

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Friday, November 21, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Jack Eddington, Chairperson
Legislator Kate Browning, Vice Chair
Legislator Wayne Horsley
Legislator Lynne Nowick
Legislator DuWayne Gregory

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Robert Calarco, Aide to Legislator Eddington
Bobby Knight, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Caucus
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Caucus
John Ortiz, Budget Review Office
Greg Moran, Aide to Legislator Nowick
Ginny Suhr, Aide to Legislator Vilorio-Fisher
Brendan Stanton, Aide to Legislator Horsley
Maxvel Rose, Aide to Legislator Gregory
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive
Brendan Chamberlain, CE's Assistant
Ed Hennessey, CE's Assistant
Dennis Brown, County Attorney's Office
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk
Robert Anthony Moore, Chief, SC Police Department
Joe Williams, Commissioner, Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
John Searing, Deputy Commissioner, Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Robert Sheron, Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Tracy Pollak, Police/2888
Debbie McKee, SC Police Department, Emergency Unit
Michael Sharkey, SCSO
Ron Barz, Vocation and Education Board
Greg Anderson, Nesconset Fire Department

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Alison Mahoney, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

*(*The meeting was called to order at 9:42 A.M. *)*

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, we'll get started with the Public Safety Committee. And if Legislator Gregory could lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Salutation

If we could remain standing for a moment of silence for all those who defend our country, home and abroad.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you. Okay. I don't have any cards for public portion. Would anybody like to talk to us? Okay. All right, then, we'll go right to the agenda. Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

In light of a couple of recent stories, some regarding crime, one regarding the Riverhead -- Riverhead and their decision to remove their dispatchers, I still have a couple of questions of the department, if there's a representative here.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I think there is. Chief?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

You know, I will defer for a moment. I do believe we have an appointment that we might want to take out of order, this way the individual doesn't have to bear with us.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

That was going to be my words, I just didn't want to stop you. Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair, although I'm not a member of the committee, as a matter of fact, I thank my colleague for his indulgence. And I'm here today on behalf of an appointment to the Vocational and Educational Board, Mr. Barz. And with the committee's indulgence, he has a commitment Upstate this afternoon for Statewide Firematics Training. So he very much wanted to be here today for the committee's ability to go ahead and discuss with him and with your indulgence, I'm going to ask if you might go ahead and call him up for the opportunity for the committee to question him.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll make the motion to take 1992 out of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And I'll second that. Sir, if you'd just come forward.

MR. BARZ:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Safety Board of Suffolk County.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, I'm sorry. You know what? We have to vote on it. Just hang on one second. All those in favor? Opposed? To take it out of order? Okay, let's put IR 1992 on the thing, ***IR 1992 - Appointing member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board (Ronald Barz) (Kennedy)***. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Losquadro. Sir.

MR. BARZ:

Good morning. I'm here to answer any questions you have for my appointment.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair, if I might be able to let me just, on behalf of Mr. Barz, state that I've come to know him as a member of the Hauppauge Fire Department, a member of the board, actually the Oversight Board of the Central Islip/Hauppauge Voluntary Ambulance Corps. He is also a certified trainer in CPR. He is also the Statewide representative for the Firefighters Association as far as advocacy and action. He's also the Chair of the Federal Delegation here from the Island for Advocacy and action. He's extremely knowledgeable in firematic safety and instruction, also trained in his career with the Long Island Railroad in hazmat and a variety of other types of advanced training for our volunteers and firefighters.

I think he would make an outstanding appointment to our V board which, as you know, Mr. Chair, provides training for tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the County and that's what prompted me to go ahead and put his name before this body.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Any questions? I would thank you for what you've done in the past and what you plan on doing and we appreciate your volunteerism. I just hope you have four-wheel drive, because it's supposed to be snowing Upstate.

MR. BARZ:

That's what we heard.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I will make a motion to approve.

MS. LOMORIELLO:

You already have a motion and a second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

That's right. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you very much and congratulations.
(Vote: 6-0-0-0)

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the committee for this indulgence.

MR. BARZ:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you. I have a couple of questions. One, I'm sure everyone has heard that Riverhead Town has made a decision that they no longer wish to fund their dispatchers at a cost of almost a million dollars when they found out that the County is responsible for actually picking it up. So I was wondering if the department -- if that's something that they are looking at, have any plans on how we're going to absorb that additional burden, what type of staffing we're going to need. I believe they're laying off or going to be laying off nine full-time equivalents. Has the department looked into that at all yet?

CHIEF MOORE:

I'm afraid, sir -- again, Robert Moore, Suffolk County Police Department, Chief of Department. I wasn't prepared to answer specifics about that issue this morning and I apologize for that. Inspector Mojica is attempting to get some information, so I may be able to provide some later. But yes, we were advised earlier this year that Riverhead Town would like the Suffolk County Police Department to take over their dispatch function. The Suffolk County Police Department has been working with the Town of Riverhead to do that. As it stands right now, the Suffolk County Police Department anticipates being prepared to absorb the 911 and dispatch function for the Town of Riverhead.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Do you -- have you heard anything from any other towns? Do we believe this may be a bit of a domino effect with some of the other towns moving in the same direction given the current economic situation?

CHIEF MOORE:

Not at this juncture, no, sir.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Have not heard anything else.

CHIEF MOORE:

No, sir.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well, I also wanted to bring up and only -- we'll get to the bill later, but Legislator Horsley has a bill that's going to be coming up requiring school district notification for heroine activity in a particular area. In light of the individual who was arrested in the Smithtown area, good job by the Police Department, by the way. Ten thousand packets of heroine, a kilo of cocaine, a pound of marijuana. I'm sure he'll say it was purely for recreational use, but that came on a tip and we certainly -- I will get into Legislator Horsley's bill when we get further on the agenda. But we have obviously seen heroine use on the rise. We have heard some discussion about that. We have seen crime rates ticking up, a national trend, we're not exempt from that here in Suffolk County.

What is the department specifically doing in terms of shifting resources to narcotics task forces or crime task forces? Is there any movement in that direction to target specific areas? What is the Police Department doing there?

CHIEF MOORE:

I'm afraid I'm not going to be able to share that information. I can assure you that the Suffolk County Police Department has a long --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I certainly don't want you to divulge anything that's going to give the bad guys an idea of what we're doing, but just to say that yes, the County has formed new groups or we're moving resources to combat these sort of activities. We as a committee really don't -- I can't speak for everyone, but I certainly know I haven't gotten any calls or any even internal correspondence, so if that's something perhaps we could discuss privately.

CHIEF MOORE:

Not only that, but if it's -- if the Chair approves I think that we could have our narcotics personnel, the Commanding Officer of our Narcotics Bureau, our Organization Crime Commander, some of the others, sit down with the committee and you can freely discuss a number of issues.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I think that would be very helpful.

CHIEF MOORE:

Absolutely.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I mean, it's been some time since we've had a group briefing on these issues.

CHIEF MOORE:

That's a great idea.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I mean, I know we had that homeland security briefing that time with Chief White, which was excellent. I think that is something that we should do again. You know, with the Chairman's indulgence, maybe we should set up a regular rotation of these type of briefings, because I hate to be reactionary when I hear things.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

You know, it's one thing to keep it private, but when we hear things that we know we can react properly because we know what measures are in place to combat these sort of activities, I think it would be very helpful to all of the elected officials, especially those sitting on this committee.

CHIEF MOORE:

That's a great idea. As a matter of fact, there are a few things that we anticipate engaging in just after the first of the year that we're pretty excited about. I think you would find it very interesting.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I believe I would. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Before I recognize the other Legislator, I had mentioned at my last committee that I would like to get an update on what we're doing specifically around hate crimes, certainly in my area. But I think what I will do is take what you said as a way to do it and I will try to set up a time, whether it is immediately after a Public Safety meeting, because we have usually an hour in between meetings, that we could meet. I would like hate crimes to be number one. I would like to be the narcotics number two, and I will get a consensus from the committee and we'll come up with a rotating thing if we could.

CHIEF MOORE:

Sure.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

That would be great.

CHAIRMAN MOORE:

Well, in the area of hate crimes, because that's been on the forefront, I'm a little better prepared to speak on that topic. The Police Commissioner has reassigned a Spanish-speaking officer to our Community Outreach Bureau. This individual will be working as his advisor. And also, we were pretty pleased with the way the last Police test went as far as the number of African Americans not only who took the test, but took the test successfully, and we followed a model in doing that. It had to do with making the NAACP, the Urban League Civic Activists, the members of the clergy, stakeholders in the process and it was very successful.

It occurred to the Police Commissioner that when it comes to the Hispanic community recruiting

doesn't seem to be an issue, but outreach and engaging the community, perhaps we could use the model we applied for recruiting to areas other than recruiting, and so we have this officer who is being transferred today.

And two, the Commissioner is asking for input, and he'd welcome input from this body, for an outside activist, someone not affiliated with the Police Department, similar to the Reverend Adams who, as you know, is committed. So that sort of -- but someone who has made the sorts of inroads into the Spanish community that the Reverend has made into the African-American community. So we would welcome any recommendations.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Good morning, Chief. I just wanted to say during the past year I had been approached by Kings Park and a few other organizations about this horrible heroin problem in the high schools. And over the last few months, I belong to the Sachem Task Force now, which I know a member of your department is on, we have learned a lot about what is going on and I have heard comments like, "What's going on, what is the police doing." I have to say something. When I read the article yesterday, and by the way, the arrest was made in my district, I am so proud of our Police force and what you are doing and it shows you are certainly aware of the situation, you're on top of it. I just wanted to say thank you from my district. At least maybe there will be a few less high schools kid buying.

CHIEF MOORE:

Well, Legislator, I can't tell you how much I appreciate that. My officers will be thrilled to know that someone is thanking them for something.

LEG. NOWICK:

Good.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Any other questions?

LEG. GREGORY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes, Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Chief, for being here today, and I welcome your comments and the things that you are doing so far with the hate crimes. I'm going to be introducing a bill to call for a task force to study hate crimes in Suffolk County. Reading from reports, last year Suffolk County had one hate crime incident. Just from the incidents that I know of within my town and those that were published in Suffolk County just in the past two weeks, you know, I can count maybe four or five. So that would be a 400 to 500 percent increase. We can squabble over what's verified and what's a legitimate complaint, but when you have swastikas painted on bathroom walls, you know, issuing threats to an African-American principal, when you have threats made to African-American students after the election of our first -- of our African-American President elect, and the other things that we read about in the paper, I think those are issues and incidents that we should be concerned about. I'm going to be calling for the assistance of the PD, of the District Attorney's Office and others, the clergy in the community, so that we can kind of get our grips around this problem before it escalates out of control. I look forward to your input.

CHIEF MOORE:

That's a great idea. As a matter of fact, if I could make an offer perhaps to this body, or to the entire Legislature. If you could carve out an hour or so of your schedule perhaps you would benefit if our Hate Crimes Section was to offer you a primer on what a hate crime is.

Interestingly enough, the Suffolk County Police Department in 2004 was admonished in writing by the Division for Criminal Justice Services, or DCJS, for it's -- to the mind of DCJS it's overly enthusiastic pursuit of hate crimes and hate incidents. We were told in writing by DCJS, and I would be happy to provide a copy of that letter, that incidents that we were pursuing as hate crimes were not, as far as the definition of law was concerned, considered hate crimes by the State of New York.

That being the case, the Suffolk County Police Department decided well, instead of just focusing merely on hate crimes, and in a nutshell, a hate crime is a crime, and because of the status of the victim and the mindset of the offender, an additional element is placed on the crime and that is the hate aspect. So it increases the, you know, from a B misdemeanor let's say to an A misdemeanor, or from an A misdemeanor to an E felony. The operate term is crime. There must be a crime committed, and then a hate element is introduced because of the, you know, protected class of the victim and what the motivation of the offender is. That makes it a hate crime. That's the dilemma for us. A lot of things that I think we could all agree are truly horrible and the kinds of things that we don't want to tolerate in our community are hateful, but not criminal. That's why we make that distinction, hate incidents and hate crimes.

Now, whenever there's something, for example, a swastika and it's written somewhere, our Hate Crimes Section is advised and they make a determination as to whether or not this fits the State law for a hate crime. If it is a hate crime, then of course it's categorized as a hate crime. So if you were to ask us for our statistics you would always see that the number of hate incidences is larger than the number of hate crimes. That's because any time there's any inkling that hate is a factor in the incident we notify them, we classify it as a hate incident, and then we make the determination if it is, in fact, a crime. That's generally how we -- but I think you will find that very interesting. It can be extraordinarily confusing.

LEG. GREGORY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Horsley.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Chief, that's an interesting point that you just made. Now, is this the reason why there appears to be a difference in our statistics when we say that hate crimes have diminished in the last couple of years, particularly involving the Latino community and what the community is actually saying themselves? If you read the newspaper, there's been many comments saying, "Oh, all you have to do is just walk down the street. You know, there's more hate crimes than what you have seen in their statistics." Is that the reason why?

CHIEF MOORE:

I'm not sure, sir. I can tell you that we're often surprised when we hear anecdotally that people are victims of a crime or we read it in the news media, but yet no one has approached us on it. I can assure you that if you contact the Suffolk County Police Department, the Suffolk County Police Department will act.

LEG. HORSLEY:

I have no doubt about that. That I don't doubt.

CHIEF MOORE:

But that's an interesting point. I don't know, I really don't know. I can tell you that DCJS is

constantly in contact with us on the issue and they, of course, demand strict adherence to law, which can be very frustrating for people in your position because your constituents don't understand -- often understand the nuances of law.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Do you disagree with the State law that it is not as tough as it should be?

CHIEF MOORE:

I'm a Police Officer. It would be extraordinarily dangerous to have the police writing law. We are fortunate to have a body like this that does that for us.

LEG. HORSLEY:

That was a great answer. We like that. Should we move towards looking at the State law, I mean, talking to our State legislation and State Legislators and say hey, maybe we need to tighten this thing.

CHIEF MOORE:

Absolutely. And as a matter of fact, you know, we --

LEG. HORSLEY:

Because that's the reason why the differences. That kind of stuff.

CHIEF MOORE:

Well, it could be. You know, the Commissioner and I were just with the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission, and we have a long history of close cooperation. As a matter of fact, whenever we are about to engage in a process that we feel may have an impact on, you know, their area of interest, we always let them know first. We try not to blind side that organization. So I think that the Human Rights Commission, the Police Department, and you, because of your close contact with your constituents, I'm sure that we can make recommendations to the State. The noose, for example, is a good example of advocates, police, legislative, civic activists coming together to compel a change in State law so that noose now is prime facia in offence.

LEG. HORSLEY:

How do I get that answer to my original question, whether or not our statistics are differing because of State law versus our just how we categorize things.

CHIEF MOORE:

Well --

LEG. HORSLEY:

Because I think the news media would be interested in that.

CHIEF MOORE:

I really couldn't say right now, sir. I'm sorry. I'm not trying to duck the question.

LEG. HORSLEY:

That's okay. That question should be answered, because that may be the reason why we look like we're put in a position of hiding things and not the case.

CHIEF MOORE:

No, it's not. It truly isn't.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Interesting.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Thank you very much, Chief. That's good. Okay. Let's go to tabled resolutions.

Tabled Resolutions

IR 1499 - A Local Law to require that Probation Department Employees use County vehicles while conducting County business (Losquadro).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to table. The public hearing is still not closed.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Motion to table for public hearing.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 1865 - Establishing the Police Fund Review Committee to examine the impact of escalating Suffolk County Police Department personnel costs on the fiscal stability of the police fund (Co. Exec.). I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 1904 - Establishing committee safeguards from registered sex offenders placed in emergency housing (Schneiderman). I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

Introductory Resolutions

IR 1991 - Directing the Department of Public Works to issue an RFP to perform a study on the creation of one Police District for Suffolk County (Beendenbender). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'm going to make a motion to table, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I got a motion to table.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Nowick.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

On the motion. Yes, Legislator.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I would just say I would make this analogous to our land acquisitions and, you know, we're always very careful to say we don't want to expend money unless we have a willing seller. Well, in this case, do we have any willing takers? We're going to expend money, we're going to put out an RFP, expend time and resources, of which are in very short supply, to do something that to my knowledge we don't really have any takers on at the moment. We've heard, you know, maybe Riverhead back and forth one or two times, but I haven't heard anything else from any of the east end towns. I just see that we could expend these resources better elsewhere at this time.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Mr. Zwirn, could you address that for us?

MR. ZWIRN:

We would concur with Legislator Losquadro's analysis. There has not been any request from the east end to consider this and our ranks are thin and if we don't have to do this RFP at this time, without -- willing to take or do all the work, we would concur. And perhaps the east end towns would want to participate and pay for a study like this if it is going to go forward.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I think if we have -- if departments come to the realization that it might be financially advantageous for them to do so, which could happen, you don't know what the next year or two are going to bring, then I think maybe we do bring them to the table and get them to absorb some of the cost of doing an analysis of what it would mean to bring them into our Police District.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Then there's a motion to table. Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

I would just like to add that I support the motion to table. I have the Village of Amityville, which has their own police department, and had an opportunity to confer with the mayor and the police chief on their feelings about this RFP, so at this time, until I get further information I would support the motion the table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. There's a tabling motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Tabled, 1991. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 1999 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$87,330 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, to enforce Motor Vehicle passenger Restraint Regulations with 85.07% support (Co. Exec.).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Losquadro. Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2000 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$3,500 from the United States Marshals Service for the Suffolk County Police Department's Participation in

Operation FALCON with 85.05% support (Co. Exec.).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Same motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Same motion, same second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2001 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$250,000 from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the Suffolk County Police Department to participate in a Human Trafficking Task Force with 86.74% support (Co. Exec.).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Same motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Same motion, same second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2005 - Accepting and appropriating \$7,794.50 in sub-granted funds from the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc., for the Wyandanch Weed and Seed Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice with 85.6% support (Co. Exec.).

LEG. GREGORY:

Motion.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion by Legislator Gregory, second by Legislator Horsley. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2006 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal funds awarded by the U.S. Marshals Service to Suffolk County Department of Probation and authorizing the County Executive to execute related agreements (Co. Exec.).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar by Legislator Losquadro. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2008 - Accepting and appropriating grant funds received from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, under the Suffolk County District Attorney Domestic Violence Program (Co. Exec.).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Mr. Chairman? To Counsel. It doesn't say an amount, but can this be placed on the consent calendar?

MR. NOLAN:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Same motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Same motion. Motion to approve and put on the consent calendar by Legislator Losquadro. I will second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**.

IR 2049 - Establishing a school district notification of heroin activity in Suffolk County (Natalie's Law) (Horsley).

LEG. HORSLEY:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Horsley. Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

On the motion. I just have a question.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

On the motion.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

What is our policy right now regarding -- I know that heroine is sort of in the forefront right now, it's on people's minds, but what about cocaine, methamphetamine, which is horribly addictive and destructive. Does the police department have a policy of notifying school districts of general drug activity in their areas?

LEG. HORSLEY:

I believe -- maybe I will defer. No we do not? No.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Is this something maybe we could widen? I understand the goal here.

LEG. HORSLEY:

The reasons for this, and again, the cross County --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I don't want to narrow the focus so much that districts maybe get a false sense of security if perhaps just in their area there's not as much activity in heroine, maybe it's more into the methamphetamine or cocaine area. I think that might just differ geographically. I would certainly love to have the school districts get more information rather than less.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Yeah, it's a communication issue, right. And also, the improvement of communication between counties, which is also vitally important and part of this bill. May have I have the Chief's comment on this?

CHIEF MOORE:

I'm sorry, sir. The question?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Basically I think he's asking about expanding this resolution to include more street drugs.

CHIEF MOORE:

That would be fine. The Suffolk County Police Department right now does inform the schools, but it's more an informal process, if you will.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Right.

CHIEF MOORE:

The SROs, the School Resource Officers, the COPE Officers, the PAL.

LEG. HORSLEY:

But this codifies and also brings the two counties together working more cooperatively as a regional approach to this spreading epidemic.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

As we all know, heroine knows no boundaries. What do you think?

CHIEF MOORE:

Sure.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Does it make sense to increase it to meth and other types of -- or is this -- do we use this as a test case and then add to it later on? Do you have any thoughts on that?

CHIEF MOORE:

Well, actually, just, you know, we're the Police Department. We're fans of pilot programs and the pilot programs allow us to run a test and then expand or contract as circumstances demand. So could we do it all in one fell swoop? Yes. If you'd like to start with the heroine or sit down with us and we can talk about the drugs that are of particular concern to our community, because it's not every drug.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Right.

CHIEF MOORE:

It's, you know, there are certain classes. You know, we could focus on let's say the top three to five. You know, something like that.

LEG. HORSLEY:

So in your opinion you like a pilot and if we could amend this as we are going along --

CHIEF MOORE:

That's what we generally do in the Police Department. We'll start a pilot program and then, you know, it gives us -- again, we're fans of flexibility and pilot programs permit flexibility so we can iron out the wrinkles. As you know, we have the SCAN system at headquarters, an excellent communication system, that we can tailor to our needs.

LEG. HORSLEY:

I'm game for the pilot program, keeping it with heroin, to see if this works. But certainly in the future, you know, to look to expand this would make sense.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I think in very short order I would like to see that. I mean, I think the majority of the work would be in just setting up those regular lines of those communication and --

LEG. HORSLEY:

And that's what this would do.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

-- you know, setting up the, you know, the data mining parameters, so to speak.

CHIEF MOORE:

Right.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I think expanding -- those were just the two off the top of my head. Like you said, you know, the big three or the big five, you know, probably heroine, cocaine, methamphetamine, you know, maybe a couple of others, but I would certainly like to see that expanded. You know, knowledge is power as far as the schools.

LEG. HORSLEY:

And I'm amenable to working with you, Dan, on it, to, you know, to get that going. That's fine.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah, I think that would be a great -- I like this idea, but I think giving the schools more information would be a useful tool for them.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Sure. All right. So I'm going to make a motion to approve and to get the project moving. Then we'll adjust it as we move forward to see if -- with the Police's cooperation and consent and whatever and see where we go.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I think we have a motion and a second.

MS. LOMORIELLO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Gregory would like to speak on it.

LEG. GREGORY:

I just wanted to make a quick comment. I support what Legislator Horsley is doing and I support what -- I was going to say Lieutenant Losquadro, I am going back to my army days. But I think, you know, and I know Legislator Stern, I believe it was him that headed the -- there was a Teenage Drinking Task Force that he headed. I think alcoholism with our youth is a big issue and I think if we can somehow incorporate accidents that teenagers get involved in that are alcohol related, I think that would be good as well.

CHIEF MOORE:

I'm sorry, sir. May I just offer one caveat?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Sure.

CHIEF MOORE:

You are right, there are things that young people are particularly vulnerable for and I think even if we were to give it a moment or two thought we could come up with a number of areas. The only thing that we have to guard against is that we don't provide so much information that people stop looking, and that's always a challenge. So all good ideas, but information overload is already a threat to people in command positions. We may not want to overly saturate the communication

channels, at least not initially.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2060 - Accepting and appropriating 75% Federal Emergency management Agency pass-through grant funds from the NYS Emergency Management Office to the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services for a Public Education Grant under the US Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and to execute grant related agreements for the Suffolk County Mitigation Education for Natural Disasters (MEND) Program (Co. Exec.).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. BROWNING:

Can I say something?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

On the motion.

LEG. BROWNING:

I did speak with Joe Williams. I would like to say thank you for the work you have done to get this grant because a lot of that money is going to go to my district to try and get some outreach and education in natural disasters. I say thank you for your work.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2061 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$15,497 from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Grant (GTSC FFY2009) Highway Safety Program with 100% support for Sheriff's Traffic Safety Initiative (Co. Exec.).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

So moved.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Seconded by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2063 - Accepting and appropriating \$21,598.00 in sub-granted funds from the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc., for the Wyandanch Weed and Seed Program sponsored by the US Department of Justice 85.07% support (Co. Exec.).

LEG. GREGORY:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Gregory.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2064 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$380,098 from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and delinquency prevention, to fund a computer crimes and identity theft initiative for the Suffolk County Police Department with 89.59% support (Co. Exec.).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0).**

IR 2093 - A Local law to protect Suffolk Residents by permitting seizure and forfeiture of vehicles engaged in unlawful fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle (Co. Exec.).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I think we have to table this for a public hearing.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll second the motion to table but I just have a quick question for Counsel.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Absolutely. Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I know we haven't closed the public hearing yet, but I just noticed in the description, because we have had several discussions on this seizure and forfeiture in the past, being that this particular law does not require a previous conviction as a predicate, I know that was sort of a sticking point in previous efforts to do this. Does the nature of this type of crime absolve us from that requirement?

MR. NOLAN:

Not necessarily. But, you know, it's a fairly, you know, harsh measure to seize a vehicle and forfeit it, so the judgement has been to have a prior conviction for the same offense as the predicate. It's something I would like to talk to the County Attorney's Office about. In fact, I said to him earlier let's speak after this meeting so we can discuss that issue, make sure I'm reading it correctly. And if it's not in there, maybe something to think about.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I'd also like to add that I wanted to find out if it -- could it be all motor vehicle offences, like DWI be added into it, not just --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

We already have that.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

It is?

MR. NOLAN:

We already have the DWI forfeiture law and a bunch of other motor vehicle violations that are grounds for seizure or forfeiture.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Engaging in speed contests.

MR. NOLAN:

Right. We have done a lot of laws.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. All right. Fine. Thank you. Then we have a motion to table for public hearing and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**.

Okay, if there's no other business I will adjourn.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 A.M. *)*