, 64 in 2004 when we came on board. Today, 2008, there are 58, with six SCINs, signed SCINs, being processed, which would bring the total up to the same number that we did -- we had in 2004, which would be 64. I agree with the President of AME again, that the hiring process is not an easy one, but we're working on it as we speak. Dispatchers: In 2004, we had 61 Dispatchers. In 2008, today, we have 68, and two signed SCINs, which we're working on, which will give us a total of 70, which is nine more than we had in January, 2004. Public Safety Dispatcher II's, a different grade. In 2004, we had 12. Today, we have 12. We have not diminished in any way the staffing of Dispatchers, and Complaint Operators. At times, it will fluctuate because people leave. And this hiring process is slow, as was described by the AME President. But we work very diligently to hire these folk, because we know they're the first connection with the public who are asking for police assistance.

I want to mention two statistics. And, by the way, these come from our Computer-Aided Dispatch System, not made up by anybody, not manipulated. In 2000, Year 2000, there were 1,299,000 calls to 911. In 2007, the last year of our figures, we had 1,270,809, 29,000 less calls to 911 in our system from 2000 to 2007, in a seven-year period. False alarms: In 2000, we had 158,700 false

alarms, about 20% of our patrol time taken up with false alarms. In 2007, we had 126,221, down 32,513 false alarms, not eating up our patrol time.

Now, if you're running a business and you're looking at the bottom line, and you're looking at efficiencies, that makes sense to run your business like that, not wasting your resources; in this case, not wasting the taxpayer money. It leaves cops on the street to deal with the problems of the streets and our downtown areas.

Response time: And, by the way -- by the way, I agree with the PBA Representative who mentioned the dispatch and arrival time. Now, I think that probably everybody here knows that Priority Ones are really the measure of your Police Department. These are the emergency calls: Auto crashes with personal injury. Aided cases, somebody's having a heart attack. There's some issues at their home or business where they need a police officer right away. That is a Priority 1. And we have to do it that way. We can't just be sending out a minor call and holding an emergency call. We don't do that. Are there times that somebody will wait because it's not a Priority 1 call? The answer is yes, because it's usually at a busy time, whether there's a storm, a bad crash on the Expressway, like we had yesterday, where we get numerous calls coming into 911. Everybody is on their cell phone and they get inundated. Now, if you looked at the CAD System yesterday, we would have numerous hang-ups from people who go on the cue because they saw a crash or they didn't know what was happening. And it's very difficult for us to get the information out quickly. It takes awhile to find out what's going on, to deal with the crisis with the emergency, get the injured to the hospital, and then clear the roadways. Highway Patrol did a tremendous job yesterday, even though I had some people telling me that we could have handled it better.

Long Island Expressway, I think, as people have mentioned and as you know, when there's a crash on there and the lanes are closed, is a nightmare, but that can happen on any highway and you just deal with it. That's what we do in the police business, and our officers are trained to take care of that.

The Priority 1 calls, by the way, again, the PBA representative was correct, 6.22 seconds from our CAD System, Computer Aided Dispatch. And you may ask, why from dispatch to arrival? Well, the Officer, who is in his car or her car, doesn't know that the call came into 911.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Sorry, Chief -- Commissioner. I just wanted to correct that; 6.22 two minutes; correct?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Did I say seconds?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Sorry.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

You were talking about the computer system, so I thought there might be a lag time for the computer system to catch it, and then you were going to talk about Dispatch. But I just wanted to make sure you were talking about the time. So, I'm sorry. If you could continue, 6.22 minutes from -- from what?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No. Six minutes and 22 seconds.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Six minutes, 22 seconds from what to --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

From the time of dispatch to the time of arrival.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

What about from the time of the inception of the call?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. Now, and you must remember that by the time the call comes in, its clocked the minute the phone is picked up. The operator has to get the information, has to talk to the person, get pertinent information before they dispatch the car. You understand that.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Unfortunately, I have had to call 911 --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- so I understand.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

So you know that they ask you a lot of questions, and there's a reason for that, because they may lose you and we may need to get you back. We want to send the cop to the right place. And that response for Priority Ones is 7 minutes 56 seconds. Now, 7 minutes 56 seconds.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

From the time of the call.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That's the average.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That's the average. By the way, I should point out to everybody that it could be from the Chair's one minute to your eight minutes. We average out that. And I should mention, by the way, Suffolk County Police District is a huge district; it's very large. And that's, by the way, that we introduced a new sector car in your District.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Two.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Two? You got two?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, one for the Seventh Precinct, one for the Sixth Precinct.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Oh, okay. So okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And, by the way, we still need another one in the Sixth, in case you were wondering.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. And it was based on response time and backup time. And we listen to you, and we listen to your constituents. I don't want to belabor this response time or dispatch time any longer. I would like to get in, and I see the Chair is still here, he had asked me a number of questions, by the way, that I would like to answer now on the record

Mr. Chair, if --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

With your permission. You sent me a letter on April 18th, 2008, and you asked 17 specific questions, which I will answer, or attempt to answer to your satisfaction and to the Committee's satisfaction as we go along. And I just ask you to bear with me. I told --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I really have a question on the response times.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Oh, you have a question on the response time or did --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yeah. Before you move on, and, you know, again, the PBA has, you know, been apparently trying to gather information on this, and I have a sampling here, and, you know, we're talking about Priority Ones, and I don't know if this information has been provided to you, but, you know, we have here in Islip a disturbance with three females, a threatening employee waiting outside for them. I would assume that would be a Priority 1 call. The response time listed on that one is 51 minutes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah. If I may, if I --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So, I mean, there are a number of things.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I mean, I'm going through here and, obviously, you know, I see negative P.I. on persons injured. Obviously, that drops it down in the cue. But I'm looking at a number of others that have significant response times here that, you know, certainly seem to fall into a higher priority category. And I know you, of course, are going to have a statistical sampling, but some of these are very significant. So I was just wondering if you could address that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, if I may. Number one, I did see that. I assume that it's the same report that I received from a Legislator, and that's an unofficial report. I think the PBA President admitted he didn't have the facts, he didn't have the correct information. He had gathered this information from talking to police officers. I'm assuming it's police officers in the Precinct. And so, you know, he admitted that he didn't have the information. We have the information.

Now, looking at that report that I got, which is -- I don't know where the report came from. It's not a Police-generated document. It has no relationship to what we do, and so it's unreliable. But, in answer to your question about responding to a Priority 1 call, let's talk what -- let's talk about what

really happens in the real world.

An officer gets a call of a disturbance, it's a Priority 1 call. The officer responds. They get the call and they say, "10-4". That's the dispatch. The officer gets to the scene. Now, they're supposed to do one of a couple of things: Notify the dispatcher that they've arrived, number one, or hit the 3-6 button on their computer. Now, in reality, that doesn't happen all the time. The officer gets to the scene and gets out of their car and takes care of the issue, and doesn't state for the CAD System that they've arrived. So you will get 51 minutes when that officer goes back in service. It will capture that he was out -- that was when he arrived, when, actually, the officer was at the scene. You will see sometimes where there's a storm damage and an officer will respond to a tree down, and radios are busy. They're not going to be covering other cops on the radio by telling somebody, "I've arrived." It doesn't work that way. We've tried to tell the officers, "Look, give us the arrival time, because it's an issue. Hit the 3-6 button." But I have to tell you, in all honesty, I'm not going to hammer any police officer who gets to the scene of an emergency and jumps right in and takes care of it, and let's worry about the bureaucracy later.

You know, this distinction about when it was dispatched and when we arrived, I would say to everybody, by the way, again, on the record, that if -- to the Legislators. If you -- have you received any complaints about our response to Priority 1 calls, or any other call for that matter? Have you sent it to the Police Commissioner? I certainly haven't received any. And I would ask you, what is -- what is the issue here with this response, because I'm not hearing it from the public. I'm not getting letters, or phone calls, or E-mails about not responding to my call.

Now, every now and again we do get a complaint where somebody said they got a recording and they hang up, and they go back in the cue again and they hang up. And we investigate that, and it's very few, by the way. It's usually somebody -- and they tell you to stay on the line, because you'll be answered in the sequence that you called, but a lot of people don't want to do that.

Now, I understand the frustration if you're trying to get a police officer and you get a recording. We understand that, but that could happen if we had 100 ECOs, because when we get a bad crash or a storm, and I mentioned that before, our lines get inundated, and that's true of every Police Department anywhere you go. New York City goes through the same issues, Nassau County. We manage it. We have a system where, if you stay on the line, you will get response if it's a priority. If it's not priority, they will tell the person, "It's going to take awhile, the officers are busy." Most times people will say, "I understand, it's only a stolen bicycle," or what have you, where it's not a Priority 1, you know.

So, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to explain this response and arrival time.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

That was one of my last questions.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It's not as scientific as we would like it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah, that was my last question. I was saving that for last, but thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. I'm sorry.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

You're on.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Your questions.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Your questions. Question number one -- and, by the way, these came from the Chair, so don't anybody, you know, say something to me because I'm lengthy. I'm answering your questions, and I appreciate the opportunity.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah. Well, just so you'll know, I didn't sit down one day and say, "Oh, what could I ask?" These are responses from the community, from other Legislators, from Unions. I want to get it clarified today. If we've got to spend all day here getting this clarified, when we leave, I want it in everybody's mind, we've all heard the same thing from the same people.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you. *"Civilianization Effort: The last report to my committee"* -- this is your question -- *"was issued over one year ago and listed 28 reassigned Officers, whose positions were not backfilled with civilian titles. Have these positions been filled? And if not, how are those job duties being performed?"*

Answer: "In a report generated in January 2007, this Department advised that 28 Police Officers were removed from Precinct desks. Five of the positions had been backfilled by Police Operation Aide positions. The five Police Operation Aide positions addition increased the total civilian staffing at Precinct desks to 14, two for each Precinct. Currently, in May of 2008, three Police Operations Aides positions are vacant due to resignations or promotions. We are actively canvassing to fill the three positions as we speak. All job duties continue to be accomplished with reduced staffing. This can be credited to procedural change, as well as computerization of reports." We're in the process of filling these two positions, and these are the 28 that you were asking about.

Question 2, 911 Call Center.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, I'm sorry, before you move on.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah, he's going to get copies for you of my questions.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. The copies of these answers, we're running through these numbers very quickly, and you and I have had a lot of number -- discussion about numbers regarding civilianization. If we could be furnished with copies of these numbers. I'm trying to keep up. I feel like I'm back in college trying to write notes fast enough and my hand's starting to cramp up. But I was wondering if I could --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, it will be on the record and --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yeah, but just so follow -- we can follow it.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

This way we can also follow. This way it's condensed and there's not the back-and-forth chatter of, you know, me constantly chiming in, as I appear to be doing, so --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. Are you --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So it's a little more condensed that way.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Are you looking for a copy?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

If we could, yes. And, if I -- through the Chair, if I could just ask to Budget Review, we've asked on a number of occasions about the number of actual live bodies that are civilianized within the Police Department, and the last number that I had heard, we were up a total of five or seven. Do you know where we stand right now in terms of the number of civilian positions within the Police Department, you know, comparing either from 2000 to 2004, whatever numbers you have, to the present, where we've gone with the civilianization?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

I believe the total number of civilianized positions were 87. The number that were filled, and I'm just trying to remember off the top of my head, I don't have it in front of me, I think at the last report that we had, and that was the one in -- over a year ago, I think we were somewhere in the -- around 49 to 51.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah. The last numbers that I remember were 72 positions and 42 filled, so we're somewhere around there. That's what I heard.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay. Commissioner, if you could -- also, if we get not only copies of this, but if we could get a clearer accounting on the civilianization positions, and not only which ones are filled, but also you mentioned the Operations Aides. But if we could also get a listing of which other positions still remain vacant --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, we can get --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- that would be a -- that would be a great help.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That wasn't one of the questions of the 17 questions, so --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I understand that, but I'm asking that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

So we can get that information for you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Since you raised the civilianization issue --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, I didn't raise it, the Chair did. These are answers to the Chair's questions.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I don't want to argue semantics with you, sir. I'm just saying -- all right. Let me --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We can get that information.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Let me parse that a little differently. Since the issue of civilianization came up in response to a question, or however you want to classify it, I'm just asking that the -- not only the filled positions and the Police Operations Aides, but if we could also get an accounting of those other remaining vacant positions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And you know what, I'm going to ask the Committee, let's let the Commissioner go through it, rather than tear it apart as we go. And just make a note. We'll go back and touch each thing, but let -- I want you to -- I know you're always brief, and I want to give you enough time to say your brief statement.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you. And if anybody requests information, we will attempt to get that for you. We may not have it available today, that's the problem, because some of these questions -- there's so much stuff going on, that it's hard for me to even keep up with these numbers.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

We'll make requests at the end of your presentation.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. Answer Number 2 -- Question Number 2, I'm sorry, "911 Call Center:" *It says here, "From October of 2007, you stated that new Public Safety Dispatchers and Emergency Complaint Operators were scheduled to be hired. Have any of these positions been filled?"*

Answer: "On February 4th of 2008, three Emergency Complaint Operators, ECOs, and two Public Safety Dispatchers were hired. Within weeks of that, one of these five that were hired, two ECOs and one PSD1 resigned. At the present time, the Department is actively processing candidates to fill the five ECO and one ECO Spanish. That's the six positions that I mentioned before. And we're also looking to fill two PSD1 vacancies for which we also have signed reusable SCINs. The entire certified list for these positions were canvassed towards this end. Currently, the total vacancies are ten ECO positions and one Spanish speaking positions."

Question 3: *"Soundex: We have had an ongoing discussion regarding this issue, and the recent tragedy in Nassau County proves the need for timely reports. Has additional staff been assigned to this function? Would it be more efficient to grant access to the Soundex System directly to Child Protective Service workers or their Supervisors?"*

Answer 3: "Soundex is only one of the systems which are searched in order to supply the requested information to CPS. Four other systems must also be accessed. The Information Retrieval System," which is IRS, "the Criminal History and Subject Evaluation System, CHASE, the Arrest System, and court dispositions. Access by other than department authorized personnel pose security issues involving confidentiality and exposure of court ordered sealed records. Additionally, the Information Technology Section does not currently have the ability to provide remote access to any of these systems." But I should note, "The Department is presently in the process of hiring an additional person to perform the function of accessing this information for Child Protective Services. It should also be noted that two personnel from other areas within Central Records have been assigned to handle this task daily. With respect to priority requests from CPS, they are handled immediately when requested."

Question 4, *"Aviation Division: The mechanics assigned to the Aviation Division are all talented individuals. However, it seems that they are working with no supervision. In a department where the chain of command is so vital, it is odd that this unit has none. Please advise of who supervised*

*the work conducted by the mechanics in the Aviation Division."*

Answer, "The Aviation Mechanics are civilian members of the Police Department. They currently have no civilian supervisor, as there is no Civil Service title or supervisor. There are two Sergeants in Aviation that supervise these mechanics. Each Sergeant covers a different shift, so they're always supervised. These Sergeants have no mechanical certifications, and basically supervise administratively. The Personnel Section in the Police Department has paperwork dating back to May of 2006 requesting this supervisory title to be made. Civil Service was again contacted in February of 2007 by Maureen Looby, who was advised that they would not entertain creating a new supervisory position or create a new title for a Helicopter Mechanic, who assumes any supervisory duties. The assumption is that there will always be a sworn presence in Aviation and supervision would fall there. However, in a recent conversation Miss Looby had with a representative from the Civil Service, they cannot verify that this conversation took place." So we're following up on that to see if there's any change in the answer from Civil Service.

"School Resource Officers." The question: *"School Resource" -- "I've already sent a letter detailing my concerns regarding the use of School Resource Officers. I have heard from three separate school districts about the lack of a presence of SROs at their high schools. Please advise me how this issue is being addressed to meet the needs of the schools."*

By the way, SRO Program, when we came on board, had two officers. We now have 41, 10 of them full-time, and the others part-time. Ten full-time, they don't do any other duties, and then the rest of them are part-time, an efficient use of our patrol people. The PBA President mentioned this and mentioned that they do stop into the schools, and they may get a call and have to respond on it. That's correct, and that's the way we want it to work. But a lot of times it works effectively and efficiently, because they have a contact in the schools.

Now, I mentioned, on March 25th, I responded to a letter that you sent, inquired about the School Resource Officer program that's currently working within the Police District. We have 41 officers. Ten of these officers are deployed full-time, 31 are part-time. Our current SRO coverage encompasses 61 schools, not two schools that we had in 2004, in 37 different school districts. We are unaware of any school district that has requested the services of an SRO and that does not have one designated. We are responding to the schools. We just cannot afford to put a School Resource Officer in every school full-time, but we're certainly paying attention to our kids and the issues that crop up in the schools.

Number 2 question. This is on your second -- the second part of your questions. Number 2, *"Police Smart: It is my understanding that Officers have been assigned and are being trained to provide the Police component to the Health Smart Program."*

And, by the way, we call it Police Smart, it's not Health Smart. Health Smart is what the schools do.

*"How many school districts are being serviced at present? How many are enrolled to participate in the next school year?"*

"Forty-one school districts are being provided the Police Smart service as we speak. Twenty-one private schools are also being provided the Police Smart service. Ten Police Officers have been trained and are providing the Police Smart service to the schools that we just mentioned. No additional school entities have requested this Police Smart service for the school year commencing of September 2008." We're covering all the requests that we have received.

Number 3, *"Marine Bureau Seasonal Coverage." And this is your question: "It has come to my attention that the Suffolk County P.D. is proposing no increase in the number of Officers to be assigned to Fire Island during the summer months. Given that the population of Fire Island, as well as the number of visitors, greatly increases during the summer, how does the Suffolk County P.D. plan to meet the increased need without increased presence?"*

"Marine Bureau or Seasonal Coverage will continue" -- I'm sorry. "The Marine Bureau will continue to maintain an adequate Police presence on Fire Island by redeploying Marine personnel and through the use of overtime to address activity levels at specific locations during times that see an influx of civilians." Whatever the busy days or evenings of the week, especially on weekends and holidays, they will see police presence. When it's not so busy, we're not going to have cops there. "The aforementioned will be accomplished while staffing boat patrol in the North and South Shore waterways. During special events and on holiday weekends, staffing will be increased based upon the demands of the particular event." I should mention that we are going to be monitoring this as we proceed into the summer, and, if we have to, we'll make adjustments. I've talked to the Chief of Patrol about that and the Chief of the Department and we're going to monitor it very closely. And if it needs adjustment, we'll certainly respond. So I would say to everybody, let's see how it works out and we'll address it, as we do with any issues that come up.

The Summer Youth Program, which was an issue that I know is very dear to a lot of people's hearts, and we've been contacted by a number of youth programs, the heads of the youth programs. I've talked to them personally about it. The Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau had concerns about our withdrawal from their Safe Summer Youth Program. And you mentioned it's an excellent opportunity for the police to interact with young adults in a positive manner, and I think everybody else expresses the same sentiments. *"Since School Resource Officers will no longer be needed at high schools during the summer months, could they be diverted to participate in this program?"*

And here's the answer: Officers assigned to the Police Smart Program will be assigned to work with the Towns. The Towns that we've reached out to are going to partner with us and give us some resources to work with our assigned police officer, who will be stationed there for the duration of the event. It won't be a ten-minute stop-in, as some people have mentioned. Lieutenant Donohue from the Community Outreach Bureau is working on this as we speak, reaching out to the -- all the youth programs involved, and we're going for work with the youth programs and continue this program this summer. Again, if we need more resources for to make it work, we will certainly allocate them. We've heard -- we've heard from the parents, from the Legislators, and from the Youth Program Directors and we're responding. We think it's the right thing to do.

By the way, every year for the last number of years, we've had 21 Police Officers assigned, some of it on overtime, I might add. We think we can do it a lot more efficiently and still be effective and take care of our kids.

Sector Car Coverage: *"Does the Department currently have a written policy to assign Officers from specialized units, COPE, Criminal Investigations, Gang, and School Resource Officers, etcetera, to backfill sector cars? If so, under what circumstances would this be acceptable?"* I assume you're talking about the Plainclothes Units when you say Criminal Investigations.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Uh-huh.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

The Department does have a written policy, a Chief of Patrol Directive, that addresses the temporary redeployment of COPE and Precinct Crime.

Section personnel. The Chief of Patrol does have that. We can make that available to you.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

We made a copy.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I'm sorry.

**CHIEF MOORE:**

We made a copy.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Oh, you did make it, okay. Number 2, *"How many times have Officers from the specialized units been utilized to backfill a sector car?"*

"Since this written policy went into effect, the Department has temporarily redeployed personnel for a total of 342.5 tours of duty. This number includes both Police Officers and Supervisors."

Number 3, *"If Cope Officers are performing patrol duties, who is performing COPE duties?"*

And, "In your correspondence you posed the following ... if COPE Officers ... who is performing..." I cannot -- to be honest with you, I cannot answer this question without further clarification. COPE Officers, by the way, are not assigned to 911, they handle directed patrol. Based on what's happening in the Precinct at a particular time, they'll be directed by a Precinct Commander or a Commander, a Lieutenant, Sergeant, Captain, for a particular problem area. I think everybody here is familiar with how COPE operates.

So they -- and the Chief of Patrol mentioned to me that instead of two days a month now, he's reduced it to one day a month for the redeployment of these officers that were just mentioned. So I think that changed yesterday. I found out yesterday afternoon. The Chief of Patrol runs his own Division. He advised me what he was doing, and I said, "Okay, I'll need that information for tomorrow," which is today. And one day a month, which I don't think is a great burden, in spite of what everybody is saying. And I should mention, what's the reason for this? Oh, I'm sorry. Okay, I stand corrected. It's the Gang -- I'll tell you, sometimes I don't get all the information. They're telling me that COPE is staying the two days and the Gang Units and the Crime Sections are one day. I stand corrected, I'm sorry.

As I mentioned -- yes, and I see the change here, and I think you got a copy of that. I should mention, by the way, that everybody is aware that we're all under fiscal constraints, especially in the County, and that's what we worry about. I worry about the Police Department and our budget. We make sure that we're tightening our belts in these tough times. I don't want to wait until next year to decide to tighten our belts. I think it's appropriate to do it now. And that's what we're doing, by the way. Is there going to be some inconvenience and some aggravation? Yes. Is there going to be some backlash from the officers that are doing this? Yes. I understand that. And I've said to the Officers, by the way, in all honesty, if I were one of you, I'd probably be whinging about it, too. But this is police work, you do what you're told to do, and the public safety is not being impacted in any way. Our sector cars are not being depleted in any way, and I'll get to that with another question.

It says here, *"Has authorization been granted to shut down the sector car for any period of time? And if so, for what reason?"* And, *"Has any sector been without coverage due to lack of personnel?"*

"The Department does not shut down sector cars. Furthermore, the written policy explicitly states that overtime will be utilized to staff sector cars if a temporary gap exists due to schedules of officers temporarily redeployed."

So, if an officer is on a long-time redeployment, there's a big crisis someplace, the Commanders are being told, utilize overtime to cover that sector. And that light -- I should mention, too, to the Committee that Officers, by the way, sometimes spend hours on a downed wire, or a downed pole, or lights out someplace, and we are working with the utility companies to reduce that time where they'll put up flag people for to direct traffic, and set up barriers and cones, so our Officers can go back covering their sectors as quickly as possible. Again, that hadn't been done over the years, and it was something that we saw that was draining away our coverage for your sectors.

Actually, Question 6 is, *"What are the current response times to 911 calls?"* And I covered that, and I have the attached for you. *"How do you calculate response time?"* I think I covered that, and it's

covered by the Computer Aided Dispatch, it's all computerized.

*"Has it ever taken in excess of one hour for a sector car to respond to a 911 call?"*

Response time in excess of one hour do occur sometimes, and I explained before why. The most common cause of the factor is weather-related, which creates an extraordinary spike, 200 to 300% increase, in calls to 911 and request for service. Also, the proper prioritization of calls sometimes requires re-routing the sector car from one assignment to another of an emergency nature. So an officer will get called to a Priority 2 or 3 and be responding and get called off for a Priority 1. That will show an arrival time for that Priority 2 or 3 a long time, because they went to a Priority 1 call. It is not unusual for Officers to handle more than one call because of their sector, and then, again, based on the priority. It's an efficient way to handle this.

And our operators are trained to tell the complainant or the person calling 911, "It's going to take awhile. We'll be there. It could take an hour." They're put on notice that they don't -- shouldn't look out their window and expect a cop in five minutes, depending on the type of call and what's going on in the County.

It says here, *"What was the longest response time experienced by a 911 caller?"* The longest response time for a sector car to respond to a 911 call is not a record that we capture or retrieve. We already explained in Question 8 what happens with these calls, and I think it answers that in Question 9.

If I may, before I answer questions, I would like to respond to some of the staffing issues. And again, this is taken from our payroll records, again, which are computerized and not made up by me or any of the Chiefs or any of their Commanders. And, as Legislator Losquadro mentioned before about he got two sector -- new sector cars since we came in in 2004, and we also -- and that was I think 620 and 702.

**CHIEF MOORE:**  
702.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

702, and we also put a 709 car, full sector, in the Seventh Precinct, and in the Fifth Precinct, we put another sector cars. We've increased sector cars by four since we came on board. Hasn't been done in years, and we did that based on a need for service in the East End. Seventh Precinct, as Legislator Losquadro is very much aware, and Legislator Browning is very much aware, the Seventh Precinct was a skeleton Precinct when we came on board. It is now a full-service Precinct. We allocated extra officers out there for to bring them up to staffing levels that were appropriate.

When the Representative of the PBA mentioned that the numbers of Officers in the Police Department since 2004 are down, he's accurate. Total number of Police Officers are down. By the way, the number of Officers in the sector cars, he mentioned a number, it was off by a few, but that's okay, we won't quibble over a few. There was 970 Police Officers in sector cars in January 2004. That does not count the Officers that were in the Police Academy. We do not count them until they hit the streets. So that 970 is a solid number, it was the sector car Officers. That is the Ten Command. As we speak today, now it may change by one or two because of overnight, we have 1,059 in sector cars. That's a plus of 89. This summer, we're going to have 57, not 56, graduate from the Police Academy, they're not counted yet, which will give us an extra -- another 57 for patrol. They'll go right into the sector cars in the Precincts. It will give us a plus of 146 this summer over January of 2004 in sector cars. Now, during that time, from 2004 to today, overall in the Police Department, Police Officers are down from nineteen hundred and two to seventeen-ninety-three, which, by the way, that seventeen-ninety-three includes the 57, for a minus of 109.

In Plainclothes or the Crime Section, the Criminal -- Misdemeanor Criminal Investigations Unit, in

2004, we had 132 Police Officers. We have 124 as we speak, minus 8. In the COPE, in January 1, 2004, we had 151. And, by the way, that 151 included 21 DARE Officers, because they were assigned to COPE at that time, so the number is skewed somewhat. Today, we have 93, which is a minus of 58. But take away the 21 DARE Officers, give us a minus of 37 in COPE today. Overall, in the Patrol Division, looking at all the Commands in the Patrol Division, Police Officers, we're a plus 23.

I should mention, by the way, that the sector cars, who have never been diminished, and we have no intention of diminishing them, will continue to be staffed. How they're staffed will depend on the Commanders that's the way we work in this business. They will make the decisions, with direction from their Chief, the Chief of Patrol.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Chairman, I hate to interrupt, but I just -- and it wasn't provided in the answers that you gave us. Could you just repeat --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

You know what, I have a list of questions, too.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yeah. No, just -- just so I can move forward with my questions also, if you could just repeat the number on the Precinct patrol again, 11 -- then we can just move on.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. Okay, in the ten -- in the sector cars.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

January 1st, 2004, 970. And, by the way, the PBA pretty much agrees with that number.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yeah.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And the only thing is, that the PBA Representative was not properly informed and didn't include the officers who were in the Police Academy at --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I got that. So what was the current number?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, on the record, I wanted to correct that. So these were the Officers, 970. Today, as we speak, there's 1,059.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. That's all I needed.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

You can go on.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. All right. If you just bear with me a second, I think there was -- Legislator Romaine had sent me questions, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure if you wanted me to answer his questions today.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Say that again, I'm sorry.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Legislator Romaine had sent me some questions and --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Is this concerning the funding source and stuff?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, I have a couple of questions that --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It was response time. I'll tell you what they were. Police response time, I'm sorry, which we've already covered. Issuing used Glocks to the new recruits. And, as you know, we have 57 Officers in the Police Academy, they will receive weapons when they're qualified. When we looked at our inventory in the Police Department, which, as one of our reviews of every unit in the Police Department, we had 317 used Glocks.

My next question was, "Well, what are we doing with them?" They said, "Well, if we need" -- "if an officer needs a weapon, because the weapon broke down or something happens, we give them a weapon." I said, "Well, what are we doing with the recruits?" "Well, we get new weapons for the recruits." I said, "Why?" "Well, that's because we've always done that." I said, "Why?" "Well, because we've always done it." I said, "Well, is there any other reason for doing it?" And they said, "No." Because everybody in the Department, by the way, has a used Glock. The Chief, who is sitting next to me, and the other staff members, have Glocks that are a lot of years on them. They use them every year at the range. So everybody has a used weapon. The minute they fire that weapon, it's used. So it didn't make sense to me not to reissue these to the recruits, and that's what we're doing. So, of course, I had a question on it, you know, why issue the used Glocks. And, by the way, by doing that, we saved \$20,000 for the taxpayer and out of our Police budget. We think it was a smart thing to do. These guns, by the way, are checked by the armorers. They made sure they're functioning properly, so nobody is endangered. It says --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Why don't we get the questions of people that are here.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, okay.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And this might be -- my first question might be to BRO. I understand we have a funding source, the Police District Fund and I believe the General Fund? Are those -- those are the two funds that go to the Police Department?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, that are in contention.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. So then I guess what I'm looking to see is, you know, what -- what are the functions, you know, from each District? I mean, what does -- does it all go into one pot and then you draw, or

does some specific things come from the Police District Fund and other things come from the General Fund. Yes, Joe.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

The second way you said it. There are just two funding sources.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Fund 15, which covers just the five western Towns, and then you have the General Fund, which covers the entire County.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And that's split, then, between the west and the east.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Right. Two sources of funds from the taxpayers.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

And then in the Police Department, there are specific functions that they perform out of each of those funds.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right. I guess that's probably my next question. You've answered that it's the General Fund that funds the East End Towns.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Correct.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

All right. So then what are the services that are provided to the Towns --

**CHIEF MOORE:**

No, no.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no, no, no.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

No? I have it wrong?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, Mr. Chair, that's not 100% accurate. It funds -- the General Fund funds policing outside the Police District, whether they're in the western end or the eastern end.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right. But, I mean, the East End only is funded through the General Fund.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might, the services that are provided Countywide, east and west, everybody pays into the General Fund for that: Helicopter Division, District Attorney's Office.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, that's actually my question.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But that's --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

What are those funds, so --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I have a list of them. Yeah, I have them listed.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Oh, you did. Do I have them here?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I broke them down by 15 and 01 Fund, and I gave them to everybody.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Okay. I haven't looked it over.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And it's a lengthy list. By the way --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

If I may -- if I may, Ben. You know, the statement that we don't provide Detective services is incorrect. We do under the 01 Fund. We give an awful lot of services out of the Detective Division. In the 15 Fund, which, by the way, only taxpayers in the Police District pay into, people in Incorporated Villages, who have their own Police Departments, do not pay into the 15 Fund. And the use of our resources, by the way, is illegal. It's illegal for me to utilize Police District resources on a day-to-day basis to supplement Villages and Towns that are outside the Police District.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

But we have been doing that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, yeah. That doesn't mean it's right. It's almost --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

No. If you're saying it's illegal --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, yeah. I checked with --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

-- we're going to have to get an Officer to escort you out here.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I checked with Counsel and I checked with Budget. And, you know, it's just like -- it's just like I mentioned with the Glocks. Why are you giving them new Glocks? Because we've always done that. Well, that's not good enough anymore. And I can't do it, because it's illegal, not that I don't love these guys in the Villages and Towns, in spite of what they may think. They're outstanding individuals. They do a great job. We work very closely with them. And this is not a personal thing.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

No. I guess what I'm saying is, you're saying it's illegal, so you can't do it, but yesterday you were doing it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, here's -- here's what we --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Am I --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no. Well, as I mentioned to you --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Because I do feel like a mushroom at times, you know, buried in things and kept in the dark.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Mr. Chair, if you remember, when I notified you that I was going to do this --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

-- you told me it was the right thing to do.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Uh-huh.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay? And maybe -- maybe we could have given more notice. And I have stated that publicly, by the way, that we give the Villages and Towns more time for to get ready for this. And, also, we have a proposal for a chargeback for these services, which will protect our taxpayer money in the Police District.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Now, Police District taxpayer, wherever they are in the Police District, pay for the Villages that are in the -- especially the Western end. I think somebody mentioned that the East End pretty much has their own Police Departments and Detective Divisions, so they're pretty self-sufficient. We will only respond out there if there's an emergency where they need mutual aid, where we have to send out somebody to back them up. We're not going to discontinue that. That's the way we do the business in the Police Department. But I should mention, on the West End, which I think is the -- really the ones with the issues, we have -- we have eight Villages. Saltaire, which is in Fire Island, which, by the way, has never had a Police Department, so they don't pay any taxes, and we've been giving them Police services for years. They have been put on notice that they've got to pay for it. And they've reached out to us and agreed that they want to sit down with us and pay for the services. They see that it's the right thing to do for their citizens. But they never even had a Police Department.

Amityville. And the Chief gave a very eloquent presentation before. And, again, I want the Chiefs to know that this is not a personal thing against them. Lloyd Harbor, Huntington Bay, Northport, Asharoken, Head of the Harbor, Nissequogue, all along the North Shore. Now, again, we just can't keep servicing illegally and inappropriately these Village Police Departments. If they have an

emergency, we certainly will respond, as we always do, but we have to come up with a mechanism to protect our taxpayers. That's what this is about.

Nobody has ever addressed this before. And you may ask me, "Well, why did this come on the radar at this time?" And I can tell you a month ago, we were looking at everything in the Police Department, every Department that were spending overtime. And my question was, when I saw they were spending overtime to support Villages, Grand Jury presentations, felony investigations, and so on, which, by the way, were costing us money in the Police District, I said, "Why?" And they said, "Because we've always done it." I said, "Well give me a legal reason for doing it." And they couldn't give me a legal reason. In fact, I found out it was illegal and improper. So that's why this thing has come to a head.

We do not want to jeopardize anybody or put their communities in jeopardy. That's why we want to sit down with the Villages and the Towns and work out an agreement of chargeback.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right. And that -- and that's why, when I spoke to you, I agree with you, that, certainly, if it's illegal, we should stop it immediately. But the other part of what you just said is to sit down to talk. Before we change a policy, I'd like to have discussion, so people aren't left hanging.

And I guess the other thing, and you probably don't keep the records, but I'm wondering what the response time of the other police areas are. I mean, I guess what I'm saying is the Villages and Towns should be responding before you. You should be backup, at the very least. And I guess we don't have any numbers on that response time. You don't -- wouldn't know?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, we don't.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No. I have enough problems running the Suffolk County P.D. --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

-- without the --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Legislator Nowick wanted to ask a question.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Put me on the list, Jack.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yeah. Commissioner, this will be a fast question. I just -- I was interested in the scenario that the Vice President of the PBA spoke about, when the crew team from Saint Anthony's had flipped over on the boat. What's going on there? The boat is being taken away from that, Huntington Harbor?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Or can you, please --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

-- enlighten me on that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No. I'm glad you asked that question, because, no, the boat is going to continue operating on the North Shore. They're going to operate on the South Shore. What we're doing on the South Shore is that the boats will dock a little more than they did the last few years, and the Officers will get out and walk through a busy community. They still have radios that they carry with them. There'll still be a boat out there. It's not just a one-boat operation, so --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So the boat -- because we just heard testimony that the boat was going to be the first to go in Huntington Harbor and --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

That's not true.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No. And is the Chief of Patrol here? He could answer that. To my -- my understanding is no. We're going to continue to patrol the waterways and Fire Island, but at times, we will have a reduced presence, because it's not so busy, and we have to do it that way.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So is that a yes or a no?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No. I thought it was very clear. The boat is staying on the North Shore.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. Thank you. That's good.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

That's good.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Thank you. Just to follow up on that question, though, I have a couple of others myself, but, in the Marine Bureau, with that boat in particular. So my understanding, in listening to it, was the boat would sort of go down, meaning that it would be in dock, as you said, with the Officers then being in more of a reactionary role than -- you know, so, if they got a call, they're going to then go out and respond to it, not be on the waters patrolling; is that --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

They've always done that, by the way. That's not new, it's just that they're going to be doing it a little more now than they did it in past years.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, back when I had a WaveRunner, I -- you know, the Police would always say that it sort of looked like -- sort of like looking for a criminal in a jail, you could always find somebody with something on a WaveRunner, missing their fire extinguisher or something. So we used to get stopped all the time when we went out riding. There were Marine Bureau guys out patrolling the waters on a regular basis, and, thankfully, I had all my Coast Guard equipment with me, so I never received a ticket. But we used to get stopped pretty regularly up in the Port Jefferson area along the North Shore there.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Wait until this summer.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I no longer have my WaveRunner. I wouldn't have brought it up. No.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Look. You know, if --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Zwirn would put a bull's eye on me. But no. All kidding aside, at least, to my recollection, having been a recreational boater for awhile, they would be pretty actively engaged in proactive patrols, instead of more this reactionary-type position that you're talking about, or expanding that reactionary position. Could you just elaborate on that?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No. The Chief of Patrol has -- and, by the way, he just mentioned to me that there's been no change in the North Shore boating issue at all, whatsoever. So that's -- we cleared up that for the record, he just mentioned to me.

And the response time, you know, as I mentioned before, we're going to be monitoring this. The Chief of Patrol, with the Commander in the Marine Bureau, is going to monitor what's happening throughout the summer, at the beginning of the summer, and if we have to make adjustments, we will. We do that regularly, by the way, in the Police business. We've done it with the Youth Summer Program. I mean, we listen to folk, and we think it's appropriate, it made sense. We've done that with a number of issues where we'll say, "Let's take a time out and look at it," and we'll adjust if we have to, and we'll do the same thing with the Marine Bureau. But let's give it a chance, let's see what happens.

And, by the way, when we roll into working out the 2009 Budget, if we've saved some taxpayer money, that will help both the Leg., the Leg. and the Administration, work out with our 2009 Budget, which is going to be a tough budget, as we all know. Are there any other questions?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes, yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Because I wanted to make one last comment.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, before we -- before you go on, actually, I have a few questions. But I think what we're getting

to the heart of here is we need an honest, accurate assessment. We are working towards looking towards building this budget for next year, and we all know the financial situation. I mean, it's painfully obvious to all of us. But we want to know what we need, not just from your Department, from DSS, from Health, whoever it is, what is truly needed, what are the real facts and figures, so that we can make a determination as to what we need to do. We are -- this Legislative body sets policy. We have to act on this budget. The County Executive can propose whatever he wants, we dispose of it. That is our function of this branch of government. So, what we are trying to get is information on each piece as we look through this budget. And I understand your point exactly, but it is up to us to set the policy.

Now, since they're here before us, and, gentlemen, I hate to put you on the spot, but the question was raised, and the Commissioner was very forthcoming with giving us documentation that was put forward within the Department, so I will ask some of the Chiefs that are here. Was concern expressed over the L.I.E. plan with the Highway Patrol on Sunrise Highway, specifically Highway Patrol, and was any of that put in writing?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might interject, just to understand the question.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Zwirn, I asked the Chief of the Department.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I represent -- I'm the Deputy County Executive and I deal with the Police Department. I've dealt with the State Highway Patrol, State Troopers coming down.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Chairman.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

And I'd really like the question very clear before anybody tries to even approach to answer it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, I actually wasn't clear on who you were asking, Legislator.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, I'll ask Chief -- I'll ask Chief Moore.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

He's sitting up front.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

He's Chief of the Department. And, like I said, I hate to put you on the spot, sir. You've always been very responsive to me. And I say, I ask this with all due respect, but everyone has been very forthcoming with the information that has -- you know, the Chairman asked a question of the Commissioner. That information was granted to us in terms of internal Police Department documentation. So, if this was raised within the Department, this was asked earlier, and I would like an answer to that question, and how that factored into this decision-making process. And I understand that we're still negotiating with this and we're still working on it. What concerns were raised, if any? Was it put in writing? And how is that factoring into where we are moving towards

right now?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, I'm not -- if I may, I'm not going to divulge any private conversations I had with the County Executive or the --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I didn't ask the County Executive.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I asked the Chief of the Department a question.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

If I may. If I may, you know, he doesn't set policy in the Police Department. And Chief Moore is a subordinate of mine, and this is above his pay grade, so to speak. I can answer the question as best I can, and Ben Zwirn can answer the question, and I think that's as far as we go. But, look, I can tell you, I loved -- I loved these guys on Highway Patrol, they do a great job, and I've told the County Executive, and he agrees with me, by the way. Let the State come through with the money, pay the cost of these cops on that highway, which we've been giving them for years for free. And I agree with him on that. Finally, somebody is making an issue of this. Let the State come forward and help our taxpayers in Suffolk County --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

With all due respect, sir --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

-- who bear the burden.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- we're going very far afield of the question that I just asked. We're all -- you're preaching to the choir in terms of us wanting to get our money. I think everybody's in agreement on that. We get shortchanged by the State on everything from school aid to police patrol, we all agree on that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I asked a specific question. If you're directing the Chief of the Department not to answer that, then, you know, I'll defer to the Chairman of the Committee as to, you know, how we will address that.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No. If I may, Mr. Chair, you know, the Chief of the Department doesn't send memos to the County Executive.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah. I guess what -- let me just say, the Legislator --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

We're a military organization.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Not to the County Executive.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

The Legislator would like an answer to the question, and I personally don't care who does the answering, as long as we can get some --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I just answered it, Mr. Chair. The Chief of the Department or the Chiefs don't send memos to the County Executive.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I didn't ask it to the County Executive. I asked --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You said who put it in writing.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I asked if your Chiefs -- I specifically asked the Chief of the Department, because he is the senior law enforcement officer, sworn officer, was -- were concerns raised over the Highway Patrol Plan by your senior staff to you, and how -- was any of that concern put into writing, and how is that factoring into the decision-making process now, as you, as the civilian head of the Department?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I have had many --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That was my question.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah. I've had many discussions with the County Executive. We discussed --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I didn't --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

No. He's asking about the Chiefs.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I didn't ask the County Executive.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Have you talked to your Chiefs?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I asked about your senior staff.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Of course I talk to my Chiefs, but I'm not going to discuss what the Chiefs said to me. This is internal work product and it's inappropriate. We have honest discussions all the time on many issues and it's inappropriate for to discuss that in public. Have I had discussions with the County Executive? Yes. Do I agree with the County Executive in trying to get the money?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

You keep bringing up the County Executive. I didn't ask you once about the County Executive, sir. I asked you about --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yes, you did. You asked him, "Did you discuss it with the County Executive?"

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, I didn't.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

What I'm hearing is --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yes, you did.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

-- the Legislator would like to know if -- and you can correct me, Legislator Losquadro, but -- because maybe they're not hearing you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I thought I was pretty plain.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Did the other Chiefs give you feedback on this plan? That's what I'm hearing, and I'm not hearing an answer to that, that's all. I think you said, "Yes, we've had --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

-- "many discussions."

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, of course we --

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Nothing in writing.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

But you're not going to discuss those internal conversations.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, we do discuss, and we discussed this, obviously, amongst the Command staff.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So the answer is yes, but no. Yes, you've had conversations with them, but you won't divulge --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- what those conversations were or whether or not they expressed concerns to you, because those were internal conversations, that's what you're telling us.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, these are --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That's the short answer.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Exactly, that's correct.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah, that's a head-shake.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might -- if I might jump in at some point, because the County Executive was the one who announced this policy. I'd be glad -- and I was privy to some of the discussions and spoke with the State Superintendent of Police about this, and we raised that question with the State Superintendent. We said, "What are you going to do if we start removing certain sectors from the police, from" --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And he made --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Excuse me. Let me answer --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

He made his position pretty clear.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If you let me answer the question, I would be very clear. And we asked him, we said, "Well, what's your answer to the motoring public along these State roads, which are Suffolk County taxpayers, which you all represent, and, hopefully, would protect and try to get their rights" -- they're paying State taxes now. The plan was to try to extend the coverage on the Expressway until the State came in, but we had a plan to go forward, and we would have removed two sectors that particular time. In Nassau County, they would have done the same thing from the L.I.E. going east. We have been in constant contact with the State Police, saying, "Look, the time is now. You guys have to step up to the responsibility and do it." They have the manpower. They said back in April that they would take three weeks to come up with a plan and that plan would be implemented by August 1st. That was from the words from the State Superintendent, Harry Corbett, who had just been approved.

And the question is -- you should be asking is where is the State? You know, I heard a lot this morning about how -- if I just --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

-- might just finish this one comment, how the PBA seems to be the ones who are concerned about the taxpayers and public safety. Well, my question is why are they up in Albany on a regular basis trying to blow up this deal to put State Troopers on State roads and free up 62 Police Officers to do community Precinct work, and to do COPE work and all the other work that you folks so generously asked for?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

With all due respect, Mr. Chairman, I have other questions, and Mr. Zwirn --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But I'm just going to --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

-- is off on a tangent here.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I'm just going to say that, luckily, we watch News 12 and read Newsday, so we can find out what the County Executive is planning.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, that's why he's the County Executive and he's elected County-wide to make these kinds of decisions and then he comes --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

But what we would really like -- the reason we're doing this today is because we hear things from other sources, rather than your office. If we were kept updated on the public safety issues, then we wouldn't have to constantly be asking all these questions, and maybe we could answer some of them down in our District Offices. But since we don't have that kind of communication, we have to continue to do this. So, Legislator --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

With all due respect, some of these conversations have to be done with State officials.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

That's okay. I wasn't asking you a question, actually.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I'm just saying, but you make --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And I'm not really interested right now. I just wanted to let you know why this is happening and maybe why there's a little tension, because we read --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But I'm here to answer the -- I'm here and I can help you. I'm here to answer the question.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And when I -- and I'm glad you're here to answer questions. Legislator.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

My next question goes back to staffing, and, again, it goes back to that fundamental question that, Commissioner, that you and I have gone back and forth on, and that's why I asked you to repeat those numbers. So the Precinct Patrol total went up 89 Officers, but the Department total went down 109, and our civilian staffing numbers have only gone up marginally at best, and that tells me there's somewhere better than 190 Officer differential. And no matter how you slice it, it means -- and the Chairman brought this up earlier, and I think it goes back to that question that he asked. If you're reassigning COPE two days, Gang and Crime Section one day, however you're moving these individuals around, there has to be a load of work. I would imagine that they are no longer able to perform, to be able to go out and do the Precinct Patrol function, because, unless they were -- unless you're telling us that they were completely inefficient in their job in the past, that they are now able to do the same or more work now with less days on that specific function, going out and being reassigned to patrol certain days, then I would have to imagine that there's a certain amount

of work that they can no longer handle. Again, I mean, this is a large number, it's close to 200 individuals. Somewhere throughout the Department, whichever unit you're pulling them from to be able to accomplish that 200-person differential, there seems to me, in a Department of less than 2,000, you're talking about 10% of your workforce here, of sworn officers. And that's a large number that are taking parts of their workday, or work week, or work month to do functions other than what they are specifically tasked to.

*(\*The following was taken & transcribed by  
Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer\*)*

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

So if you could address that, that's what I have really been struggling with. I know the Chairman brought that up in his questions and I just don't think we've got a real answer to how you are coping with that and what you feel is going to be needed to be done as we move forward, going into next year and years beyond, to plan for the future of this department and the future of this County. Because we can't just look short-term. Everything we do, when we pass a law, it's not just for today, that law is going to be there in perpetuity and a lot of plans need to be implemented in a multi-year approach.

So I want to know how you are coping with this reassignment, at least for part of their workload of almost 10% of your work force, how they are coping with that and what you think needs to be done as we move forward to keep this department operating at optimal efficiency and -- and I don't want you to take offense to this because I know you take the charge of providing for public safety very seriously. But at some point when we are taking individuals off of work, on gang units and other areas, there's going to be something that they might overlook because they just don't have the time, that they might miss because they don't have as many days to research. So where are we right now in terms of this reassignment of almost 10% of the work force and where do you think we need to be moving forward?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. By the way --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I know it was a lengthy question.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I know, that's okay. By the way, we've done this since 2004. We've reassigned officers, administrative and officers that are not -- their primary function is not to answer 911 calls, we've reassigned them or redeployed them on a temporary basis to assist with our primary mission which is to answer emergency calls, when you call 911. And that's our primary mission is to answer 911 calls and I keep telling everybody, we haven't diminished that in any way. We're going to continue -- we're going to continue to be innovative in a business-like way for to get the biggest bang for the buck we can for our taxpayers during these tough times. I make no excuses for what we're doing, for what the Chief of Patrol is doing, it's prudent. And if I may, Mr. Chair, can I ask a question?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Sure, why not.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. Legislator Losquadro, you know, I've been up here now for a couple of hours talking about where I've tried to save taxpayer money so that when we go into 2009 we'll have some kind of a cushion. Where would you suggest that we save money in the Police budget?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Sir, I don't know. It's your department.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Exactly.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

What I am asking, though -- you're exactly right, you haven't diminished the patrol function, but what I'm asking is at the expense of what other units? I mean, you completely ignored my question which was I understand about the patrol function, but to reassign those people, whether they be administrative, in what capacity are they functioning? How has that reassignment of almost 10% of your work force affected these other units? That's the heart of what I'm trying to get to. And if you're telling me --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If it has.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

It hasn't affected it at all? Just tell me that.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

You're making a statement that it has affected other units. The Commissioner, I keep hearing, is saying that --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, he --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

No, he's asking has it; that's what I'm hearing here.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

No, he didn't say hasn't, he said how has it affected it and the Commissioner keeps saying it hasn't.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

It hasn't. And I just asked him, if he's here to tell me that it hasn't affected it at all, please tell me that.

*(\*Legislator Schneiderman entered the meeting at 12:07 P.M. \*)*

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

You know, I don't run the precincts. I let Precinct Commanders run the precincts, I let Lieutenants, Sergeants, Captains run the precinct. They manage this based on priorities and they're doing a heck of a job. Crime, by the way, over the last four years is down dramatically in Suffolk County.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Except in the scrap metal industry.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, if I may. If I may.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I think you're going to get Legislator Losquadro's support on that bill today.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, but if I may. If I may, Mr. Chair. We saw a spike in burglaries and larcenies over the last three months and this committee did not vote on the scrap metal bill that we asked for and we see

this stuff now spiking in the Police District.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

So you're going to support it now?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And I would ask, I would ask this committee, you know, when you ask me about crime six months or a year from now, okay, I'm going to remind you that you didn't pass the scrap metal bill which I supported and the District Attorney supported --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And just for clarification.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

-- and the County Executive supported.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

This committee did vote it out and it will be up before the General Session on Tuesday, so we'll have another chance.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

For the second year.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Of course, but we'll see.

**MR. NOLAN:**

This is the first time it's out.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

So I'm hearing that right now we do not have any information on any negative impact or positive, either way. That may be another meeting where we can just get a quick update on -- you know, I can only speak for me. I want you to do initiatives. I want you to try to be cost effective. What we're not getting sometimes is the results. We hear the negative from out there in the real world and we're not hearing the positive of what you're doing. We need more communication is what I'm hearing.

We want to help you and we want to fund it, we just need to know if what you're trying is working, tell us. Then I can say to my constituents, "They're doing the Police Smart, it's being effective. Here's what they're doing." That's all I need. I don't need the Precinct Commanders to tell me everything and you to report everything, just let us know that your initiatives are now being checked to see the results and give us some statistics. If what you're doing isn't working, I'll support you to try something else.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Mr. Chair, if I may. Almost every Legislator that's on this panel today, except Legislator Schneiderman, I've met with personally, I do that every year. I haven't had a chance to get together because you're out east, but he knows I --

*(\*Laughter from Audience\*)*

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

That would be in violation of the law.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, we do call -- I'm probably going to hear from him now. But I do communicate with Legislators.

Legislator Losquadro, do I come to your office and sit down and go over all the issues in the Police Department?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

You have.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Am I honest with you and up front?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, then I guess -- oh, Legislator --

**LEG. BROWNING:**

No, it's okay. Some other time.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Any other questions? Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Just if I can, just one. Hello, Commissioner. Are you having fun?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I love this. I love this stuff.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

As do we. I just have a quick question. One of the Mayors, going back to the Mayors issue and the chargeback and the like, one of the Mayors made a disquieting comment to me and I just wanted to make sure it was not true. What he said was that he -- that when the department told him about the change for the Detectives and the usage and the chargeback and stuff like that, that they referenced it, that he was told that it had -- that we were investigating the whole issue involving the lawsuit, the Schneiderman lawsuit and this came out of that. And I was concerned about hearing about that --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

So I just wanted to make sure that was not true.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no. Actually, we were looking at all the units that expended overtime in the department and this came up. I looked at the list, by the way, and I said, "What is this, an expenditure for Detectives for Grand Jury for handling burglaries and assaults outside of the Police District? Who's paying for this?" And as I explained earlier, they tell me no one.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

So this had nothing to do with the lawsuit or retribution or any of these types of things.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no. No, I've already been asked about that.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Okay, I just want -- I may have missed it.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Obviously, people will put whatever spin they want on this thing. We think that -- we know that this is the right thing to do. It's the only way we can go with this. We want to work it out so that there's a smooth transition for the villages so that they're not left holding the bag; chargeback seems to be the best way to do this. And I would ask them to sit down with us, to reach out to us, come to an agreement. We're already working on a chargeback system with a Memorandum of Agreement which will cover this and cover the villages legally, we have to do it that way. So it's in the works as we speak.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

So this had nothing to do with a peak, you know, of angst over the lawsuit or anything like that. This is simply -- it was the next step which you found out was illegal.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yeah, I don't think too many people were aware of the lawsuit. I mean, that's not something -- we were looking at efficiencies.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

A Mayor told me this, this is the reason why I'm bringing it up.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, okay.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I just wanted -- so I wanted to clear it up and have it, you know, on the record.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Thank you.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, I guess that's --

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Safe summer --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, you know what? We have legislation here, just before you leave, to maintain the Safe Summer Program. If you're making a commitment now, my whole philosophy is not to legislate if we can work it out that you're going to do it. We have people from the towns here, so that you're willing to make a commitment that we're going to have this program funded, staffed, just like in the past.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Well, no, it's not going to be completely like in the past. We're not going to have 21 cops doing it, we're going to have ten cops, but they're going to be at every event. Instead of three cops at an event, you may only see one.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Oh, okay, I see.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

And the towns have agreed, we're reaching out to the towns --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

-- and they have agreed to put a Code Enforcement Officer partnered with our officer, which makes sense. And we will be there for the Police presence, we think it's an appropriate response to this. We've compromised and I think everybody should be happy with it. Again, I mention, for the record, that we will look at it as we move through the summer and if we have to adjust we will; as we always do.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. One last response, Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Just on this issue. I'm sure you saw the resolution that I put forward regarding this, you know, the Safe Summer Programs. And I wanted to give you as much flexibility as possible with this, if you notice it says, "Only the minimum level of Police staffing necessary to allow these programs to continue to operate."

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

That's fine.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And I only put it for the summer of 2008 because I knew this is something we would -- that would continue to evolve.

So this is something that you should be able to comply with. We obviously are in agreement that we want to see these programs continue to operate. Partner with town, whatever you need to do to provide the minimum staffing allowable, that these programs can continue in their -- at least in their current form, not with the same staffing that the department had but at least to continue in their current form, that is what you're committing to.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes, I've committed to that. Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Very good. Thank you. I just wanted to get that on the record.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

So that you're supporting that legislation?

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

No, no.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The County Executive, I will speak to right now, does not support that legislation. You start telling the Police Commissioner how to manage the resources of the department, if there's an emergency that day and they can't manage it we're going to be in violation of a legislative resolution?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. So in other words, you support the intent.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, I gotcha.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

And we can do it administratively.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Commissioner, just an inquiry. You spoke about working together with Code Enforcement, which I think is an excellent idea. However, for the Smithtown Youth Program, I'm being told that's held over at the Sunken Meadow State Park and that they do not allow the town to come in, they have no jurisdiction there. Is that going to be a different kind of a --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Actually, actually we don't have jurisdiction. That's a State park, but I don't even want to get into that issue now.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Well, it doesn't bother us on the Long Island Expressway, so.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

But we're going to make sure that it's taken care of. Lieutenant Donohue is reaching out and if we have to -- you can always call my office if there's some issue with that and we'll work it out.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

But when you say -- just so I'm clear, because I'm going to get calls. I've been getting a lot of calls at my office. When you say you're going to work it out, then would you be putting two there because --

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

I'm not sure, I leave that up to Lieutenant Donohue. When I said three versus one, that's not absolute. There may be a --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Oh, okay.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

-- time where they'll need two.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I understand.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

So we're flexible with that. I don't want to give you any solid numbers. All we said to the Lieutenant who works for the Chief of the Department, "Work it out with the towns. Let's make it work this summer. Take care of it," and he's reaching out now as we speak, he was doing it this week.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay, I understand, it's a flexible kind of thing. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Just to follow-up on that, Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes, sir. Go ahead.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Certainly the intent of this bill and certainly to the County Executive's representative, we would not be seeking to hold the department liable if an emergency arose and they had to redeploy officers; especially if someone was already on-site and they had to leave to go to an emergency or something, I find that absurd.

The intent of this bill is very simple. And based on what has been said to us today, you would be in complete compliance with it. So I would see no harm at all in passing this resolution and I think it would give a great deal of comfort moving forward, as other levels of government have to plan their budgets and their calendars, to at least give them the foreknowledge. That despite the discussions that have been taking place, there are other municipalities, other departments throughout Suffolk County and school districts who receive notice on things with very short notice, shall we say, memorandums with very short notice. So these agencies would really like a little bit of a level of comfort that as they move forward into this summer season that the Suffolk County Police Department is going to follow through on these discussions and at least work with them to provide that minimum staffing. And again, if some sort of emergency arises and you need to redeploy officers or pull them out, an officer goes out of their with lights and siren, he has to respond to something else, I don't think anybody -- in fact, I know no one is going to have a problem with that. Especially given the recent communications to other levels of government and other departments and school districts, I feel that this resolution is very important and is, quite frankly, some good PR for this department to show some good faith to these other levels of government and these other agencies that they are going to follow through on this and there isn't going to be some sort of eleventh hour change.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might respond. We think it's unnecessary, we think it sets a dangerous precedent. Now you're going to do it for the Safe Summer Program, now you're to have minimum staffing somewhere else. Whatever programs are important, you're going to tell the Police Commissioner how he is going to have to deploy the Police Department, and it goes down a very slippery slope. We understand what the requests are of the Legislature and the County Executive and the Police Commissioner are going to make sure that they're heard and addressed.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Thank you very much. You have been privy to be at my longest committee meeting so far and it's not even over yet. So, thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DORMER:**

It's an honor and a privilege. Thank you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

A two minute facilities break?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

All right, we're going to take a two minute break before we start the agenda.

*(\*Brief Recess Taken: 12:20 PM - 12:26 PM\*)*

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislators, if you could come -- I would like to get this done before the next committee meeting starts. It's that time factor, two minutes is not two minutes in Legislative time.

Okay, I'm going to go to Tabled Resolution --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Wait, wait, you've got to wait for Dan.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

He's right here.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Where is he?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

He's in the audience.

**Tabled Resolutions**

Okay, *IR 1046-08 - A Local Law to prohibit text message while driving (Schneiderman).*

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion to approve, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I'm going to make a motion to table.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Wait, wait, which one are you doing now?

**MR. NOLAN:**

1046.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

IR 1046. Is there a second to the motion to table? I have a motion to approve.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

What did you want, by the way? I missed it.

**MR. NOLAN:**

He's looking for a second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

1046, I have a motion to table and a motion to approve.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Well, I'll second just for purposes of getting it out of committee.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

To approve, right.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Approve.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, I wasn't sure. I was waiting until you got your information.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I'm sorry.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

All right, I've got a motion to approve. On the motion?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Well, I'd like to make another motion. I'd like to make a motion to discharge without recommendation.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. So we have three motions going on.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And only one has a second.

**MR. PERILLIE:**

Tabling takes precedence.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I guess I'll second it.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I have a second on Mr. Horsley's to discharge without recommendation.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, I'll go -- I mean, either way it's going to get to the floor and I appreciate that. If I could have a moment?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes, go ahead, Legislator.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I just want to stress the importance of this bill. There really are lives on the line with this bill, that particularly young people, over 60% of drivers between 18 and 24 years old are text message while driving and this could be a powerful deterrent and prevent lives from being lost.

Statistics are showing that text messaging is growing. Over 20% of all drivers are now sending text messages while driving and the public is heavily in support of initiatives to prohibit text message while driving. The State has dragged its heels, unfortunately. Suffolk County, which has led in the past such as with the cell phone while driving ban, really could take a leadership position on this with our one and a half million residents and I just urge you to do so. And I appreciate getting it out. I would prefer obviously the with recommendation to approve, but either way I will be satisfied.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Legislator, have the Police taken a position on this?

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yes.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yeah, I have some testimony from the last committee meeting and apparently both the District Attorney as well as the Police Commissioner have supported the text messaging ban.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, I'd like to also mention that the Legislator mentioned statistics. The statistics also show that using cell phones are dangerous but also using -- not holding cell phones, it has changed nothing. So that that legislation really hasn't been effective, that talking on the phone is dangerous, period. So the no hand-held has not helped.

The other piece is that you can't hold a cell phone, so how could you text message? The next problem I have is that we're going to continue to legislate against stupidity. I think that what I've tried to say in the past is that we should educate rather than legislate. This is another example of maybe feel good legislation, but it will be very difficult to enforce and we're just going to start going down a slope where -- what's the next thing? You have to have your hands at ten and two while you drive, you can't have a cigarette, you can't have a cup of coffee, forget eating your breakfast or lunch. And what I've noticed mostly is, ladies, you can't put your mascara on while you're driving.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

We do lipstick, not mascara.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

So I think this is legislation that's not needed. When we put real important legislation before the committees we have trouble sometimes getting it, but yet these feel-good legislations can slide through. And I'm appalled at that type of behavior and that's why I asked to table it.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Chair, if I may respond?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Go ahead.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

One is the public is calling for this; over 95% of the public is asking for this law saying that it ought to be against the law. Particularly to send that message to newer drivers, younger drivers, just as they're learning to drive or also sending these text messages.

The law that's in place prevents you from bringing a cell phone in close proximity to your ear and talking into it, it doesn't prevent you from holding a cell phone. And there's a big difference between talking on a cell phone and actually text messaging, because text messaging requires both hands and your eyes. So you take your eyes off the road -- you can talk on a cell phone and still keep your eyes on the road, but text messaging you've got to look down, see what -- you know, what letters you're typing, you're reading that message on that tiny little screen on your cell phone. It's an extremely dangerous activity and I think we have to send a message that although it might be challenging to enforce like a seat belt law, we've got to send the message to these drivers. There are certain numbers of them that will simply not do it because it's against the law, just as people stop at stop signs even though there might not be a police car stationed there. And the hope is that passing something like this, it's not about feeling good, it's about saving lives.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yeah, I really wasn't going to say anything on this, but I just need to give you my take on this. Do I think the cell phone law was entirely successful? No, but many, many of us did put in blue tooth into our cars and many of us do respect the cell phone law.

Text messaging probably -- you are right, Legislator Schneiderman, I have watched it, it is dangerous. I do not know how people multi-task and drive, can see the numbers, number one, and use their hands, I agree with you. Again, though, I do agree with Legislator Eddington, I don't believe it's going to be very easy to be enforce. However, in speaking to the Commissioner earlier, he told me that everybody understands enforcing that is going to be probably not an easy thing to do on an every day basis if somebody is just text messaging. But what he feels it will do is that in case of an accident or a lawsuit or a criminal suit or a civil suit, the records at the Police precinct will be easily obtained whether or not somebody was text messaging. And I think there's where I'm going with this. I mean, I think it would be very difficult to see somebody text messaging, but after speaking to the Commissioner, this is what he's telling me. So I just needed to put that on the record.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

As you say, you can't hide the fact that you sent a text message because it leaves -- on the phone there's a log, you know, there's a report of messages sent and received, just like with an e-mail account.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. Anybody else? Okay, we have the motion to discharge without recommendation. All those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Wait, wait, I think we're --

**MR. NOLAN:**

You need a second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

We had a second.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yeah, we had a second.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I seconded the approve and Kate seconded the discharge.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Oh, I'm sorry. You have a second?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yeah, we have a first and a second.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

To discharge without recommendation.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay. All those in favor of discharge without recommendation? All those opposed? Opposed. All those that abstain? Okay, *it passes (Opposed: Legislator Eddington)*.

1151 - Appointing a member -- *oh, we did that. Yes, thank you.*

### **Introductory Resolutions**

#### ***IR 1359-08 - To maintain Safe Summer Programs in 2008 (Losquadro).***

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I'm going to make a motion to approve, Mr. Chairman, for the reasons that I stated earlier. There's a great deal of apprehension on the part of other levels of government and these other agencies, especially because of the very short notice that has been given with regard to the removal of other programs. So I'm making a motion to approve this.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I'll second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I'll make a motion to table. Do I have a second?

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I guess I'll second. Can I -- on the motion?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Browning seconds and on the motion.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

This is an issue that I have been continually talking to Ben about. I absolutely support the need for the Police Officers at the Safe Summer Program, however I'm getting that commitment from the Police Department. I don't like to micromanage the Police Department and how they function.

Again, I did speak with the representatives from the Town of Brookhaven and I have said to them, I want to know that you're getting that commitment and that they are going to do it. They are going to call me and let me know what's going on. So I will -- I am willing to table it for this one cycle, but if they don't get what they need I will pass next month and approve this.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Chair?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes, Legislator.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

The point in this being that if we weren't contacted by those agencies with the one sentence -- I can't even call it paragraph -- letter that was sent out to them just telling them we're no longer doing this, this wouldn't be an issue.

So I am not trying to micromanage a department, but this goes to the heart of what Legislator Eddington said earlier, we don't get information. We could have worked this out internally had the department told us, "This is something, we know it's been going on for a very long time. Given our staffing constraints, we're looking at a way to either eliminate or pair this down". They never did that, they just said they were going to eliminate it. It forced us to, as usual, react, it forced the agencies that were going to be affected to react. So I think this is absolutely harmless because the department has said, in light of the bad publicity they received on this, that they are going to comply with a minimum staffing requirement.

As I said, this legislation is about as easy as you can get on a department. It gives them complete flexibility other than to say they're just going to do what is necessary to allow these programs to continue. There is no harm in moving forward with this and I reassert that this is going to give

these other levels of government -- if the tables were turned on us and our department heads were trying to plan for an upcoming season and they didn't have a sense of certainty after they had just received a one sentence letter saying they weren't getting this, well, our department heads would be apprehensive also. And I think it prudent to move forward with this so these other levels of government, in fairness to them, can properly plan their programs.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Mr. Zwirn, we heard your statement, I think you were clear. You understand we have a tabling and a second because, once again, we're trying to communicate, but I think we've made it clear that we need -- we can't have a one letter -- one sentence going out to people and then we get beat up and screamed at and in the dark. We need to be kept in the link. If we table this it would be for one cycle and we're going to talk to the towns and the villages. So I'm hoping that you will follow through and we have your commitment on that.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The County Executive has sent I think a letter out to the Brookhaven Civic saying that they'll be providing a level of security.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

The town, not civics.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, I think some in the town and to the civics who are in the town who are involved with the programs so that they would be reassured, that's my --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I'm seeing a shaking of a head in the background that Brookhaven Town has received no such information.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Well, I thought that they had, but I'll double check on that.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

But you see what we're saying, poor communication?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

With all due respect, Legislator, and I understand with respect to this particular issue. But what level of communication? I mean, the Police Commissioner has to make decisions on a day-to-day basis that affect the entire County and the Police District and your constituents. He can't be -- I mean, I think he tries to reach out wherever he thinks it's appropriate, maybe you want him to be in contact more often. He is always here at the committees whenever you request him, his departments head are always here. And there are times that he makes decisions as the Commissioner of the Police Department that have to be done on a day-to-day basis and may not get the communications to the Legislators in advance --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And that's why we're willing to give you the benefit of the doubt this time.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Well, I am not. I think this is an insurance policy against a real problem that could arise for these other levels of government and these agencies.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But what if you have --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

They need to plan, just as we are sitting here talking about doing things in advance, preparing for 2009, trying to be proactive. How can they in good faith plan something --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Every parade, every public event, if you're going to pass legislation for every Memorial Day Parade, every July 4th event, every --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Do I have a resolution in for every parade?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But this is why I talk about the slippery slope. Then the Legislature is going to tell the Police Commissioner how many individuals, how many Police Officers we want to know are in the July 4th Parade in Patchogue that you're going to have four Police Offices manning the --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Zwirn, with all due respect --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

This is where it starts; where does it stop?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, you've been clear. Thank you.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I'm telling you where it stops. Because I have never put in a resolution like this and I never would have if not for the way that this was communicated to these agencies. If we had been able to work this out privately, then this would not have been necessary. We are now faced with a situation where it is May and these individuals have to plan and they have budgets and they have staff and they need to hire people and they need to coordinate. This is simply an insurance policy.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But every public event --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

And I'm not filing --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But every public event is in the same situation.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I am not filing any other resolutions, this one is very specific to this particular program and only for this year.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

But do you see my point?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I don't think we need any more discussion. I think you've made your point clear and I think Legislator Losquadro is absolutely crystal. Did you want to add anything else?

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Well --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Browning.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Like I said, you know, I don't want to micromanage our Police Department, but I want it in writing that there is a commitment to -- in my district and in the Town of Brookhaven, that they are going to get the Police presence that they need.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

All of us.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

At that I said next month I will support this legislation if they're not satisfied with what they get.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, so that could be provided to us, correct?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I mean, you're saying it on the record so it's probably --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I would expect that would be all right. I don't know what you want in writing, but we'll talk about it.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

A commitment.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Yes, Legislator.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

If I may, what's the date of our next meeting that it will be eligible to vote on things?

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

June 10th.

**MR. MORAN:**

Tuesday.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, after this, after this cycle. The next --

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

June 10th I believe.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

June 10th.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

No, no, no. No, we're voting again -- we're going to be here in May, at the end of May we have --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, two June sessions.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

We have two May sessions, too.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

No, that's Capital Budget. My point in this is would that be too late for these departments if we found out at that point that they can't comply with this? At that point, will they have everything in place? And perhaps, with the indulgence of the Chair, if we could ask someone from the town to come forward to answer that question? That by our next cycle, will they have to have everything planned already and would this --

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, you know what, I prefer not to do that because then we're planning for an event that we're being guaranteed isn't going to happen. I want to take Mr. Zwirn and the County Executive at their word. If it doesn't happen, then from that time forward we're going to be putting in a lot of legislation, a lot as I see it. But I don't want to plan basically saying, "We don't trust you, here's what we're going to plan."

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I'm not being fatalistic here. I'm just saying that these other agencies and levels of government are going to have to plan now for hiring their seasonal help and doing the type of things they need to do to get these programs in place. And we can file all the legislation we want at that point, but if it doesn't come to pass -- and again, I'm not being fatalistic here because I think it will happen, that this is just simply an insurance policy to let them know they can plan with that confidence; that's all it is. It's very simple. It's not doing anything or asking them to do anything other than what they have already told us they will do. But this is going to give those other agencies and those levels of government the confidence to move forward with their hiring and budgeting processes and purchasing policies that they can do it with confidence.

As you said, I think I've been crystal clear on this point and I hope that the rest of this committee can support me on that.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

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

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Opposed.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Two opposed. Abstentions? ***Tabled (VOTE: 3-2-0-0 Opposed: Legislators Losquadro & Nowick).***

***1361-08 - Adopting an "In Case of emergency" (ICE) Public Education Program to assist first responders in emergency response situations (Horsley).***

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I'll second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Nowick. All those in --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

On the motion.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Just a quick explanation.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

On the motion?

**LEG. NOWICK:**

No, this is --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Would you like to have Commissioner Williams, by the way, make a statement on this? He was prepared to do that.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Well, I'm just going to say that this is a wonderful idea. But what I wanted to also suggest, Legislator Horsley, is that this legislation which I've read over does not have in it, and I think it might be a good idea to include if you could, that this would go also on any of our Police sites. What do you have, Police --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Right, standard operating procedures for the Police to check it?

**LEG. NOWICK:**

It should be on any type of Internet sites that the County has. What is that, IT they call it?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Right.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Because I think that would be a wonderful way to educate people. I know on my phone I have ICE-1 and ICE-2, a lot of people don't understand what it is. And I might also mention to our Legislators, I'm putting this in my newsletter, I had planned to put it in because I think it's very important to educate all of our constituents. You might all want to do that. Many people don't know what it means.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

It's a good idea, yeah.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I like it.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So, you know, it might be a good idea.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

I think I support education programs.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Would you mind if we ask Joe to come up? Because he's got a quick -- Commissioner Williams.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Well, I think we could probably extend the committee meeting a little longer, sure. What the heck? We're going for a record today, so come on up.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Just for the record.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Thank you. I just want to mention, I spoke to Legislator Horsley about this, it's an excellent program. Other states have put it in place. The great deal about it, too, is that we're doing an outreach program already, so this is a no-brainer for us, we can include this in our program. We've already made plans, if it is passed to put it on our website. What we have to do is talk to -- we're going to put it on our website, the Emergency Management website, it's going to be in all our brochures, we're printing some new ones up because it's going to be prime time for us. The next thing would be education. I would work with Commissioner Dormer, we have to get that out to the Police Officer out in the field, then when he gets to the scene he's going to have custody of play of that cell phone. And also, we do work right now with the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Group on an outreach program where we can get the message out to them, and this is all no cost to us and we're already doing it.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And I think the Police Department also has a website. Most people would go to the Police website because not everybody in the County knows what FRES -- we know about it.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Right.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And most people don't, but the Police Department they might. So if you could add it, it might be good.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Sure.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

And don't do it while you're driving. Okay, we've got a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1365-08 - To establish training requirements for policy for Probation Officers in Suffolk County (Eddington).** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1366-08 - Accepting and appropriating 97% Federal Funds awarded to the New York State Unified Court System for a contract with the Suffolk County Department of Probation to provide services to the Suffolk County Sex Offense Court and Sex Offender Management System and authorizing the County Executive to execute grant related agreements (County Executive).**

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**  
Motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Motion by Legislator Losquadro. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**LEG. HORSLEY:**  
Who comes up with a number of 97%?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Who knows.

**IR 1421-08 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to the Suffolk County Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office (County Executive).**

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**  
Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
So moved, I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved & Placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**1423-08 - Amending Resolution No. 48-2008 (County Executive).**

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**  
Explanation.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
My understanding is it's to use grant money to fund two planning positions; George?

**MR. NOLAN:**  
Yeah, the resolution states that there was a prior grant to the County and the grant now, I think it was for \$2 million but it's being modified to fund two full-time Planning Aide positions in FRES.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Right, and I believe that our Commissioner is in agreement with that, right? Yep, okay. Then I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. BROWNING:**  
Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

***IR 1424-08 - Amending Resolution No. 76-2007 (County Executive).***

And I believe this is grant money to fund one Clerk Typist position?

**MR. NOLAN:**

This is similar to the prior resolution in that there was a grant that FRES received and they're revising the program to hire one full-time Clerk Typist in its Emergency Management Office.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

What's the dollar figure associated with this? Is only part of that grant going towards the Clerk Typist and the rest of it is being used for its original purpose?

**MR. NOLAN:**

That's my understanding, that the grant was for --

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

Yes.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I saw the grant amount and I said, "Wow, that's some Clerk Typist."

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Yeah.

**COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:**

I'm taking the job.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

All right, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Okay, then. I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

***IR 1429-08 - Accepting and appropriating 100% additional Federal Pass-thru Grant Funds for the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to the Suffolk County Police Department for the STOP Violence Against Women Program (County Executive).***

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Nowick and second by Legislator Losquadro and place on the Consent Calendar. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved & placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

**IR 1437-08 - A Local Law establishing crime prevention requirements for scrap metal processors, vehicle dismantlers and junk dealers (Stern).** This has to be tabled for public hearing. I'll make that motion.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**  
Second.

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

Okay. Motion to adjourn.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**  
We're done already?

**CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:**  
Congratulations, we've broken a new record. Thank you very much. Bye-bye.

**(\*The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 PM\*)**

**{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically**