

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 July 31, 2008.

Members Present:

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

Also in Attendance:

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
James Montalto - Aide to Legislator Losquadro
Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Marge Acevedo - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Kara Hahn - Director of Communications/P.O. Lindsay's Office
Kevin Duffy - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Jill Moss - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn - Deputy County Executive
Brendan Chamberlain - County Executive Assistant
Robert Moore - Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department
John Rowan - Lieutenant-Chief of Department Office/SCPD
Stuart Cameron - Deputy Inspector-Special Patrol Bureau/SCPD
Harold Jantzen - Deputy Inspector/Commanding Officer-Marine Bureau/SCPD
Robert Ponzo - Chief of Patrol/Suffolk County Police Department
Frank Saladino - Police Officer/Suffolk County Police Department
Albert Huguayak - Suffolk County Police Department
Tracy Pollak - Headquarters/Suffolk County Police Department
Robert Kearon - Bureau Chief/District Attorney's Office
Dennis Brown - Bureau Chief/County Attorney's Office
Joe Williams - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
John searing - Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Pete Garypie - Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Don Lynch - Fire Marshal/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services.
LP - Suffolk County Accelerant Detection K-9 Dog
Tom O'Hara - Office of Emergency Management
Gil Hanse - Fire Marshal/Town of Babylon
Michael Sharkey - Chief-of-Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Noel DiGerolamo - 2nd Vice-President/Police Benevolent Association
Louis J. Molinari - Treasurer/Police Benevolent Association
Lou Tutone - 5th Precinct Trustee/Police Benevolent Association
Larry Faracone - Treasurer/Superior Officer's Association
John Cowie - Financial Secretary/Superior Officer's Association

Michael Rando - Deputy Sheriffs Police Benevolent Association
Russ McCormack - Suffolk Detective's Association
Cheryl Felice - President/AME
Debra Alloncius - Legislative Director/AME
Lynn Shea - Association of Municipal Employees
Anne DiIorio - Association of Municipal Employees
Suzanne McBride - AME/Police Emergency Unit President.
Debbie Eppel - SC Public Information Officer
Hope Collazo - American Red Cross/Community Service Program
John Cushman - SAFE/Sportsmens Association for Firearms Education
James Kelly - SAFE/Sportsmens Association for Firearms Education.
Angelo J. Sbrocchi - Licensed Firearms Dealer
Pete Pappas - Resident of Amityville/Firearms Bill
Bill Raab - NRA Instructor
David William Bowden - Firearms Bill
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken & Transcribed By:
Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M. *)

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, if I could get everybody to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Horsley.

Salutation

And if I could ask you to remain standing for a moment of silence.
At our Veterans Committee Meeting the other day we got bad news that six to eight members of the Fighting 69th have lost their lives, our Bay Shore unit, and I would like to keep their families and friends in our memories.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you very much. I'm going to hold off on my public portion for just a couple of minutes because I have a special guest demonstration today and I don't want to keep our guest waiting, I want to get our guest back out in the field. If I could have Commissioner Joe Williams from FRES come and introduce our guest.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Good morning. First, I would like to introduce formally to this body is the new Deputy Commissioner of FRES, John Seiring. John has a long history in the fire service in Suffolk County, we welcome him aboard.

He's into his second week and he's up and running and we thank him for coming on with us.

I would like to introduce this morning Fire Marshal Don Lynch and our K-9 Detection Arson Dog named LP. Fire Marshal Lynch will come to the podium here and give a little background on our dogs and also give a demonstration..

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

Trust me, he smells it already.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I was just going to say, there have been a number of placements in our area here and you're going to be showing us how quickly and how succinctly the dog can find the information.

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

Probably the way you see a room, he smells a room. It's almost like Thanksgiving, when we all walk in and we smell everything, it smells good, it's mixed together. He goes in at Thanksgiving, he smells the turkey, the stuffing, the cranberries, the salt, the pepper, the wine and anybody in the room he's ever met before, the way he smells it is the way we see it. So he already knows there's stuff in this room.

As the boss said, I'm Don Lynch. This is LP, he's my partner. He's actually the County's fourth -- third, we have four now, Accelerant Detection K-9. The program started in 1991, all right, through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Fire Arms. The dog is trained through the ATF and cost nothing to the County; the ATF provides the dog, the training. We go down to Virginia for six weeks of training with them, in the mountains of Virginia, we come back. By the time this dog comes back into the County, the ATF has about 40 to \$50,000 invested in him, okay. They use labs. It's a single purpose dog, all it does is accelerant. They also train explosives. They don't do like the Police, they have the patrol end of it, we don't really need that so we don't do it. It works, it's just they want a single-use dog. When we -- like I said, when we get back here, they have about 50 grand invested in the dog.

The agreement between the County and the ATF is this; if they need the dog somewhere in the country, we have to go, all right? We've had the other dog {Cynder} who just retired, you might have seen it in the paper, he was in Reno, Nevada, for a big case. So you're part of the ATF's National Response Team, and as a result of being a part of that they'll give you the dog, you use it in the County. We have worked closely with the Arson Squad, he has a few pretty good cases under his belt.

The ATF requires that he gets weighed every Monday. We have to send them monthly a list of their food, their training -- thank God they don't weigh me every Monday, it's just him -- But they get a list of that. They monitor very carefully his training, his care. Every year we have to go recertify with them. Out of respect for the agencies that have him, have a dog like this, they try to keep it northeast, southeast, so wherever you have to go, it's within driving distance but you do have to recertify the dog every year, okay?

In addition to the ATF training that we -- it's daily. He's also a food reward dog, he works for his food, all right, which is actually a healthier way for the dog because he eats two or three times a day, a smaller portion rather than that, you know, big bowl that somebody usually throws down in the morning and the dog just eats it whenever he wants all day. So it's a healthier way. You can say, he's a four year old Black Lab and he's about 78 pounds, so we're required to keep him in pretty good shape; like I said, not the handlers. But he is a food reward. There's play reward, I know Suffolk County Police use play. There is no right or wrong way to do it, it's the dog and the handler and how much work you put into the dog, that's what makes the difference; whether it's praise, play, food, it doesn't matter.

ATF chooses food, we have to follow their procedures, so we use food, all right?

We have the good fortune, and Inspector Cameron has set it up for us, we train every two weeks with the Suffolk County Police. So in addition to having the ATF training that we provide and the way they do it, we also train bi-weekly with the Police so they get to see the dogs, they get to train the dogs their way, so we really get -- the dogs are pretty well-rounded with their training, okay?

I'm trying to think. We -- ATF started this program in 1985, we got our first dog in 1991, there were only 12 dogs in the country. Right now there are still only 70, that includes Canada. There are 70 ATF Federally-trained Accelerant Detection K-9's in the country. We have two in Suffolk County. We have the privilege of having the longest running handler in the country, Brett Martinez, the other -- he's on his third dog, he's been in it since '91, he's one of the longest running handlers in the country. Anybody have a question?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Any questions?

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

No? Okay. All right, so basically what we do is we get called in by the Arson Squad, "We have a fire, maybe you can smell it." Sometimes we can smell it, there's something in the room we just don't know where. We bring an LP. Like I said, we all use about -- we use about two million cells in our nose to smell, he uses 250 million, all right? He categorizes his smells like a computer. He knows if he's met you before, whether it was good or bad, the interaction. Out here today I have four targets on a toothpick, and I believe you saw, a couple of people watched me do it, it's just a dab on the tip of a toothpick and it's odorless lighter fluid. He's trained on 23 different accelerants. Every time the ATF has a case in this country, if something new is used to start a fire or they see a trend, they will send us a bottle of whatever it is and say, "Start training your dog on this one, too." Right now he's up to 23 different odors. Sometimes he will pick something that he hasn't been trained on but it might be close enough to something else. Because everything that burns has a common base of a hydrocarbon, so depending upon how it's put together, some things might be close enough he can pick something up he hasn't been trained on. All right? Are there any questions at this point, no?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

No.

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

Okay. Like I said, I have a few hidden. He's going to get two commands, the first one will be "seek". He will find the odor, as soon as he finds it he will sit down. He's a passive response because we don't want him scratching at the evidence like the drug dogs would, they want to get into that stuff, they'll aggressively show you where it is. We may only have a little bit of accelerant left. No matter how bad the fire is, there's always going to be something but it may only be a little bit, so we can't have him aggressively go at it. But he will sit down, and I apologize for my back.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

That's okay, that's fine.

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

So he will sit down. My second command will be "show me". He'll sniff around. The last place he picks his nose up from, that's exactly where we would take the evidence, because what he's doing is he's giving me the strongest scent, the strongest place.

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh, he's going.

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

He's on to one right now, as a matter of fact. Seek. It's right on the corner of that box.

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh, look how he looks at you.

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

That's what he'll do. And he won't move because our deal is, "I find the accelerant, you give me food," that's the deal.

Laughter From Audience

"So show me where it is." I could walk away and he's not going to move until I give him his food because that's our deal. That's where we would drop our toothpick, the Arson Squad would come in, that's where they take their evidence from. It takes the lab approximately four hours to process a can of evidence, right. He has about a 97% accuracy rate, so you know that four hours is going to be well spent if he gives you the evidence. So that's the benefit of having a dog like this. "Seek,

seek, seek." There's one right under the leg of that table. Good boy.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Excellent.

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

Like I said, it's just a toothpick. Good boy. You might have one back here, "seek". He's on it.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's my pocketbook.

FIRE MARSHALL LYNCH:

And that's where it was. "Show me".

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I put one right down there.

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh, is he great.

FIRE MARSHALL LYNCH:

And That's it. He will walk under into dark places, then he'll back out and sit down, that's where the handler has to watch what he's doing. He doesn't take the place of an arson investigator, he will not replace the lab, he's just another tool in the tool box for the Arson Squad or a fire investigator to be able to use to almost guarantee that what the lab is going to get is going to be right.

We have one more, "Seek." Where is it? It's underneath this podium. There you go, good boy. "Show me". That's it. That's all he does, there's really not much to it.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I have one question; does the dog live at home with you?

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

Yes. The dog, he has -- he's a non-aggressive. Like I said, he's only accelerant detection trained. He's got a big bed in the house, he does everything like a normal dog. He knows that when this food pouch goes on we're going to work. When it comes off, we'll walk through a parking lot or something, he'll kind of sniff it, give me the look, but if I don't have the food pouch on, he knows when I'm working.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, thank you very much, Fire Marshal and L --

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

LP.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

LP. Thank you very much for your presentation.

Applause

LEG. NOWICK:

How do you get the BBQ grill on with him?

FIRE MARSHALL LYNCH:

Oh, he knows, he knows the difference. He knows when we're working. I gave -- he actually has his own baseball card.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes, we have them.

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

You guys have it. We also have a PowerPoint, but I knew if I walked in here with a computer and PowerPoint, you guys would all roll your eyes, so I printed out the slides for you, if you want to look at them. He's got a two-and-a-half inch skull, that happens a lot, trust me.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much.

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Have a good day.

FIRE MARSHAL LYNCH:

You, too.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

All right. Now I'd like to have public portion and I have four cards. Each speaker will have three minutes. John Cushman?

MR. CUSHMAN:

Which one; any one? Okay. Good morning. Thank you, members of the committee, Chairman Eddington. I was going to make a lengthy pitch using the full three minutes, unfortunately a number of the issues that I have to bring up and raise would take a lot more than three minutes. And in conversation with the Chairman of the committee, we're going to get together at some later date and work over a lot of the issues on this particular legislation.

There is one particular portion of this I do like to bring to the attention now. My name is John L Cushman, I am the President of SAFE, Sportsman's Association for Firearms Education. Our primary function is teaching safe handling and safety with firearms as well as educating the general public about all of the good parts of firearms. Unfortunately, when you read about it in the media, you only read about the negativity, unfortunately. They don't talk about the kids that get scholarships and go to colleges based on their shooting capability or their Olympic competitions.

In any event, though, on this particular piece of legislation, No. 1506, the -- I think the correct title is Deceptive Colored Hand-gun Bill. I would like to inform you that Nassau County passed this bill, it was just put into effect. And as of July 29th, the day before yesterday, there was an injunction served against the bill because it has a lot of faults, a lot of problems that would make the bill unenforceable and actually illegal.

Our other concern is that while the bill on the surface sounds reasonable in that it would help or protect Police Officers, we want that to happen. We want to make sure anything and everything we can possibly do to protect police officers we want to do. But we also, at the same time, do not wish to place officers in any position or predicament where it would actually endanger their lives, and the way the bill is written currently it would exactly do just the opposite, I think, of what the intended effect is trying to be achieved.

There are three particular licensees, including a dealer from Nassau County, who have filed a petition with the courts. The courts have upheld this petition at this point and there is a permanent injunction against Nassau County putting this bill into effect. I would ask that this committee table that bill, this bill, 1506, until such time as that court decision has been rendered so that they will also be able to take benefit of what that court decision is.

In the meantime, we are more than willing and welcome to help in any way we can to write something that was definitely meant to help everybody. We want to see bad people punished, we want to see criminals put away, we just don't want to see good, lawful people wind up on the wrong end of something that is not as well written as it could be or should be.

With that, I'll say no more, although I have lots more to say. And if there are any questions I'd be more than happy to answer; if not, thank you for your time.

LEG. BROWNING:

I did.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

John, we just have --

LEG. BROWNING:

We're sharing a mike.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

We just have one question for you; Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah. I know this originated, I believe, in New York City, correct?

MR. CUSHMAN:

Uh-huh.

LEG. BROWNING:

And, you know, I'm kind of partial to Police Officers since I'm married to one. And I know that you are saying that you're, you know, supporting the safety of Police Officers and whatnot, but --

MR. CUSHMAN:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

-- what is going on with the city? Like you said what's going on in Nassau County; is there something similar happening in the city?

MR. CUSHMAN:

I don't know, honestly. I would like to tell you I do know, but I don't know. I've heard that there's going to be litigation against New York City because theirs is differently written, but just as bad, it doesn't actually solve the problem they wanted to achieve.

Nassau County I do know; as a matter of fact, I know two out of the three litigants against Nassau County and they have a lot of good arguments. Obviously, my understanding, and I'm only a layman, when you put in for an injunction in court, the court has to be given a certain amount of evidence at the time to show that you have a legitimate, good chance of winning the case; if you don't, then they won't take the case and the injunction fails. At this point, I understand the court has upheld that there is legitimate reasons why this should not proceed and until such time as they've had a full hearing on it.

As for Suffolk, New York City, I honestly can't tell you, I wish I could. We've discussed this issue over the years, I hate to tell everybody how long I've been doing this legislatively. There was a bill a number of years ago by the Legislature, for example, that we want -- they wanted to have any

play-gun, any toy gun, for example, that would be made of orange; it either had to be orange in color or have an orange stripe on it. During testimony given in the State Legislature, they said, "Fine, that means criminals, all they have to do is paint the color orange on the gun and all police officers will think it's a fake gun." Well, the reality is it will -- what will decide whether or not you have a situation is where you are and what you are doing. If you're talking about two 10 year old kids in a playground playing cops and robbers, now that's not a situation. But if it's two o'clock in the morning in an alley where an alarm has gone off, there's a good likelihood that that's not a toy gun no matter what color it is. And we just didn't want Police Officers to be lulled into a false sense of security that if it's a certain color or if it's not a certain color then it suddenly makes it safe for them; we don't want that to happen. So that's one of a number of reasons why we're opposed to it.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much.

MR. CUSHMAN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Next, Angelo Sbrocchi.

MR. SBROCCHI:

Good morning. My name is Angelo Sbrocchi, I'm a retired Suffolk County Police Officer and a Licensed Dealer in firearms in the State of New York for I'd say about 50 years.

I'd like to object to this proposed law, No. 1506-08, on the grounds -- on several grounds; I don't think I have time to give them all. If the government could come in and tell you what color your property, your legally-owned property can be, I think that is unconstitutional. I don't think this law serves a purpose. It's confusing, it would be difficult to enforce, and there are various reasons for that opinion. I don't know of any Police Officer that's been shot or injured with a deceptively-colored painted handgun. I don't know of any child that's been injured with a deceptively-colored painted handgun. And I object to this law.

I would like to be included in any future meeting, if this law is tabled, because I understand that it might be because there's an injunction pending on Nassau County's proposed law, similar law. I would like to be included in any meeting to offer my objections in detail, if that's possible. Right now, that's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much. Peter Pappas, III.

MR. PAPPAS:

I guess we're all using this one? Good morning. Thank you again for taking the time to let me speak. I'm also here to voice my opposition to 1506. Number one, it would make me a criminal. For what reason? I'm a certified instructor, I'm an active competitor on the Island here. I know at least a half of dozen other active competitors who would also become criminals by a stroke of a pen for no reason.

Other than that, again, I'd also offer my services to attend any meetings to discuss this and more appropriate wording to this.

I guess that's about all I have to say for that.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much.

MR. PAPPAS:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Bill Raab?

MR. RAAB:

Good morning. As you know, my name is Bill Raab, I'm a -- I'm an NRA instructor; I'm a training counselor which means I train instructors; I'm a Chief Range Safety Officer which means I oversee other people who oversee Rangers; I'm very involved in the shooting sports. I also work with young people on a shooting sports crew through the Boy Scouts, young men and women.

This law would also make me a criminal. My PPK is predominantly blue; I don't see where this does anything. There are no cited instances of this being a problem. The shooting sports have evolved to reach a larger group of people. Women are usually about 50% of the population and they've been somewhat slighted in the past in many ways; a long time ago my sister couldn't get a job in certain occupations because she was a girl and that is not true now, thankfully.

But we have here -- I can give these to you, I will when I'm done -- hand-guns, long-guns, whatever are available in a variety of colors.

I don't see what the color has to do with anything. With the proper training, if anything is used in a hostile manner, that should be apparent that there's a problem. Being able to ascertain what someone's intent is when they go to do something should be the rule, not what color is the handgun they carry. I Don't use anything in a threatening manner and it's just fine the way it is. If I use something in a threatening manner, be it a shovel or a broom or a handgun or whatever, well, that's definitely a problem.

So this should be tabled. If it's brought back, as I said, you speak to -- when you go to write things on firearms, speak to people who know about firearms, you'll be much more successful. Any questions, I'm open.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much for your input. Is there anybody else that would like to address the committee? Come forward, please. Okay, just state your name for the record.

MR. BOWDEN:

Good morning. My name is David William Bowden, I'm a retired attorney and a retired Administrative Law Judge of the State of New York.

I'm also the owner of a 22-Caliber Baretta Nios Target Pistol for which I paid a few hundred dollars some years ago. And it is colored blue on some portion of it, I'm not certain how to measure to see whether it comes to -- within the mathematical definition that's set forth in the bill. I think it's 25%, I don't know how to measure the geometry of it to see whether or not that's 25% or not.

In any event, it seems to me that if somebody points a gun at a Police Officer that he has to respond to defend his life, regardless of the color of the weapon, It doesn't make any difference. His life depends on it. I have to wonder whether or not this body has jurisdiction to outlaw the possession of private property of the citizens of the County. If the Legislative body didn't like the color of his car or the color of his house, do they have the right to bring about a forfeiture thereof? I have to wonder whether there is a restriction for that. That's all I have to say. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you, sir. Yes? State your name for the record,

MR. KELLY:

Yes. My name is James Kelly, I'm a member of the Board of Directors of SAFE. And I would concur with you John Cushman's basic remarks, so I'm going to keep mine short. I also appreciate the fact, Legislator Eddington, that you were willing to give us a fair hearing to talk to us and we appreciate it.

I have two other objections about this particular colored-gun bill. The first is that if someone goes through the process of getting a pistol permit, all right, and they check out with the Police, is it -- you know, if they change the color of it to orange or pink, or purple as some women have done, are they suddenly going to become a crazed gunman? Are they suddenly going to lose, you know, their ability to handle a firearm well? I don't think so. It's just merely a color change on the gun, it's not the person or their behavior. After all, if they have a pistol permit they've already been checked out by the Police.

My second objection to it is -- let me just get you the section here. It's definition 2 under the deceptive -- I'm sorry, the "Deceptive Coloring Product." The problem with that is is that most of these finishes, they're put out by Lauer Weaponry and you can put these finishes on firearms with spray-painting equipment, you know, like the stuff you use for models. So now if you outlaw any of that equipment, you know, by extension you'd have to outlaw it for everybody because this is how it's done. You get a solvent, you turn around and you take off the old color or you sandblast it and then you prep the finish and then you spray it, and these spray-painters are the same ones used by model makers and everybody else. They use them in the car industry for doing small, you know, spaces, you know, if you're putting graphics on a car. So that would also be another objection to this, because if you're going to fairly enforce this law as it now stands, it seems to me you'd have to outlaw a lot of the spraying equipment that's out there. And there are a lot of other areas and activities where they use it.

And that's it, that's basically all I've got to say. But again, I thank you, Legislator Eddington, for giving an opportunity to speak and to hear us out.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much for coming. Is there anybody else that would like to have any comments? Okay, then I'll close the public portion. And I would like to have Noel DiGerolamo, Vice-President of the PBA to come up. You look like an attorney over there, Noel. You're getting everything ready, you've got your brief set.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

Do I look that good? Thank you very much. Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity to come back before you again to speak about a few issues.

For those I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Noel DiGerolamo, I'm a Police Officer in Suffolk County and I serve the Police Benevolent Association as the 2nd Vice-President. I would like to thank Legislator Eddington for inviting me here today after hearing that there may have been some issues at Marine Bureau Aviation and wanted to get some facts on it, gave me the opportunity to come in here and speak and I'm grateful for that.

I'd also like to discuss briefly some issues revolving around the program that's called 852-COPS which is supposed to alleviate some of the staffing shortage in the 911 system. I'm sorry to say at this point that I really don't believe 852-COPS is anything more than a taxpayer-funded campaign for the County Executive. The system that's in place right now that's supposed to be for non-emergency numbers does nothing more than route you to a 911 operator. I know this because after hearing the commercials, I called the number myself, 852-COPS which is a non-emergency, and after a litany of touch-tone options, I was put on hold for exactly six minutes and eleven seconds to be answered by a 911 operator who identified herself with her ID number. At that time I asked her, I said, "I heard the commercial and I'd like to know what the difference is between 852-COPS and 911," and she said, and I quote, "There is no difference."

I also had the opportunity to record that conversation the entire time I'm on hold. Now, I don't think it would be appropriate to play it here at this point because all you would hear is a recording thanking you for calling the Suffolk County Police Department, "No one is available to take your call right now," for six minutes. But if anybody would like to hear it afterwards, I'm more than happy to

let you know that it does exist and I'm more than happy to share it with you. However, I would ask that we just have some assurance that the operator who identified herself doesn't face any type of ramifications or consequences for telling the truth when I asked a question. Having my own personal experience from the last time I spoke before this body, being called into an internal investigation regarding where I got information and how facts came out, I wouldn't want to see this civilian employee go through anything like that unnecessarily.

I'll speak about the Aviation Section first. As we sit here today, one of the greatest problems facing the Suffolk County Aviation Section is the failure to have an appropriate number of mechanics. Now, I understand that that position is not represented by the PBA, however, the lack of appropriate staffing of aviation mechanics carries a negative impact on the pilots which we do represent and the public that we serve. Due to the aircraft inoperability, the pilots aren't able to maintain the high level of training which in turn impacts their proficiency and their safety. As evidenced by some of the aircraft downtime that I have documented here for you, the volume of repair and maintenance that's required in the craft that we have right now far exceeds the ability of the staff to handle it.

Now, we all know that in-house maintenance is a much more effective option than outsourcing due to a myriad of reasons, whether it be greater accountability or on-the-spot availability of a mechanic to handle a smaller issue or greater oversight in general. Every variable will show a benefit to having on-staff mechanics. The real question we should be asking right now is why haven't we hired them yet? Now, I know in the past there have been several requests to add either a Supervisor Mechanic or a Mechanic and a Supervisor and yet those requests have gone unanswered. And what this all translates to is right now we have already lost over 2,800 available flight hours for our Aviation Section; 2,800 available flight hours are not available because of inoperable craft. We're talking about millions of dollars of equipment that is sitting unutilized waiting to be maintained.

In 2007 we flew over 230 training flights. So far, in the first seven months of this year we're just over 60; that's 60 training flights this year divided amongst 23 pilots. So as you can see, that is a drastic reduction in the training flights that they're able to get. Most of the larger departments in our area, in our vicinity I should say, that have helicopters have a staffing level of approximately one or more mechanics per turbine engine; that seems to be a standard that's followed. New York City, Nassau County and the State Police all exceed that standard. In Suffolk County we don't even meet it; in fact, we're 30% under it, we only have four mechanics for the six turbine engines that are carried.

The first six months of this year, when compared to the same time last year, we've seen nearly a 150% increase in service maintenance downtime. In 2007, we flew approximately 1,400 hours, just under 1,400, and this year we're just over 500. As a result of all of this, we don't end up serving the public as we should be, should we have greater flight time and have greater training available.

No flight time equals no service. If you're not in the air, you can't provide any service to the public. In fact, not only is it the lack of flight time, but it's the lack of availability of the craft. Between June 1st and July 1st, this year alone, in 30 days -- actually it was less than 30 days because June 6th I believe was the first incident, there were four emergency medical transports that had to be aborted because of mechanical issues, four in 30 days. That means that four times a person was told, "A helicopter is on the way to do an emergency medical transport," and the person, rather than being transported by ground, was brought to another location to be picked up or was kept at the location they were at if there was availability for a helicopter to land and subsequently they were told, "We can't take you because of mechanical issues with the craft." Now, that's not only lost time that the person was waiting, it's the lost time that they could have been in route to another facility getting medical attention.

The citizens of Suffolk County deserve better than what they're getting out of this Aviation Section, and it's to no fault of any one individual except whoever hasn't hired those bodies. That is the only thing keeping that aircraft on the ground.

Now, everything I just said about Aviation Section could be in some way controverted. If the Commissioner or one of his representatives wants to come up here and promise you that they'll get another mechanic or they'll increase the training. But as we all know, the Commissioner's commitments such as the Huntington Boat in the Marine Bureau, I think that speaks to his credibility as far as what gets done and what doesn't get done in this department. The training right now also in Aviation Section is such that some of the Supervisors have been discussing the option of removing the rescue hoist because of lack of training with it. There's greater fear of the inability to operate it capably because of the lack of training than to have it at all, and the only reason for that, again, is because the aircraft is not available for training sessions.

Now, I spoke briefly on the Marine Bureau with the Huntington Boat which, again, I have several duty charts here showing that the Huntington Boat and other posts throughout the Marine Bureau have been shut down repeatedly; in fact, there are some posts that are shut down on a regular basis. And I notice that the Commanding Officer of the Marine Bureau is here today, possibly he can answer as to why that's happening, or he can tell you if maybe it's a mandate being handed to him by his superiors.

For those of you who are not aware of the area of coverage of the Marine Bureau, they cover everything south shore of the mainland. So when you go south of the mainland to the sound, Fire Island and Ocean Parkway communities, everything in the Police District is the responsibility of the Marine Bureau. And it doesn't end there at Fire Island; they go three miles out into the ocean is our responsibility of coverage. Now, all of this is done on a regular basis with somewhere around nine posts, nine posts from Amityville to the Hamptons, Fire Island, Ocean Parkway and three miles into the ocean.

The last time I sat before this committee and we spoke about Marine Bureau and their failure to staff it appropriately as the summer deployment, as it was referred to, there was a 50% reduction in the officers that were being sent. In addition to that, the bureau right now is dealing with the fact there were a few retirements this summer, so the staffing is even less. Nobody has been sent to pick up the slack of the retirements that have happened either, so now our reduction of personnel is even greater than the 50% that they didn't have in the beginning of the summer.

Staffing right now has reached a critical masse in Marine Bureau. We have delayed responses to calls, the posts are being shut down on a regular basis. And again, as we spoke about that Huntington Boat being staffed, it never materialized. Every day we read in the papers about another tragic drowning or the danger of the ocean with the currents and riptides or the erosion of the beaches that's causing overcrowding. And what has been this Police Department's response to that? Nothing. Their response has been, "Reduce staffing." That makes absolutely no sense in any form. Ask them why the staffing is being reduced with all of these issues going on. Ask them why they keep promising more with less and you keep getting less with less.

Legislator Eddington, I know you were over at Fire Island a little bit this summer. I'm sure you had an opportunity to speak to some of the men and women who work in the Marine Bureau and I'm sure you got to appreciate what their tasked with on a daily basis, in particular over the weekends when the populations swells by tens of thousands. They're doing it with minimal coverage; in fact, so much to the point where they're shutting the boats down to go walk more on the beach because there's not enough people on the beach, and then they leave the boat up on the duty chart, although he's working on the beach.

In Davis Park, I told you about the beach erosion, at high tide when the water comes in, the officer who's working there can't get out, has to wait or have a boat. God forbid if there's an emergency and he needs help. Now, there are occasions where he'll be doubled up, but the majority of the time he's there alone.

(*Presiding Officer Lindsay entered the meeting at 10:24 A.M. *)

And if we want to look beyond the officer's safety, and the goal is more on budget and they say, "Well, we'll take our chances. We don't care if the officer is there alone," how do you expect that officer to handle a cardiac case? How do you expect him to pick up a person who weighs a few hundred pounds and help them as they're suffering from some of an aided case? What is he to do when he's there alone? He has to wait for a boat to come across and then dock and walk to his location to give him assistance. That is what we're dealing with right now.

Now, again, I have duty charts that will show you everything I'm saying is accurate with boats being shut down. But what's really troublesome is that I also have a duty chart here that shows a post being shut down and handwritten notes on it to go by the residence of a community leader to show presence of Police in his community and to make memo book entries of such, and all of that is written down right next to the line that says, "Do not hire." Don't fill the post, just give the perception that it is filled. And I have that handwritten note on the duty chart and it says right on it that this is to be done, and I quote, "As per the Commanding Officer." As per the Commanding Officer, go by, make a memo-book entry that you were there, but don't hire the post. What is the purpose of that? What is the purpose of going by and giving the perception of a service that you're not receiving? It's deceptive, that's all it is. There's nothing more to that.

And more troublesome than that, what about the people who aren't community leaders? What about the people who aren't influential in their own way? Are they paying their taxes? Are they paying taxes on their residence on Fire Island and their residence on the main land? Why aren't they getting that same service? Just because they don't hold a title somewhere, is that what we've come to? Is this going to become a department of means or need at any given time? I don't think that was the intent in the establishment of this department nearly 50 years ago. What we're seeing right now is just all smoke and mirrors. It's just a public safety shell game that's going on, stealing from Peter to pay Paul. We've seen this before, it's been going on for a long time now, and at some point some action is going to have to be taken about it.

Another thing that's going on in the Marine Bureau that's extremely troublesome is small craft advisories. A small craft advisory is an advisory put out by the National Weather Service that basically states it's hazardous conditions for craft, and I believe it's under 50 feet is the guideline on that size. Most water vessels in Suffolk County, on Long Island, are less than 50 feet, that's pretty large. And a small craft advisory in hazardous conditions, it's mandated that the department put an extra body on the boats that are patrolling because it's recognized that it's a hazardous condition and you need a body there both for safety and for the resourcefulness of the mission that they're there to accomplish which is to protect life and property. However, during these advisories, the Commanding Officer of the Marine Bureau has ordered the elimination of boats. He's actually put out less boats during the advisory, dangerous times, than when there isn't one. Let's ask him why. Let's ask him why that is happening.

Let's ask why when there's a small craft advisory on the ocean side they elect to only put that body on one boat in the South Bay and they don't staff the others appropriately and they can't go out to the ocean? Their direction is, "Go pick up another post," and on July 1st of this year there was a frantic radio transmission over VHF of someone calling for help in the ocean. Well, the boat that would cover that didn't have the adequate staffing and the boat that ultimately responded came from Moriches, had to go out the Fire Island Inlet, it took 25 minutes to get there. They passed the Coast Guard on the way because even they wouldn't go out. And why did we put them in this position? Because we didn't want to put one more body on a boat, because we wanted to save a dollar. And when you question them about it, a very cavalier response is, "See, our system worked." Well, I'm sure the airlines claimed that the baggage system at JFK works well too, eventually everybody will get their bag some time. Eventually we'll get there and get you out of the water, hopefully you can hold on long enough.

The small craft advisories. As if it's not bad enough, what I already explained to you, on the midnights, for those of you who are not aware of it, in Suffolk County we go down to one boat; south shore, Ocean, north shore. Now, on the north shore they cover six miles north to the Connecticut line. There is one boat working on the midnights; that boat that is primarily on the

south shore is to go in to Great River and dock, take a car, drive up to either Port Jeff or Huntington, take a boat from there and respond to the call on the north shore. Now, what reasonable and prudent individual would believe that that's an appropriate response? I don't know one.

During small craft advisories, that one boat that's on the south shore is told to dock, 1099 is the code, and do patrol on Fire Island. So now you don't put out any. During what the National Weather Service calls hazardous weather conditions, you don't put out any boat staffing, you dock them and you tell them only to go out with the third body, because you don't want to bring anybody in, you don't have appropriate staffing, you tell them to sit still until they can get three people off the beach into a boat and go.

And what makes that worse is if you -- you couldn't think it would get worse than what I just described to you, but it does. From the hours of 1 AM to 9 AM, during those conditions, if someone needs help in the north shore, in the sound, their response is call out someone from home. That is in writing, that is their plan. That makes no sense to any logical person, to call someone out from home to respond to an emergency 911 call. Make no mistake about what I just said, in writing their plan is to have no one there and to call them from home on the north shore if you have an emergency.

Now, the Commissioner sat here about a year ago and some of his testimony was, "In the Police Department or the policing business, we need to prepare for the eventuality. Anything is possible." Well, that has to be the worst conceived plan I ever heard in my life. I don't think you can make a worse one other than saying, "We don't provide Police services anymore."

Clearly, this department is at a point where we need some intervention, we need somebody to come in and do something. And I think possibly this committee, Mr. Chairman, or another committee could be formed to do some real investigation into what's going on in the Police Department. Let's hold hearings, let's put people under oath so when they come and they sit up here they have to tell you the truth. They can't say, "I don't remember," or they can't be silenced because they don't earn enough to speak in front of you, as you were told last time.

Let's call them in here and put them under oath and make -- make the Commissioner come in here, make the Chiefs come in here, the civilians, the citizens, anyone who wants to come in here and speak before you, under oath and say what they're going to say. Let's get to the truth of what's really going on. There's no more with less here, there's only less with less, and there's spin on dates and numbers and when someone got hired and when they didn't, or where their assignment was on a specific day so they could tell you they had something they didn't. You're getting hit with this every day.

The most disheartening thing through all of this has to be solely that my members want nothing more than to do their job. They want to do their job adequately, proficiently. They want to do a capable job, they want to provide the service that the people in Suffolk County have come to know and expect, and more than that, deserve; unfortunately they're not being given the resources to do that. We need some help and I'm asking you for that help.

Now, we know that we won't get the truth unless some sort of committee is set up or if you have another idea, Mr. Chairman. But let's not forget the history here about the Huntington Boat; I hate to keep repeating it, but we know commitments were made and it never happened. We know that the Commissioner sat before you in May and said that he had knowledge of illegal budgetary practice that's going on and yet it continues. As recently as last month when he was asked how many times specialized units backfill patrol, his response was, "None," in writing, "None. How many times have specialized units been removed to do patrol duties? None." He sat here in May and told you over 340 times it's happened. Now, is there some sort of a spin on a word in a sentence? Whatever it is, we need to find out, we need to get to the bottom of it. We need to change something for the positive and we're asking you for your help with that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Before I open it up to questions, I just wanted to make it clear on the record that I had you come because I had met with -- informally with a number of Marine Officers and they were giving me a lot of information and I would rather have it -- the committee hear it in a formal setting than me getting my own slant in information. And so I hadn't had the opportunity, because this was like in three days we set this up, to let the County Executive's Office or the PD hear any information in response. So I will invite them to come back and to respond to some of the things you said or all of the things you've said and inform the committee of what their perspective is and what they see for the future. So we will be getting more information. I would not presume to put them on the spot at this point, unless --

MR. ZWIRN:

Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, if Mister --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I have a question, a couple of specific questions.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah. Well, we may have some questions and then we can do that. Before I turn it over to the committee, I just wanted to ask if you could tell me about -- you mentioned the nine posts in the Marine Bureau; what is that -- is that for nine different assignments?

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

Nine assignments, yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And you said one on the sound and two on the ocean?

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

Well, on a full compliment, if you had a full complement in the Marine Bureau, there's two up on the sound that they have normally up, the Huntington and Port Jeff boats, and then on the south shore they'll put out three separate boats from Amityville to the Hamptons.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

So that's five boats. When you say posts, you mean like nine bodies?

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

No, nine posts. Each one of those boats has two bodies on it, it requires two bodies to be on one of the salt water boats.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

But there's five boats.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

But there's five boats; that's a post, a boat is a post. It's a sector.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, so that's five posts. Where's the other two, or the other four?

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

Well, now, I'm talking about a full complement right now and then you'd have them on the beach.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, okay, the beach patrol. My other question is that you -- having been on Davis Park, that at four o'clock, high tide is within four feet of the dunes and the vehicles can't really, because there's people there, can't get through. What happens if there's a problem on the beach somewhere down the road, how do they get to them?

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

The person there I guess would keep their fingers crossed and wait for someone to show up.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, okay. Obviously on foot, then, I guess, they have to run along the beach or something. All right, I want to find out more about that.

Legislator Losquadro?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well, Mr. Chairman, are representatives from the Police Department going to come up? Because being a north shore representative, and I'm sure my Legislator to my left sitting here, we have a couple of questions, or I know I certainly have a couple of questions regarding coverage along the north shore in light of some of the --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

The only thing I would say, Legislator, is that since they had no -- we've kind of jumped this on them and haven't given them an opportunity to prepare the information, that I just wanted to make sure that we're aware.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well, the Commander of the Marine Bureau I'm sure could just answer the question very simply. Is there a boat available on the north shore on over-nights, or does the individual have to drive up from the south shore?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, then why don't I ask --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I mean, I don't want specifics at this point, I just want a yes or no to that question.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Could we have --

LEG. HORSLEY:

I would like to ask a question of --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Oh, sure.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, why don't I just have Mr. Zwirn come up and the Marine Bureau and then we'll be available.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

I think Legislator Horsley had a question for me.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Right.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, did you want to go first? Okay, then, why don't we start with Mr. Horsley.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Good morning. Thank you for your testimony, it was enlightening. I represent Oak Beach, Gilgo Beach and the like, and you had mentioned that you thought there was inadequate protection during -- almost all the time. Could you just elaborate a little bit on that? If we had problems, if there was a medical problem or even Police action or something like that which we've had over there at different times, just elaborate on what you feel is the protection for those barrier beach communities that are all year long.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

Well, I don't think it's a secret sitting here today that I don't believe there's adequate protection anywhere in the Marine Bureau, whether it be on the water or on the land, off of one of the communities off of Ocean Parkway or on Fire Island. I believe that you definitely need more posts there, you need to double up those individuals for their own safety and for their ability to serve on whatever call, whatever the nature is of the call that they go to. Sometimes there are just things that require more than one person.

Now, if any one of the communities off of Ocean Parkway, if there was an emergency there and you had one of the Marine Bureau posts go, well, the next assist would come from either another Marine Bureau post, which is unlikely --

LEG. HORSLEY:

Which you are saying is -- yeah, which you're saying is unlikely.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

Which is unlikely, or they would have to wait for a response from either the 1st Precinct or the 3rd Precinct to come via Robert Moses.

LEG. HORSLEY:

And is there a disparity between the summer months and the winter months, being that they're there all year?

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

Most definitely, you cannot compare the summer months to the winter months. There are very few full-time residents on Fire Island during the winter months.

LEG. HORSLEY:

But there are in my community.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

In your community there is, but during the winter months I believe they keep that post up.

LEG. HORSLEY:

They do. Okay, that was where I was -- I guess that's where I was going on that.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

And I'm sure the Commanding Officer could speak greater to the staffing in the winter. Right now what we're focusing on is the inadequate staffing of the summer.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you. I'm just trying to take some notes, obviously we're not going to be able to get some -- apparently we're not going to be able to get some questions -- answers to some of these questions today, but just so I make sure I have my facts correct. In the -- going back to Aviation, in the past 30 days, if you could perhaps get to my office or even all the members of this committee, it was four incidents where there were aborted emergency transports from Aviation; is that correct?

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

That is correct.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay. If you could get us some specifics on that information, I would very much like to have that.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

I'm more than happy to provide that for you.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you very much.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Is there any other questions for the PBA? Okay, thanks, guys. And I would just ask for Inspector Jantzen to maybe come up.

MR. DIGEROLAMO:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

All righty. If there is anybody from Aviation, we could ask them. Chief, you're welcome to join them.

MR. ZWIRN:

Mr. Chairman, at some point I would like to have an opportunity to respond to some of the comments that were made by the PBA. I mean, a lot of this was clearly political and they've accused the County Executive of playing politics with the Police here and 852-COPS and I'd like to be able to have an opportunity to respond to that. I think it's outrageous and the facts don't bear any of this out.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, why don't you just continue right now then?

MR. ZWIRN:

Pardon me?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Why don't you -- I think you started, so why don't we -- I'll give you your opportunity right now and then we'll have the Police.

MR. ZWIRN:

I will. The first comments that the PBA representative made today was that 852-COPS was clearly a political move by the County Executive. Well, I have to tell you, I live in Suffolk County, if I had to call the Police for a non-emergency number, who am I going to call, what number am I going to call? Do I know the number of the local precinct? Do I dial zero and ask for the operator to get them for me? Now, you have a number, a non-emergency number. And when the representative says, "Well, there's no difference because a 911 operator answered the phone six minutes and

eleven seconds later," that's the difference; they put that individual on hold because it wasn't an emergency. The difference with 852-COPS and 911 was the six minutes, it was not an emergency call. That operator was handling emergency calls as quickly as they could. That six minutes and eleven seconds is the difference between tying up 911 and having a non-emergency call with a loud party next door, a cat in a tree; six minutes could save a life for somebody who gets tied up in a 911 call. So I beg to differ, to say that's political is outrageous. And a 911 operator is not going to get in trouble, they're doing their job. They answered the call in due time.

You talk about the helicopter bureau. We have more helicopters now since County Executive Steve Levy took office than we ever had before. Twenty-five percent more. We bought a brand new helicopter. We're building a permanent facility out at Gabreski Airport, never had that before, so that the Police Officers and the helicopters will be protected from the elements in a safe manner.

You know, you want to have more Police on the streets? The PBA, we have no coverage at all, the sky is falling. We're going to take 14 Police Officers out of Highway Patrol, off the Expressway and Sunrise Highway and the Expressway will come to a stop. Well, that happened several weeks ago, we got through July 4th, we got through the month of July, we're moving into August. Now, hopefully State will come through and do what they're supposed to do and either give us the money or add Troopers to that -- to the coverage there. We got no help from the PBA, none. The deal was this close to be getting done, they blew it up. I was in Albany trying to get it done, I thought we had a deal, the State Police told us we had a deal. You guys came back into Special Session with Home Rule Messages to help us get this done, the last minute it was blown up. Who was making the rounds? The Suffolk County PBA, concerned about the health and safety of the taxpayers and residents of this County, did everything they could to protect their jobs; as long as their jobs were protected they didn't care that the taxpayer would have to pick up the extra money. It's not right, it's not fair.

You want to get political about it, that's fine. You want more Police out on the streets, you want more Police in the Marine Bureau, you have the opportunity to raise taxes to do it. I asked John if he just could to give me a number; what do we pay in the Police District now?

MR. ORTIZ:

Total funding was 540 million

MR. ZWIRN:

Five hundred and forty million dollars is what the taxpayers are paying towards Police protection in the Suffolk County Police District. And we're running a \$22 million deficit going forward for '09, so you're looking at a tax increase going forward of \$22 million just to cover the deficit now. It's about \$150,000 per Police Officer. You want to add the Police Officers? The taxpayers are going to pay for it. People can't afford their homes today, they can't afford to pay for gas to get on the highways. Traveling is down. We're looking at \$5 a gallon for home heating fuel this winter coming up. The Police Department has managed its resources well. I work in Intergovernmental Relations right next to Community Relations, we're not getting phone calls from the public saying there are not enough Police out there.

I drive the Expressway the entire length almost in Suffolk County -- well, from Veterans Highway all the way out to Exit 70. I see the Highway Patrol out there, they're visible, maybe less of them but they're out there. I travel Sunrise Highway, a long distance because I live all the way out on the east end. They're there, traffic is moving, they're responding to accidents, they're pulling people over.

You know, we are doing more with less. The Police Department is doing a wonderful job because crime is down, they're responding to calls. Now, the PBA representative, and this is -- and we don't begrudge the PBA and the members of the Police Department, we're proud of them. They're not

saying, "You know what, we'll take a pay cut so that we can get more Police Officers out there. We're willing to work with the Suffolk County taxpayers and with the government to say, look, we're going to take -- we're going to give something back in order to make this work," we don't hear that. We need more members, we need more Police, but the taxpayers, your residents are going to have to pay for it with every dollar. You have the power, if you want to raise the taxes, and I don't know how -- I can ask each one of you how much you're prepared to raise taxes in order to get the coverage that the PBA thinks is right. I think the brass, the organization, the administration of the Police Department should be commended for what they're doing, because I know you're not getting the calls from the public saying, "Where are the Police," because they're there; and if they weren't there, trust me, we'd be hearing about it real fast.
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you. This one doesn't even require an answer, Ben, but I just have to make the statement. So I was under the impression, I'm sure most people were, that the 852-COPS was something completely separate. So by you saying an individual has to hold, when they do eventually get to that call, what about when that 911 operator eventually does pick that call up? What if they miss an emergency call while they're on that non-emergency call? I thought it was something completely separate. I didn't realize this would be routed to a 911 operator even at some point. So to say that they hold and then pick it up when they're off an emergency call, you know, you hope for the best, you plan for the worst. So when that 911 operator eventually does pick that call up, perhaps they're missing a real emergency call.

MR. ZWIRN:

They put them on hold. They waited six and eleven minutes (sic), they say, "Excuse me, I have an emergency call coming in, I'll put you on hold. I'll get back to you," and you may wait another six minutes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

How do -- do they have -- is the system that -- you know, is it that technologically advanced that they know whether or not it's coming in from 852 or they know it's a 911 call; does our system have that capability?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well, I mean, we're saying yes, I would like to maybe hear from someone from the 911 office just to make sure that that is the case.

MR. ZWIRN:

How about from Chief Moore?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That's fine. Chief, you're saying that is the case?

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay. I still don't think that's really -- I mean, if we're in the business of providing a service to our taxpayers, I think that we would have been better off promoting a system of giving people

information to actually contact their local authority. I know I give my constituents my local precinct numbers, the 6th and the 7th Precinct, to have them call in that instance.

MR. ZWIRN:

What is the precinct numbers in your district?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Off the top of my head? I think it's 853-71 -- no, no, no.

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, that's my point.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well, I give --

MR. ZWIRN:

852-COPS. I don't live in your district, I don't live in the Police District, but if I know a Suffolk County Police Officer in a non-emergency situation, I'm stuck on the side of the road, I can call 852-COPS without having to go fumble around. And I'm not trying -- I'm just trying to make a point.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I understand your point, Mr. Zwirn. So like I said, this one didn't even require a response.

MR. ZWIRN:

I can't help myself.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I just think it's something that most people were under the impression, I know I was, that this would be a separate entity and it wouldn't be something that would require the 911 dispatch service to try to pick and choose between emergency and non-emergency calls; I just don't think that makes for a very efficient system.

You made another point, you know, and you spelled it out very plainly; we can raise taxes if we want to. Well, you know what? We have to make an informed decision. We are the policy making body. If coverage is down, we need real answers. Tell us coverage is down. You know, I've asked this question so many times, I'm going to pass out from lack of oxygen if I ask it one more time. It's simple accounting; you say you have more officers on patrol, there's less officers in the department, where are they being transferred from? Officers have to come from somewhere, they don't just appear magically. So other units within the department have to have less staffing to have more officers out on patrol. I mean, this is Accounting 101.

We have to make an informed decision. Maybe we make the decision that there are other departments within this County that require less than public safety do, and maybe we make a decision to cut from those other departments within Suffolk County to make sure that our primary charge of providing for public safety is met. But we need an honest assessment of what units in the department have what staffing at what times so we can make that decision. Instead of just telling us all is well, we're doing more with less, we have more cops on patrol yet we have less cops in the department -- you know, we keep hearing information coming in in bits and pieces, some of the testimony we heard today is very disturbing. I know myself, as a north shore representative and a north shore resident, knowing the number of people who fish along the north shore out in their boats at night, people who surf-cast along the north shore at night, some of the information that I heard about the Marine Bureau is disturbing, information I heard about the Aviation Bureau is disturbing.

So I think for myself, for other members of the committee, for every member of this body, we want

an honest assessment of what is going on so we can make an informed decision instead of having it made for us, instead of telling us our only alternative is to raise taxes if we don't like what we hear, because to me, that's not an answer.

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, but that is the answer.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No, it's not.

MR. ZWIRN:

Because you just --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I just told you --

MR. ZWIRN:

If I could just --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Excuse me, Mr. Zwirn, I'm not finished.

MR. ZWIRN:

Go ahead.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I just told you, we can make decisions on our own. If we decide that there is another area within this County that --

MR. ZWIRN:

But that's what I want to respond to. This is the Suffolk County Police District, it's not the General Fund. You can't cut in another department and in effect use Suffolk County Police District taxes. You've already pretty much maxed out all the money that you can transfer from the General Fund through sales tax into the Police District to soften the blow. The only thing you're going to have left is a property tax increase in the Police District. You can't cut something in Parks and have an impact in the --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

But if we lower one and the other does go up, somewhere it balances out in the middle. If we cut by a corresponding amount elsewhere -- it's just cost shifting, Mr. Zwirn, you know that.

MR. ZWIRN:

But one of the --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Again, we have to make that decision. We have to make that decision, not you, not someone else, we're the elected representatives that set policy and we have to make that decision. And what I want is a true assessment of what is going on and specific questions answered. And like I said, I have never been able to get a clear and concise answer of where individuals are coming from to fill these very large numbers that I keep hearing about, the number of additional officers on patrol. For a short period of time they're coming out of one unit, for a short period of time they're coming out of another unit, but the numbers have never added up, from the numbers I've seen, to the numbers that we're talking about. A very large increase that would require at my last count, the last time we had this discussion, a transfer of almost 150 officers from various posts within the Suffolk County

Police Department, that's a very large number of officers for the size department that we have.

I know we're not going to be able to answer this today, I know we're not going to get to the bottom of this today, but what I'm saying is we as a body have to get to the bottom of this and we need clear answers and then we can make a decision. Instead of just telling us, "We don't have any options at our disposal," we have to make that decision. Thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:

Can I just --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Legislator Nowick, yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

And I'll be brief because Legislator Losquadro had asked a question before which was a yes or no.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Oh, yeah.

LEG. NOWICK:

And that was the question I would like an answer to, since I represent the north shore and the sound. Is that true what Legislator Losquadro said, that if there is a problem on the north shore that somebody would have to be called and come from the south shore over to the north shore? Isn't that what you said?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That's what I heard.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

That's exactly correct. We're talking between the hours of one o'clock in the morning --

MS. MAHONEY:

Can you state your name, please?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Harold Jantzen, Deputy Inspector, Commanding Officer of the Suffolk County Police Marine Bureau. That's correct and it's been that way for more than 20 years.

LEG. NOWICK:

From one o'clock in the morning to?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Nine.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

From one o'clock in the morning to nine o'clock in the morning there is no patrol boat assigned to patrol duties on the north shore of Long Island.

LEG. NOWICK:

And then from nine o'clock to one o'clock AM there is --

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Two patrol boats assigned to the north shore.

LEG. NOWICK:

Two patrol boats and they just, what do they do, go up and down?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Well, they basically respond to calls for service.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'm sorry, what did you say?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

They basically respond to calls for service in addition to their routine patrol.

LEG. NOWICK:

So eleven o'clock in the morning there's two boats -- two boats?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Two boats.

LEG. NOWICK:

Where are the boats docked?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

The boats are docked in Halesite and Port Jeff Village.

LEG. NOWICK:

Port Jeff Village and Halesite. I'm sorry to ask this, but where is Halesite.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Huntington.

LEG. NOWICK:

Huntington, okay. So the boat is in Huntington proper.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Right, it's basically a half mile from Huntington Hospital. It's not in Huntington Bay, it's in Halesite.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. No, I know where that is, I'm just not sure it was Halesite. Okay, does that answer your question as well?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah. Could I follow up on that, through the Chair?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes; go ahead, Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I know we've had a lot of discussion about that Huntington boat stationed at Halesite.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

By the way, I have a very funny story about Halesite, but I'll tell you about that later. We've heard that that boat is shut down repeatedly. Could you give us an update on staffing, since we in committee has last been informed on that Huntington boat?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

That boat, like the Port Jeff boat, is shut down every single day between the hours of 0100 and 900. So every early morning hours or late evening hours that boat goes down, as does the Delta Boat which is in Port Jefferson.

That said, the two tours that operate from nine o'clock in the morning to five in the evening and the second shift that comes on to work for evenings which starts at five in the evening and works to one o'clock in the morning, each of those boats is up almost every single day. Now, I'm not going to sit here before the committee and tell you that there has not been one single hour where the Huntington boat did not go out of service because I have no way of checking that right now. And my belief is that on a rare occasion, probably less than a handful of times the boat has been out of service. However, the staffing is, particularly in the summer months, in favor of staffing a minimum of four boats, two north shore boats, two south shore boats. The boat that we added several years ago, the Moriches boat, which I'd also like to elaborate on and something that Officer Noel DiGerolamo said a few minutes ago when they were referring to a response out in the ocean, that boat was added several years ago and we staffed that boat for the first several years with a seasonal assignment. That boat has proven to us to be of such a value that we are willing to commit that boat to service for the entire year; winter, spring, summer, fall. That is a very active part of the bay and it has a treacherous body of water, Moriches Inlet within its patrol area and they traverse the inlet several times a day and have made several spectacular rescues through the use of their familiarity with the changing inlet and their seamanship that they've developed by going through that.

LEG. NOWICK:

Those two boats go from Halesite to Moriches Inlet, or no?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

No. No, the north shore boats --

LEG. NOWICK:

Oh, north shore.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

To Orient.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

The Halesite boat generally patrols from Nassau County line to somewhere in the vicinity of Smithtown Bay, at which point the Delta boat which is berthed in Port Jefferson patrols from somewhere in the vicinity of Smithtown Bay to the Wading River line. So if you can imagine the north shore of Suffolk County, it's basically divided in half, the western section would be the Bravo boat, that sector, the eastern half would be the Delta boat and the sector running from Smithtown Bay to Wading River.

LEG. NOWICK:

And just one -- I know we're pressed for time. Just so I understand, what I'm envisioning is an officer in the summer time on the boat all the time just in case there's a need; is that the way it works?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

No.

LEG. NOWICK:

Or is the boat sitting there -- in other words, if I'm in Smithtown Bay --

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Right.

LEG. NOWICK:

-- and I need help, I'm in the water and I need help; is there a boat patrolling all those hours?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Yes, the hours that I detailed before.

LEG. NOWICK:

The daytime hours that you --

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

After one o'clock in the morning, a response to your call for help --

LEG. NOWICK:

I understand that. But during the day, is there a boat patrolling or is the boat docked somewhere and somebody has to hop on the boat and then go out to the person that's in need; how does that work?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

The boat's patrolling.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you. That's fine, and I know we're in a rush so that's just the answer I wanted.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Just one more?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Let me just let --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Sure.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

-- Legislator Browning have an opportunity here.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, I'm trying to figure out, because I know my local fire departments have boats and I think some ambulance companies and I'm trying to figure out what's the definition of the duties of the Marine Bureau versus what our fire departments do; you know, is it rescues? I mean, if you can tell me what the duties are and then maybe Joe Williams might want to --

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Absolutely.

LEG. BROWNING:

-- put some input as to what our fire departments are doing with their boats?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Well, I think the easiest and the most generic terms of this is to consider what your sector officers do in your communities and bring that service to the people on the water and the people on Fire Island. They are marine law enforcement officers that enforce all of the laws of New York State and

Suffolk County and they provide additional level of service since the nature of Fire Island, the 36 mile length and the 17 communities of Fire Island is truly a remote location. And that said, we provide a lot of medical assistance, and in the off-season when many of the volunteer fire departments on Fire Island are not well staffed, we also have training and equipment to fight some fires since some communities go from thousands of residents in the summer months to zero residents in the winter months. Now, if a fire should break out or if a medical need should break out and arise in that area, you know, in layman's terms, we're kind of the only act in town. And in an effort to deliver the best service that we can, we've broadened the scope of training that we offer to our officers. Not only is it the usual law enforcement training that they get through our Police Academy and the standard Marine Patrol Vessel Operator's Course that we give to all members of the Marine Bureau, we've also given them fire fighting training. We have 98% of our officers are EMT's, five of our officers are EMT critical care medics that can deliver medication, intubate patients, have special radios that can communicate with emergency rooms and communicate with doctors and take direction from them. So it's a little bit more broad in scope and a little bit more diverse as far as the skill level that the officers develop over the years.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. So now our fire departments, when they're called out on their boats, what do they do?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Fire departments have seemed to gravitate in a small way towards fire fighting but in a somewhat larger way towards search and rescue and dive teams. We don't have a -- other than Northport, that's pretty much the only community I'm aware of right now that has a legitimate fire boat that can address real firefighting. Even our boats only have relatively small fire pumps on them, 350 gallons per minute which is sufficient for two hand-lines but it's not sufficient to really supply enough water for, you know, a full fire fighting effort on one or more residences involved or a commercial establishment. They do have dive teams, they assist us on a regular basis with dive operations. They're always the first to a location that requires divers because of their close proximity, the proximity to the needed diving request.

We usually come in within the 30, 40, 60 minute area and we will at that point take over, and it's in many cases going to be our recovery rather than a rescue/save because of the time that elapsed in mustering a dive team to put in on the location. So dive -- the fire departments have developed dive team skills over the years and we've trained with them, we've done ice-rescue training with them and they play a vital role in what goes on on the water, particularly in the more adverse weather conditions like in the winter.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you. Inspector Jantzen, if you could please comment. Do you have any knowledge -- again, it's about us as elected officials, regardless of what level of government we're in, getting an honest assessment of what's out there. Would you like to comment or will you comment on the information that was presented today about a note on a duty chart to go past a community leader's house to show a police presence in that area?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Yeah, I'm not familiar with the note but I don't deny that it exists; if Officer DiGerolamo says that he has that, I'm sure it does exist. There are some key points that we focus on. It's a -- I'm assuming it's a note to have one of the ATV posts that travel through the communities. Are you familiar with Fire Island and some of the methods that we use to patrol? We use SUV trucks which are 4-wheel drives, because there are no roads over there, that's understood.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Right.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

We also patrol on bicycle, and the other way, the other method of patrol, aside from foot patrol, is SUV's, we have five SUV's -- I'm sorry, ATV's, these are quads.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Right.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

And those quads are picked up on the west end of Fire Island in a community called Kismet, there's a storage area there and they store between two and four quads. The officers come on duty, pick up their ATV and they're assigned Marine 50, let's say, that's a Kismet post, they drive from the storage facility in Kismet and they take their ATV and they travel to that one. If they're assigned Post 53 which is about seven communities down, six communities down Fire Island, they're going to drive through all of the communities and a note was left there to travel past one particular person's house, probably did a patrol check, probably stopped by to see if things were well. I'm assuming the person they're talking about is someone familiar to the office, then often gives Police some needed information as to what's going on in the community, so the note was probably left to instruct the officer to stop by his house, a liaison in that community to the Police Department, similar to many other communities that have police liaison people. And that to me is the best explanation and probably the correct explanation for why someone was instructed to go past the house.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay, I appreciate you answering that.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

There's one other thing that should be brought out because it was a news-worthy incident that was in the newspapers probably about a month ago, and Officer DiGerolamo said that the boat from Moriches had to respond through Fire Island Inlet to perform a rescue because another boat was not allowed out of the Inlet. I would like to shine a little light on the subject.

The officers on board the patrol boat that covers the Moriches area were at the Timber Point location fueling their boat when the call came in. They did have three officers on board as required to go into the ocean when small craft advisories are present. They left Timber Point, which is -- if you're not familiar with it, it's in the vicinity of East Islip, they left from East Islip, went through the Fire Island Inlet, went out with their 31 foot safe boat, patrol boat into the ocean with the Coast Guard. It was not a case where the Coast Guard would not respond. A husband and wife were on board a boat, wife had slipped because the husband was operating the boat in rough seas and she put a gash in her leg and her leg was bleeding. The operator of the boat, the husband, was so emotionally distraught over the fact that his wife was cut and bleeding and that he had just come through waters that he didn't feel comfortable operating his boat, our officers got on board the boat, brought the boat back in and were able to get him to the coast guard dock where they were picked up and medical transportation was provided.

It wasn't -- the other boat that patrols in that area, Marine Juliette, was already involved in doing a medical transport from Ocean Beach back to Bay Shore and that boat was committed to another assignment. It was not a situation where they were not allowed out of Fire Island Inlet. And after they completed the medical assignment by delivering the patient to Bay Shore, they responded over to Fire Island, picked up a third man on board the boat and were ready, willing and able to go out through Fire Island Inlet. I instructed them, "There is a boat on scene, just stand by," and it really didn't have anything to do with a lengthy 35 mile response from Moriches Bay to come the whole entire length to Fire Island to get through Fire Island Inlet.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah, Inspector Jantzen, the -- back to the boats on the north shore again. They serve two -- two eight hour shifts, that's it and then they're down the night hours? Are the officers assigned to those boats, are they pulled off of those boats at all to go into a sector car or anything like that?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

No. The exception might be that they will work the desk occasionally, and we rotate.

P.O. LINDSAY:

A desk where?

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

In the Marine Bureau Office.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

And we rotate the full compliment of officers in that team. Let's assume there's 18, 19 officers in a team, we do a rotation and they will come off.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So the staff that you have in the Marine Bureau stays in the Marine Bureau, they're not --

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

That's correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

They're not moved to a precinct or something like that.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

The exception of that would be at the conclusion of our summer season we will return some of the seasonal officers back to the precincts.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. It's just that you hear so many things, and I know we heard Mr. Zwirn before with his very emotional appeal. Somewheres along the line we as a body have to separate what's true, what's not true.

You know, the County is suffering through an economic crisis, there's no doubt about it. And, you know, the tax word, we're going to have to raise taxes, everybody is certainly concerned with that on Long Island. But we should also be very concerned about the services that we provide our citizens. And public safety, our number one role in government is providing that public safety and we have an obligation as a body to make sure that's being served. You know, if somebody is out there in harm's way and we can't respond to that and the reason we can't is because we're trying to save \$3 a year on their tax bill, shame on us.

So somewheres along the line we have to cool the emotion, get to the heart of the thing, find out, you know, what staffing levels are appropriate. Everybody throughout the County I think is pretty much cut to the bone now, there isn't too much fat out there anymore to cut and we just have to decipher that. And I thank you for answering a lot of these questions in a very professional manner.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR JANTZEN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, any other questions? Okay, thank you very much, gentlemen. I would just add that next committee meeting I have Cheryl Felice and AME that are going to be dealing with 911 and the

Aviation Unit, so I would ask you to come back and be aware, and certainly Mr. Zwirn will be here. So, all right, we got some information. We obviously have found out that Legislator Losquadro is very distraught, you were very clear. I think you said disturbed, actually; I'm glad to hear that because I'm disturbed, too, so it's not just me. All right, we'll get some more answers next time. Let's go to the agenda.

Tabled Resolutions

And I have Tabled Resolution **1359-08 - To maintain Safe Summer Programs in 2008 (Losquadro)**.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Again, I just want to thank everyone involved for making sure that these programs have been taking place successfully this summer. And now that they've been in operation through the month of July, I'll make a motion to table subject to call.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, **tabled subject to call (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

IR 1499-08 - A Local Law to require that Probation Department employees use County vehicles while conducting County business (Losquadro).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'm still working on some of the exemptions, so I'll make a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, motion to table. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

IR 1506-08 - A Local Law to prohibit deceptively colored handguns (Eddington). I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll second that.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

Introductory Resolutions

Introductory Resolution 1599-08 - Entering into an agreement with the County of Oneida for services provided at the Central New York Psychiatric Center Forensic Unit (County Executive). I wonder if I could have an explanation on that.

LEG. HORSLEY:

That's Oneida.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oneida, sorry.

MR. BROWN:

We worked on -- for the record, Dennis Brown from the County Attorney's Office. We worked on this agreement at the request of the Sheriff's Office. Apparently there is a need and there have been

agreements going back to 2000 with respect to the need for psychiatric services -- thank you -- with respect to the need for psychiatric services for inmates that the Sheriff's Department can't accommodate. So there's an agreement with Oneida County where these prisoners can be transferred to receive that psychiatric service.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

So what we're basically saying is there's nowhere closer that can provide these services?

MR. BROWN:

We worked on the agreement. That question you would have to pose to the Sheriff's Department.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, thank you very much.

MR. BROWN:

Thank you.

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

IR 1620-08 - Approving the appointment of Philip Petere Garypie, Jr., as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue Emergency Services Commission (County Executive).

LEG. BROWNING:

Is this an appointment or a reappointment?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

It's an appointment. Is Mr. Garypie here? Yes, could you just come forward for a second? Yes, if you could just introduce yourself.

MR. GARYPIE:

My name is Philip Garypie, I'm Ex-Chief of Sag Harbor Fire Department. I've been appointed to the FRES Commission Board through the East Hampton Town Chiefs Council, I've been a firemen in Suffolk County for 14 years, past President of East Hampton Town and Southampton Town Chiefs Associations and look forward to serving the County the best I can. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Excellent. No questions? Okay, thank you very much.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion by Legislator Browning. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0). Okay, thank you.

IR 1630-08 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$99,000.00 in Federal pass-thru funds and \$100,000 in State funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the Suffolk County Police Department's 1st Precinct Gang Task Force 2008 with 95% support (County Executive).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1631-08 - Authorizing execution of a memorandum of agreement with the Suffolk County Water Authority in connection with the Homeland Security Buffer Zone Protection Program (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I just want to ask Counsel, is this -- is there any contribution or we can put this on the Consent Calendar?

MR. NOLAN:

This, 1631?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah.

MR. NOLAN:

We can't.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay. Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by myself and second by Legislator Losquadro.
All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

All right, then. I will take a motion to adjourn.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator Browning.
Thank you very much for your attendance.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 A.M. *)

{ } - *Denotes Spelled Phonetically*