

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on May 6, 2010, 9:30 a.m..

Members Present:

Legislator Jack Eddington - Chairperson
Legislator DuWayne Gregory - Vice Chair
Legislator Kate Browning
Legislator John Kennedy
Legislator Tom Cilmi

Also in Attendance:

Presiding Officer Bill Lindsay - District #8
Legislator Tom Muratore - District #4
Legislator Jon Cooper - District #18
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson - Assistant to Counsel of the Legislature
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Rob Calarco - Aide to Legislator Eddington
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Marge Acevedo - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Michael Cavanagh - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Jason Richberg - Aide to Legislator Gregory
Christopher DeLuca - Aide to Legislator Cilmi
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Leader Cooper
Lora Gellerstein - Aide to Legislator Cooper
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Leader Losquadro
Gail Vizzini - Director/Budget Review Office
Lance Reinheimer - Assistant Director/Budget Review Office
John Ortiz - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn - County Executive's Office
Ed Hennessy - County Executive Assistant
Allen Kovesdy - County Executive's Budget Office
Dennis Brown - Bureau Chief/County Attorney's Office
Robert Moore - Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department
Gerard Frielingsdorf - Sergeant-Chief of Department's Office/SCPD
Stuart Cameron - Inspector-Special Patrol Division/SCPD
Chris Bergold - Deputy Inspector-Commissioner's Office/SCPD
Mark White - Deputy Chief of Homeland Security/SCPD
Kevin Kiley - Information Services Project Manager/SCPD
Tracy Polak - Headquarters/Suffolk County Police Department
Michael Sharkey - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Anthony Prudenti - Treasurer/SC Deputy Sheriff's PBA
Robert Kearon - Division Bureau Chief/District Attorney's Office
Joe Williams - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
John Searing - Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Noel DiGerolamo - 2nd Vice-President/Suffolk County PBA
Russ McCormick - Sgt-at-Arms/Suffolk County Detective's Association
Gail D'Ambrosio - President/Suffolk County Probation Officer's Assoc

Hope Collazo - American Red Cross/Community Service Program
Debbie Epple - Public Information Officer for Suffolk County
Colleen Ancinelli - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Ronald P. Barz - Suffolk County Fire Academy
Dot Kerrigan - 4th Vice-President/AME
Anthony LaFerrera - Chairman/Suffolk County FRES Commission
Celina Wilson - Bridge of Hope Resource Center
All Other Interested Parties

Verbatim Transcript Prepared By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Reporter

(*The meeting was called to order at 9:06 A.M. *)

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I would like to start the Public Safety Committee meeting now. Legislator Gregory will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Salutation

Please remain standing for a moment of silence for all those that are serving our country, both domestically and abroad.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you very much. I would like to start the **Public Portion**, and our first speaker is Celina Wilson. Good morning.

MS. WILSON:

Good morning. My name is Celina Wilson. The name of my organization is Bridge of Hope Resource Center. The mission and the purpose of our organization is to improve the lives of all people beginning with the family.

For the past three years we have been working with residents in Brentwood and other surrounding communities of by providing services, such as teaching and training in life skills, advocacy, mentorship, guidance, resources, you name it, and support. Today, you'll have the opportunity, like those before you, to perhaps gain some perspectives on the problems in Brentwood and start to break the cycle of violence in your communities. Since I only have three minutes, please follow closely in your handouts, please go to page two, if you may, characteristic of sick communities. Research findings have found -- have shown that communities which have a high degree of violence also have a higher visibility of drugs, firearms, delinquency, behavior disorders and poverty; this should not be. Breaking the silence -- the violence -- I'm sorry, breaking the cycle of violence begins by identifying risk factors and minimizing these effects on individuals and their families. If you look on page four, the chart on page four, communities must identify the risk factors that are leading to delinquency problems in the communities, and then begin to put safeguards to offset those problems.

Now, what do struggling families do when their kids have behavioral problems? They lack the resources that you and I have to keep our kids safe and to help our kids do better. Today I'm proposing a therapeutic center where -- a multi-functional center where treatment -- where families, struggling families can come and get treatment with the children who are struggling with conduct disorders, truancy, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, juvenile delinquency, just to name a few, combined with community and home-based prevention and early intervention programs which are effective and cost effective, and also will help to reduce the effects or the risk factors in these communities. These programs, when applied with fidelity, they have the potential of reducing family dysfunction, incarceration rates with residential treatment programs, hospitalization and conduct

disorders.

If you look on page ten, I had put together -- what we're looking at, a futuristic glance of thriving communities, and this is what we are looking for. We would like for you, as Legislators, to really pay close attention and to get at least some perspective on the problems in these communities. I thank you so much for your time. If you would like to get together with us, please, I have all the information in the back of your handouts. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. We just have a question from Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

Hi. How are you? Thank you for coming here today, and you've certainly given us a lot of information. Now, is this -- maybe I missed it. Is this a current program or is it a program that you're looking to fund, have funded?

MS. WILSON:

Well, what we are interested in is we're interested in a therapeutic center where our families, especially struggling families who do not have the resources to help their kids stay off the streets, stay off gangs, stay off the juvenile justice system, can come and we can then -- professionals can work with these families in helping them address the conduct disorders that these children have, their delinquency problems, problems in the home and so forth and so on. Because we believe that that's really the problem here is the breakdown in the homes, the children, you know, getting together with delinquent peers. And so we have to look at the fact that there is a high visibility of drugs and firearms in these communities, it makes it for an environment that is not conducive to our children and we don't want our kids in body bags any longer. We want a therapeutic center where we could work with our struggling families. We know it works because we've done it, we just need a place where we can have professionals working with these families, and that's really what I have to say.

LEG. GREGORY:

All right, thank you.

MS. WILSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much for your remarks.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, if I can just ask one other question, ma'am. Do you have a particular area that the center would take referrals from? What geographic area would you be primarily focusing on?

MS. WILSON:

Well, we would be working with Brentwood residents and other communities. And I would say that putting a therapeutic center in Brentwood would certainly assist the schools and any -- you know, and families in the area in terms of the issues and the problems that they're having in the community.

Right now there is nowhere to go. And I know that for a fact because when we work with families, we have nowhere to refer these families, we have nowhere to refer these kids. And we've lost kids; we lost kids to the streets, we've lost kids to jail, and unfortunately we lost kids, unfortunately, you know, they've died, because we don't have a facility, a place in Brentwood where we can work with these families. So as these kids take a turn for, you know, the violent path, we can then pull them and work with these families and eventually begin to rehabilitate these children, these families, and then you'll see the turnaround with the community, because let's be honest, the community is the people. So if we begin to rehabilitate these families, these struggling families that don't have the resources -- when our kids are doing bad, we find whatever resources we can to help them; these families don't have that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I agree with you a hundred percent, ma'am. And I believe that, you know, certainly the area that you're talking about is an impacted area. We've had the Legislative hearings down there, certainly I agree a hundred percent, there's a need. Have you reached out to the Legislator from the area there; have you had contact with Legislator Montano?

MS. WILSON:

Yes, I did have. Unfortunately, I don't really believe, without losing respect to Mr. Montano, I don't really think Mr. Montano has a perspective on really what's going on in the community. He knows there's a problem, but I think that that's really big. If you don't have a perspective on the problem, you can't fix it, and I believe that this is what the problem has been for years because it's been so frustrating for us. I don't believe people really clearly understand that unless we go to the core of the problem, anything else that's tried out there is not going to work, the problem is still going to be there.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you for being here, ma'am. Certainly I'll share some of your concerns with the Legislator as well.

MS. WILSON:

Thank you so much.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I know he's quite active there.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah, I just want to add, Ms. Wilson, that you're right on, I mean, I understand this. In fact, I'd like to see 18 of these centers, one in every Legislative District. The target area you're speaking to would be, you know, obviously early or late intervention, but I would like to see you be able to do some proactive, preventive measures in other communities. Could you get to us a budget? Because you're talking about support, but there's no specifics. And if you could get to the Legislators a proposed budget and your needs, we could look at it a little bit more seriously, because this is something that I would definitely support.

MS. WILSON:

Very good. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Thank you. Next speaker, Anthony LaFarrera.

MR. LAFARRERA:

Good morning. I'm here to speak on IR 29 (sic). I am the Chairman of the Suffolk County FRES Commission, I'm also 1st Vice-President of the Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council.

With a majority vote, the Suffolk County FRES Commission is asking that the Suffolk County Legislature support IR 29 (sic). And with the Suffolk County Chiefs Council, by majority decision, with the approval of the Executive Board, that we ask all the Legislators to support IR 1029. Just to note, both organizations feel with a fixed five-year term, it would keep continuity with a working relationship with the Commissioner, with the Suffolk Emergency Medical Services throughout the County, which probably would be beneficial to the residents of the County. And we ask for your support of that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much.

LEG. COOPER:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Next speaker, Ronald P. Baz, Barz?

MR. BARZ:

My name is Ron Barz. Good morning. Most of you do know me, I serve as one of the Directors of the Suffolk County Fire Academy. I'm here to speak about Brian Deedy. Unfortunately, Brian could not make it this morning. Brian is a school teacher. I know he should have been here, but he'll be here next Tuesday, because I got this 20 minutes ago to come and speak for him.

Brian has been in the volunteer service for the last 15 years. He has served in North Patchogue and presently serving in the Moriches Fire Department as a Lieutenant. He's a school teacher in East Islip School District. Brian went through numerous interviews for an application for the position and Brian was picked out of eight different candidates to fill the position, the vacant position on our board.

I thank the board for letting me speak a little bit earlier on him and I would -- ask the board to please pass it on so that his appointment could be brought up at the next meeting of this Legislature. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. I'm going to ask if we could take 1492 out of order so that we could vote to either pass or table that motion for that appointment of Brian Deedy.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Gregory. Okay, we have IR --

MR. NOLAN:

Call the vote.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, I have ***1492-10 - Appoint member to the Suffolk County Vocational, Education, and Extension Board (Brian Deedy) (Romaine)***. And I'm going to -- I know we usually have him come before us, but I would have no problem approving it at this time based on his experience and Mr. Barz speaking. So I'm going to make a motion to approve.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'll second the motion, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, thank you. ***Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).*** Sir, would you inform Brian?

MR. BARZ:

Yes, I will.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much, and we'll get it to him.

All right. Then next on the agenda is a ***presentation by the Suffolk County Police Department on Homeland Security in Suffolk County.*** And thank you, Chiefs.

CHIEF WHITE:

Good morning, Chairman and Legislators.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You have to hold the button down.

CHIEF MOORE:

Good morning. I am Robert Anthony Moore, Chief of Department, Suffolk County Police Department. In light of recent events in New York City, we thought it would be appropriate for us to stop by this morning and give you an update as pertaining to the efforts being made on the part of the Suffolk County Police Department in the area of Homeland Security.

Now, I'm sure you're aware that FRES, and in particular OEM or the Office for Emergency Management, also plays a significant and important role in anti-terrorism and in disaster mitigation, but for our part, we'll be just speaking about the Police Department's role. And as you know, I have with me Deputy Chief for Homeland Security, Mark White who, by the way, is also the Regional Director; so his area encompasses more than just Suffolk County and we're fortunate to have him serving on our staff. And also Inspector Stuart Cameron who is the Commanding Officer of our Special Patrol Bureau which has entities such as K-9, Emergency Services and other units that have a direct role in disaster and anti-terrorism mitigation. So with that, Chief White?

CHIEF WHITE:

Thank you, Chief. That's better?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHIEF WHITE:

Good morning, Legislators, Chairman. How are you? My pleasure to be here with you this morning to give you a little bit of a brief on where we are and the Homeland Security counter-terrorism world here in Suffolk County. In light of the recent events in New York City, I know everybody here is interested to understand what the Suffolk County response is to those kind of events. And I'd also be happy to certainly answer any questions you have regarding that, this particular event or anything on the Homeland Security capabilities and procedures that we have in place here in the County. And I know I've gotten to brief some of you before in a private setting on some of the more sensitive issues, so I'll stick to more broad generalities as to how we handle these situations.

I think I'll focus on the Times Square event just to give you an idea, because it's very similar to how we would handle any event, whether it occurs here in the County, in the region or even in the world, and we do react to worldwide events and react to those immediately here in the County. And the first thing we do is contact, make immediate contact with our liaisons in the FBI and the NYPD. We have full-time people from the NYPD that work with us here in Suffolk County. We can get

information from them on any event occurring in the city immediately or in the world, and that's exactly what happens in a case like this, we get that information and we act on it or evaluate it. We look at these things regularly throughout the incident investigation, we talk to them not just initially, at the beginning of an event, but all the way through the investigation. And the real reason for that is so we can get factual information, not information that's coming out through the media or maybe leaked and may be inaccurate, so we make sure that we get it from the official sources and work with that. And I bring that up a chain to Chief Moore who also possesses security clearance and obviously briefs the Commissioner who briefs through the County Executive's Office on that.

What we do next is evaluate whether or not we need to initiate any immediate counter measures here in the County, and we did this in this event. And there have been events in the past where we have initiated and we did countermeasures; Usually those are ones that are directed at either a specific type of business, transportation asset or critical infrastructure site. That wasn't the case in this, it was kind of a unique situation in a New York City landmark that was attacked. So we already act and have systems in place, we're at an elevated level for counter-terrorism at our Patrol level and our Detective Division level, so we didn't have to do anything specific to this event, although, again, we have done that in the past.

Next we activate our investigative resources. We have a member of our department assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force who's also involved in the investigation of this case and any case that occurs here in Suffolk County, which does occur regularly where they have to work with us and our Intelligence Section Detectives to make sure that we cover every base on every possible lead or suspicious activity or behavior that comes to our attention. And we've developed numerous -- and I won't go into them unless you want to ask or you would like me to -- numerous, various, hi-tech assets and capabilities here in the County to cover any situation. As Inspector Cameron and I were talking about and watching the news reports in Times Square, all of the assets and all of the equipment you saw on television responding to the New York City event we have, and we certainly have more additional equipment than that and the training to go along with that. But in the last six years in my term as the Homeland Security Chief, you know, we've made tremendous strides in -- and thankfully, through some of the grant funding so we haven't had to rely on local operating funds, in increasing our capability to respond to, we believe, anything and everything that could occur here in the County.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Mr. Presiding Officer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Chief White, there's no doubt about it that you have done a wonderful job with this. How many people do you have under your command?

CHIEF WHITE:

Well, Legislator, I really like to think that I have about twenty-five hundred people under my command.

*(*Laughter*)*

P.O. LINDSAY:

Good answer.

CHIEF WHITE:

Because we've really institutionalized and made counter-terrorism and Homeland Security a culture in the Police Department. I have six people that perform full-time work in some way on just the Homeland Security counter-terrorism piece, and a few more who work on the emergency management piece, three more. But you really can't -- especially in a suburban Police Department, especially in hard fiscal times, you know, try to take people other than the real core necessity and assign people only to counter-terrorism duties. So we have the 2,500 who have been trained,

equipped to be alert and vigilant, and that's really the key.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Is that a different model than our neighboring department in Nassau? I know it's certainly a different model than New York City has.

CHIEF WHITE:

No, they've have recently come to pretty much the same model. They've had various ill iterations of how they've done the Homeland Security mission in Nassau, they have an excellent operation there, and they have pretty much a similar number of people assigned.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So they only have six people assigned to this as well?

CHIEF WHITE:

You know, I don't want to speak in numbers, but it was around eight last time I had looked.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And you're satisfied with that type of organizational chart?

CHIEF WHITE:

Yeah, I think it's the only one that can work in our environment, in the suburbs. And the suburbs, you know, as I've mentioned to you, are the key to success in fighting counter-terrorism, and even for New York City. You know, New York City has even recognized that in sharing equipment, and if you want Inspector Cameron to talk about that. They realize, and you saw it here, that almost all terrorist plots -- and I know I've briefed you on that and this is certainly something that's not secret -- are planned and plotted in the suburbs and directed at the cities. So, you know, we have to be as alert or more alert, and I think we are, I really feel very confident that we are; at least we've done everything reasonable that we can do. You know, perfection is the standard here and we hope we're going to reach that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do we have an Intelligence Unit as well as your department?

CHIEF WHITE:

Yes, we do. And of those six people, two of them are Investigators in the Intelligence Unit that works solely on suspicious activity, leads and terrorism investigations, along with a New York State Police Officer who is assigned to that little group and full-time people from NYPD that are assigned to the suburbs that work with us on that. So we found all of our goal and the main goal for us, the main objective for us is prevention, detection and deterrence. So we throw most of our assets and interest in that, because we don't want to have to respond to an attack, although we certainly can and we've spent, you know, substantial funding to strengthen those assets, we really spend a lot of time in intelligence collection, analysis, sharing, so everybody is on the same page.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I certainly hear you about, you know, the resources that are available in this difficult fiscal time. I happened to be in the city Saturday night when this thing all went down, I was only a couple of blocks away, and the response by NYPD was pretty amazing, in my opinion. It was very, very quick and they really cleared out a densely populated area there very, very quickly.

I just hope we're spending enough resources on this, because the best job you guys could do is to prevent an incident from this happening and that, you know, nobody even knows about it with your work. And I just want to make sure you have all the resources you need in spite of the economic times.

CHIEF WHITE:

You know, we've compensated for that in trying to do things in the most efficient way possible, and the way we've done that is instead of having full time people, we've created teams. We've created a Crisis Action Team, it's an intermediate trained groups of officers that we can pull in from commands who go through advanced training, not as much training as our Emergency Service people that come under Inspector Cameron, but those people, even part of Emergency Services, can be a Hercules team, which is kind of like what you saw I think, Legislator, in New York City with a special weapons uniform, somebody that stands out and responds immediately, and those resources are available immediately. We have a MedCAT Team, a Medical Crisis Action Team now with tactically-trained paramedics who can go in with the groups. And we'll just grab them from the existing resources that are working, because even if you had more people full-time, they might be home, they're out there and we'll replace them, you know, with people, bringing people in, calling people in from home.

And really, one of the things that's a little bit unique, at least I think is still in the State that we started quite some time ago, is our Suffolk Coordinated Law Enforcement Response Group -- some of you may have seen that, I know we did an exercise in Legislator Browning's district way back -- where we have all the law enforcement agencies, State, County, not just the Suffolk PD, other County agencies, the Parks Police and Sheriffs, towns, villages and even Federal law enforcement. We respond in a unified fashion, trained together, we go through this mobile field-force training and we respond in a line, in a coordinated, unified manner; lessons learned from 9/11.

So we can get -- and we've done this. We've done one recently that was -- and we've done some where it was just a call-out without any kind of advanced notice. Usually within an hour, you know, we can get 50 Police Officers, a hundred Police Officers responding to something.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Presiding Officer?

P.O. LINDSAY:

There's a resolution before us, 1440, authorizing acceptance of public safety radio equipment to be used by the Suffolk County Police Department, Suffolk County Department of FRES in connection with Regional Internet Protocol Gateway; does this -- is this equipment going to your unit, Chief?

CHIEF WHITE:

I don't know by resolution number which one you're referring to, sir, so I just want to take a look.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. It's authorizing the acceptance of radio equipment with a value of \$400,000 from New York City Inter-Agency Communications Committee; nothing to do with you? Maybe it's -- I see Commissioner Williams coming forward.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, maybe it's FRES. I'm sorry. I just thought that might enhance your --

CHIEF WHITE:

I think those are NYPD radios that we're going to end up with but they go through FRES. And the working relationship between FRES and the PD on counter-terrorism issues, as Chief Moore mentioned, is excellent. You know, a lot of the equipment does go through FRES because a lot of the grants go through the Emergency Management Agency, and you'll see them here when they come through where there's equipment being assigned to different agencies, whether it's Public Works, the Police Department, to FRES or to even IT, and they all come through and funnel through there. We have a group, a decision making group that takes the County strategy and prioritizes how that happens before it gets to you.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Legislator, if I can answer that question. What it is, this is the true value of a regional approach to what we're doing lately; we've realized that throughout the years, after 9/11. This is a Regional Grant that's coming through. We are receiving 200 radios, portable radios through a Regional Grant. One hundred and fifty of those radios are going to Suffolk County PD and 50 of those radios are going to FRES, and this will enable us to communicate with our people, interoperability. And again, it's an example of the regional approach that all our counties are doing right now, part of the Urban Area Recruit meeting, and we've learned valuable lessons from that from 9/11.

And I want to say that as far as FRES, what Chief White is talking about and what Chief Moore was talking about is that FRES and the Suffolk County Police Department work very well together any time anything happens. As a matter of fact, when this was going down on Saturday evening, Chief White was actually e-mailing me, which is not uncommon in a situation like this. My department communicates back and forth and we have a great relationship and that's an important element of response and everything else, between the Suffolk County Police Department, FRES, our volunteer services. We've had drills together, our people know each other and that's very important in a time that something happens.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Commissioner Williams, is it unusual for us to get a grant through New York City?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

It's not a grant from New York City. What it was, as the Urban Area Work Group, we received a grant as a region, for interoperability. So not only did we -- it went through New York City instead of individual counties, and what happened is we received some radios, Nassau County, Westchester County, New York City, that type of thing. So it was just a little bit different, instead of a direct grant to the County, what happens is we all got an equal share and our people were represented on our committee.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I wanted to ask you, I had the opportunity to tour a Homeland Security Center in Nassau County, the Ken Morelli Center; I have a relative that does Homeland Security, and Nassau County has an office there, as does Congressmen and Senators and I think New York City. At that time, we weren't -- as I was informed, we weren't actively involved; are we looking towards coordinating with them?

CHIEF WHITE:

Oh, yeah, and we are actively involved in coordinating with them. We don't have anybody assigned physically to the center. I was actually on the initial working group, the small group that worked with Ken to develop that center probably about 2004, 2003, and it finally came to fruition. So I've been involved in it, you know, from its inception all the way through to its creation.

Numerous law enforcement agencies are looking to put people in there full-time to have liaisons out on Long Island, the MTA Police I know are one, even the FBI is looking to move some people in there and some other agencies. It's a great state-of-the-art communications technology center, it's unbelievable, and we're already going to benefit from that. We're going to benefit from that because, number one, they've offered it, and I know -- and maybe you want to talk about it, Commissioner -- as a secondary emergency operations center if we have a problem here in the County for use for a limited basis.

And from a law enforcement end, we're using it for training already and we're going to have an exercise in there in June that Inspector Cameron is planning. So we're working with them extremely closely. Rich {Rotans}, who runs the center, is actively -- as a matter of fact, he asked me, and I agreed, to serve on their advisory board just last week.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Excellent. And my next question was going to be about practice sessions and scenarios, that we are involved in doing that.

CHIEF WHITE:

Yes, we are. You know, I think we have the most -- and according to Homeland Security, when I speak to them -- the most aggressive exercise schedule in the State. I printed it out before I came here today, we've done 70 exercises since 2002 of various sizes, from games like war game type of activities through table-top exercises, functional exercises and full-scale exercises with every conceivable scenario and we keep increasing the complexity. And those are joint, again, with OEM and FRES.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

If I can just add to that. Like the Chief had mentioned, when they were constructing that building, we worked with them. And right now, at no cost to us or the County, what they did is when they were building, we have a room designated to us that's being used for another purpose right now, but there's wiring in the walls, our radio antennas are on the roof, that if we ever had to move our Emergency Operations Center in Yaphank for some reason, we could set up shop right there, again, at their facility and that was the agreement we made. And again, at no cost to us, the center actually paid for all of that.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Excellent. Thank you. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, I was going to echo, Mr. Chair. I had an opportunity to tour the facility as well and it is astounding, I guess, the degrees of security as you move towards the center of the building. I believe when you get in that room in the middle, it has security associated with it that's the equivalent to what the President of the United States travels with. So I'm very pleased to hear that we're collaborating with them and partnering. It seems to me that -- and again, you gentlemen are the experts here, but if we have to confront some type of a Homeland Security issue, it's got implications for us throughout the Island. I guess terrorists don't stop at, you know, County borders.

I had a question, too, Mr. Chair, but I guess it's not just directly on our Homeland Security issue. I know we have a couple of resolutions in front of us, one of them involves the Computer Assisted Dispatch, but perhaps maybe that's more appropriate when we get to the resolution itself. I didn't know if that was part and parcel of the presentation here.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Any other questions? Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

I just wanted to say thank you for coming here today. Coming from my military background and hearing all the scenarios and things that you guys have done over the years, it brings back flashbacks to my time in the military. But certainly a great deal of reassurance that our guys and gals are trained to highly efficient levels and you guys are doing the best to protect us here on Long Island and Suffolk County and I help coordinate the efforts in New York State. So I congratulate you for your efforts and thank you for your service.

CHIEF WHITE:

Thank you, Legislator. We do pride ourselves on the training program that we have, and that's mostly based on the man to my left, Inspector Cameron.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

I'd like to say a thank you also. You know, I've contacted your office on several occasions and, you know, you guys are phenomenal. But I kind of wanted to ask you a question, I guess it's based on life experience where I grew up and the recent incident in Patchogue.

I'm just curious what your standard operating procedure is if there is an explosion -- not an explosion, if there's a bomb scare on, say, Main Street in Patchogue, what would your standard operating procedure be? Not -- more on the public safety issue as far as people, and how far do you cordon off the street, you know, and what do you do with the surrounding buildings? Can you speak on that? And actually, there was a few things that I saw when I was watching the city on TV and I said to my husband, "If that was at home, you wouldn't see some of those things." You know, there was people very close, I thought that they should have been further away. So I'm just curious what your procedure is.

CHIEF WHITE:

Well, if you don't mind, I'll defer to Inspector Cameron on that, on the details. And we won't talk distances here, I'll be glad to talk to you about that, you know, if you want to contact me afterwards. But we have well established procedures in place to handle these and we handle them frequently. The Patchogue incident I think you're referring to, is that Bryant Neal Vinas, the person -- you're talking about the Patchogue bomb incident where we had --

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, that was the bomb scare with the guy by the theatre.

CHIEF WHITE:

Oh, the bomb scare, okay. Bryant Neal Vinas was the person who was arrested on Federal charges, he was going to potentially blow up a train and were involved in that investigation, I misunderstood. So if you wouldn't mind, I'll just give this to Inspector Cameron and let him brief you on how that gets handled.

INSPECTOR CAMERON:

Good morning. We have a very well established Bomb Squad -- in fact, it's the second largest in New York State -- and we received from the Office of Bombing Prevention a Type I rating, which is very unusual. And one of the reasons we received that rating is through the composition of our Emergency Services Section. What they're looking for in order to acquire a Type I rating is that you have coordination with hazardous materials and the SWAT team, and in fact our Emergency Service Section is a hazardous materials team, a SWAT team and a Bomb Squad. So that enabled us, among other things, to get that Type I rating.

But in response to your specific question, when we get a bomb threat with a device, in the case in Patchogue, it's treated much differently, as you would expect, than just a bomb call where we have no suspicious items. The Bomb Squad responds, and as Chief White alluded to, we have a standard minimum evacuation distance that we impose. But once the Bomb Squad gets on-scene and evaluates what they have, they will obviously impose a different evacuation distance based on, among other things, the size of the package or the size of the potential device, so they will remove, cordon back accordingly. And then we have equipment to assess the device and, if necessary, render it safe.

In addition to that, whenever we have a bomb threat, we bring in our K-9 explosive-detection dogs and we're looking for secondary devices, because that's what we're seeing overseas and that's what we expect to see here, that there would be secondary devices. So we're screening areas where we set up our command post, where we set up our triage areas for the fire department and for emergency medical services to make sure that there's nothing threatening there to them as well.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you. It's just, you know, even today, I'll see an unattended bag somewhere, you know, somebody will leave a bag and walk away. I was at the airport not too long ago and I was shocked that this man got upset, he walked away from his bag, and I looked at one of the attendants and then he said to the gentleman, "I'm sorry, you can't leave your bag there," and he got all upset about it. And I said, you know, people just still don't get it, it's not okay to leave your bag. And this is in the airport. But I don't know what it is, everybody has this feeling of safety and I think that they really need to be more in tune with, you know, you just can't leave a bag unattended, and if you see an unattended bag you should say something. So I do have concerns still that the general public are not taking things as seriously as they should be.

CHIEF WHITE:

We share your concern sometimes, but we do preach, you know, vigilance on their part, going on with your normal life, which is really important, and vigilance and every chance we get, we do preach that.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Since Legislator Browning brought up Patchogue, and I've asked the Commissioner about this, but I'll -- now that I have you three guys here, I'll ask you and then you can tell me if it's an out-of-line request.

We had a bomb scare, the one with the fake hand grenade by the library, and then a week later across the street, the guy going into the theatre. I've asked the Commissioner that if an incident like that happens, could I get a phone call? I'll pay for the phone call.

*(*Laughter*)*

But I get like 10 or 12 phone calls at home from people in the community that know me, I live there, and then I get questions from other people. I mean, I know it's getting old, but three days later when I read in Newsday what happened, I thought it was great, the response, but I really -- I would like to make it sound like at least I know what's going on in the 7th Legislative District.

So that I'm going -- I guess I'm going to put on the record here, I'm asking you, I don't want all information, but if you just said, "This is what's happening, we're on it." Then when I get phone calls I can say, "Look, as always, the Suffolk County Police Department is taking care of the problem." But I just get that sense of -- you know, in school we used to say, "Duh"; I hate that feeling. Is this an inappropriate request?

CHIEF WHITE:

Well, it's not an inappropriate request, we all want information as much as we possibly can get as soon as we possibly can get it. Unfortunately, you know, an incident like that, you know, the priorities, as Commanders in those incidents and as the people handling those incidents, to resolve the incident and get people who are actively involved or can be involved in resolving the incident engaged. And there's really very little thought, at that point of time --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Right.

CHIEF WHITE:

-- of trying to get information other than through a public information office.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

How about if I ask you to do this. After you call the County Executive, call the Legislator in the district. Because I've got a sense that he probably knew before I did; maybe I'm wrong, but I've got a sense.

CHIEF WHITE:

Well, you know, the Police Department is a semi-military organization. I never call the County Executive, I talk to my Chief --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, that's why I asked the Commissioner originally.

CHIEF WHITE:

-- who talks to his --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

But now I've got you guys here and I'm just -- because it didn't filter down, obviously, so maybe you could filter it up.

CHIEF WHITE:

Well, I have Chief Moore here, so I'll ask that he filter it up.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay.

*(*Laughter*)*

CHIEF WHITE:

But the public information piece may be a place where when it's getting to the point where it's getting released out, that people can get notified.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah. I mean, you know what? I just don't want to make a private deal with Rick Brand to have him call me every time, you know?

*(*Laughter*)*

You know, I just don't want to get to that point where I have to do that. So anything you can do I'd appreciate. And I don't know if the other Legislators feel that way, but we could figure it out.

Any other questions? Thanks, guys. You were great. As always, we feel secure. All right, let's got to the agenda, then.

Tabled Resolutions

I have Tabled Resolution ***IR 1029-10 - Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Charter Law to provide fixed terms for public safety appointments (Cooper)***. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

LEG. KENNEDY:

Opposed.

LEG. CILMI:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Two opposed. Any abstentions? Three yes? Okay, it's *approved* (*VOTE: 3-2-0-0 Opposed: Legislators Kennedy & Cimi*).

IR 1231 --

LEG. COOPER:

Boy, that was fast. I didn't get to say anything.

LEG. BROWNING:

The sponsor wanted to say something.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, I'm sorry.

LEG. COOPER:

No, I was just saying, boy, that was fast, I didn't get to say anything. But thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

You have -- this is the old --

LEG. COOPER:

I'll save my comments for Tuesday.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

There you go.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, you might need them.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

All right. *IR 1231-10 - Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law requiring owners of private residential communities to ensure emergency access to roads after snowfall (Romaine)*.

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator --

MR. NOLAN:

No, Public Hearing.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

Oh, I thought that was closed.

MR. NOLAN:

No.

LEG. BROWNING:

My mistake, sorry. Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Browning, motion to table for Public Hearing. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).***

IR 1334-10 - Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law to strengthen the County's Crack House statute (Browning).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).***

IR 1371-10 - Removing Richard Dormer as Commissioner of the Suffolk County Police Department (Cooper).

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll make a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to table by Legislator Browning.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? One opposed. Abstentions?

MS. MAHONEY:

Who is opposed?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Me. ***Tabled (VOTE: 5-1-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay - Opposed: Legislator Eddington).***

Introductory Resolutions

IR 1390-10 - Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law to prohibit cyber-bullying in Suffolk County (Cooper). This has to be tabled for Public Hearing; I'll make that motion.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Tabled VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).***

IR 1407-10 - Achieving cost savings through effective use of light-duty police officers (Presiding Officer Lindsay). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Gregory. Mr. Zwirn would like to make a statement.

MR. ZWIRN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last night a memo was sent out to the members of the Legislature. The WHEREAS clauses in here are in agreement with the philosophy and the policy of the County Exec and the Police Department. The question with light-duty officers is actually implementing this, because you never know when you're going to have a light-duty officer. And if there's a civilian already in that position, how is this going to work? There's just trouble with implementation.

We understand the policy behind it, you want to get light-duty officers in and working, especially if you can free up, you know, line officers. Together with the Legislature, the Police Athletic League is now staffed not with line officers but with light-duty officers, so that -- we're in compliance with that. It's just that they're -- the first RESOLVED clause we have no problem, but the second and third, they're problematic with respect to actually trying to get it done, to implement this procedure, because we just don't know -- we don't know if we're going to have how many long-term light-duty officers you're going to have to be in a position. Once you civilianize a position and somebody is trained, do you now pull that person out? It's just a question of implementation and running the department efficiently.

We understand the philosophy behind it, we agree that we want to get light-duty officers working and freeing up Police Officers to do their job on the streets. It's just a question of actually the pragmatic part of it. And there's a memo that Trish Saunders did who works in the Budget Office that was distributed last night, and you may not have seen it if you hadn't checked your e-mails earlier this morning. But I have a copy with me and I can --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

What was that, a 4:59 memo?

MR. ZWIRN:

No, 6:30 I think it went out.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, 6:30; oh, okay.

MR. ZWIRN:

That's why I'm saying, you might not have seen it. I know I spoke to some Legislators this morning who had not looked at it yet and didn't notice that it had come through last night.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, so let me ask you a question. If this bill passes and it's very difficult to implement, you can come back to us and tell us that; correct? If we don't pass it, it's over, you won't even try.

MR. ZWIRN:

No. I think, in essence, we are trying to do what the philosophy behind this bill is suggesting, is that to make better use and full use of light-duty officers. We're just pointing out that no matter how well-intentioned -- we agree with the intention of the bill, but we just don't know if in the form that this bill is in now, that it actually can be implemented in a pragmatic way; that's our only concern.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Gotcha. Presiding Officer?

P.O. LINDSAY:

I just saw the memo, Ben, and I'm not -- in all due respect to you, I take exception with some of the statements in the memo. It says here that the second and third RESOLVED clauses do not create solutions, that, "They will stymie the efficient use of resources and will unnecessarily hamper the carefully applied civilianization process." I'll be truthful with you guys, I don't think your civilianization process has been carefully crafted. When we went through the thing with PAL, you had already hired civilians to replace the Police Officers without even looking at the light-duty people.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

No, I don't believe that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

My intent is not to stymie the Police Department. I mean, I would be willing to table this and try and come to an agreement on some kind of language. But I know when I guess it was last meeting or the meeting before, we were presented with many, many positions that the intent is to civilianize at a savings of like \$4 million, and I believe some of them was the precinct desks, right? And if we have a light-duty officer, I just -- I just think that's a much more appropriate use of him to sit behind that precinct desk or the guy in the pistol range. If we have -- if we have light-duty officers available, I would rather use them in those Police functions because I think they'll do a much better job because of their training. They might not be able to physically perform patrol, but they're certainly a sworn officer that went through all the training. And I think ultimately it will save us money, just like the PAL program saved us money, it took a while to get that into everybody's head. If we have a light-duty officer that is home or whatever, because we don't have a light-duty assignment for him, it's better that we use him because he's on the payroll already than hire somebody new, regardless of the cost. You know?

MR. ZWIRN:

I don't think anybody would quarrel with anything that you just said. Perhaps if we could sit down and go over the positions that have been targeted for civilianization and maybe perhaps identify ones that you believe could be better served by light-duty officers. And then we can --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, I don't know whether that's my role. I don't know whether that's my role. What I'm simply trying to do with this bill is that we take a hard look at the inventory of light-duty officers that we have and use them appropriately before we go out and hire civilians. Because, you know, and I've said this many, many times, you know, we're in the fifth year of civilianizing different positions in the Police Department, but yet the civilian population in the Police Department is only up one. And so I don't know how we do this, you know. I don't -- it still is an amazing mathematical game with me and I don't know. But I'll be happy to take any suggestions. I'll make a motion to table and try and work out something that could be agreeable to myself and the administration.

MR. ZWIRN:

I agree. I agree with everything you've said. And I think what we have tried to do is to put light-duty officers in the precincts, behind the desks. But part of the problem is that we don't know if somebody is going to be long-term, short-term. Their status changes when they're on light-duty, they get better, their health deteriorates, it can change, so it's sort of an in-flux.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. But is there any great -- I mean, a Police Officer should have the training to sit behind a desk regardless of where he's coming from within the department. Whereas if we put a civilian there, somebody has to give him some training on what to do and give him some insight into how to handle a complaint and Penal Laws and, I don't know, everything that would be involved in that, which I would think that our Police Officers are already trained for. So even if that position behind a desk, you know, rotates, you know, one light-duty officer is able to go back to full-duty but somebody else gets hurt, why can't he sit in that seat for a while, you know?

MR. ZWIRN:

That's what I meant, maybe we could identify some of those positions that clearly could be utilized by light-duty officers, and others where they can be civilians they should stay civilianized. But we agree in concept a hundred percent.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Then the Presiding Officer made a motion to table, I'll second that. We have two motions on the table right now, and Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I applaud the Presiding Officer bringing this measure forward. The use of our light-duty personnel, I think, should be put to its greatest opportunity within the department, particularly as we are in an environment of ever-dwindling numbers. I have continued to speak each time our committee convenes that we have an on-board force now down to 1,530; I've heard that patrol numbers are down to about 1,100. But what I like to try to do when I look at these issues is I like to try to go to some of the concretes. How many light-duty officers are there in the department right now?

MR. ZWIRN:

I think in the memo it stated, and Chief Moore maybe can correct me, I think it said there were about 70.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Do we -- is Chief Moore here? Does anybody from the department know that number? I'm sorry, Mr. Chair. Through the Chair, could I ask if Chief Moore --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Absolutely.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you.

CHIEF MOORE:

I've just been handed a copy of the resolution, I haven't seen it before and I haven't had an opportunity to examine it. And I haven't seen the memo either, so you have me at a great disadvantage. I can say that --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, I only have half of it, Chief, because I see an e-mail here, and actually it was around 6:25, so I'm working with 50% of it. Maybe I'm half a leg up on you, but I don't know. Go ahead.

MR. ZWIRN:

I stand corrected. The number of -- up to 70 limited-duty officers can be utilized to staff precinct desks.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, let me, if I can, Ben, start with the first one that I asked, and I want a qualification on light-duty officers. The first question I'll ask is how many light-duty officers do we have on board in the department today?

CHIEF MOORE:

At this moment --

MR. ZWIRN:

I'll have to get that number for you, Legislator Kennedy. I don't have that number in front of me.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So we don't know; we think it might be 70.

MR. ZWIRN:

No, no, the number 70 in the memo refers to the number of desk positions in the precincts that can be staffed by light-duty officers.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oh, but we're still trying to figure out how many we have on light-duty.

MR. ZWIRN:

I don't know the answer. I said I would get that answer for you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Well, light-duty is something that I've had occasion to see and to look at. I'm somewhat familiar with Section 207 which goes towards the extended sick time. But light-duty is a term that's bandied around sometimes from a functional perspective, but I know it also has other types of meaning within the department. What actually constitutes light-duty?

MR. ZWIRN:

In the memo, Legislator Kennedy, I don't know if you saw it. I mean, it went out last night, so you might not have seen the memo, I'll make a copy available for you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And I'll tell you right now; no, I haven't read that memo. So that's why I want to ask the Chief who's conversant with New York State Law, and in particular law enforcement law and Civil Service Law as it applies to unformed personnel; what does the term light-duty mean?

CHIEF MOORE:

A light-duty officer is generally an officer who has been injured during the course of his or her job performance. And the individual is seen by a doctor and the doctor --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Who's doctor, Chief; their doctor or our doctor?

CHIEF MOORE:

Our doctor.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Our doctor, okay.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah, we have a Police Surgeon section.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

CHIEF MOORE:

And of course, you know, the officer often has his or her own doctor as well. Often the Police Department's doctor is in the position where he or she is reviewing the information provided by the officer's doctor. But at any rate, the officer is cleared to perform duty but not full duty.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

CHIEF MOORE:

So the Police Department wouldn't be comfortable having that officer out in the field where confrontation is just always a possibility.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Absolutely.

CHIEF MOORE:

Now, having said that, different light-duty officers, you know, light-duty is not a defined term in that there are a number of injuries an officer may have that may qualify that officer for one position but not for another position. For example, if an officer is light-duty, he or she may be able to answer a phone and sit in a chair for 30 minutes, 40 minutes an hour, but he or she may not be capable of doing any lifting. So that would define the parameters of where that officer can be placed.

LEG. KENNEDY:

When you look at the realm of assignments that you have with the total number of personnel before you, and then you have to make the decision as far as this individual can perform the full gamut of policing functions or, no, we need to put him down into light-duty. How do you -- how do we quantify the numbers that qualify for that title light-duty and where does that take us between the full realm of policing and that subcategory light-duty?

CHIEF MOORE:

Well, that number changes dramatically and constantly. There was an unfortunate incident in the 2nd Precinct last evening and an officer was punched. Now, depending on the degree of injury, that officer may return to work the next day, the officer may return to work within a week, or the officer may be permanently injured; not to the degree that he or she can't perform in any capacity, but certainly may not be able to perform in a full-duty function.

When the Police Department itself, definition aside, the light-duty officers that we focus on are those light-duty officers who are long-term light-duty. These are officers that we pretty much know from the officer's statements and from the examination of the doctors suggests that it's going to be a very long time, months to years before this officer is capable to perform in a full-duty function.

Now, those are the light-duty officers that we're comfortable placing into positions where, you know, the officer is going to be there for quite some time. And even though, as someone stated, the officer has the same basic information and knowledge, sometimes the nature of the position requires additional knowledge and experience, and we try to match the light-duty officer. And PAL is one example, the light-duty officers assigned to PAL are long-term, light-duty officers. I think that anyone would agree that part of the benefit of PAL is the relationship that the officers develop with the children and with the coaches.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No doubt. No doubt.

CHIEF MOORE:

And to constantly be rotating officers in and out of PAL may not be in the best interest of the program. So in a case like PAL, the light-duty officers would be officers that we're pretty confident are going to be there for quite sometime.

On the other hand, as someone may have stated, desk duty, every Police Officer early on, when he or she began their careers, spent an awful lot of time on the desk. Why? Because the more senior officers prefer patrol. So every officer, at one point or another in his or her career, has been on the precinct desk, so there's a position that we'd be a little more comfortable. Yes, you know, knowing the area and that sort of thing are factors, but an officer can step into that position pretty quickly. And now the only question would be, you know, can you guarantee that you're always going to have a light-duty officer available for that particular position, and that's a question we can't answer

because we just can't determine how many officers at any given time are going to be on light-duty, it's a number that's in a constant state of flux.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, I appreciate that. I've had some conversations and I think you may have upwards of 90 officers at this point that are light-duty officers. Mr. Zwirn spoke about 70 desk functions, I guess you look at seven precincts and you look at a couple of folks on the desk and you rotate it, maybe you come to 70. But that's not so much my point. My point is to just to try to look at some of the actuals, the metrics.

I'm going to yield to the Chair, but the other thing, and I guess I need to have this conversation with you maybe off-line. When we talk about an officer that's on light-duty for months, certainly that's understandable, it's in the nature of the work and absolutely, positively we should be making -- I don't want to say accommodations, but we should be facilitating our sworn young men and women. If you speak to me about an officer that's on light-duty for years, then the next thing in the back of my head starts to talk about disability retirement.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Which we have within our statutes, protect our men and women who have been injured and who, for whatever reason, are never going to be able to return to the full role of a Police Officer. So I think I would need to know a little bit more as to what the dynamics are going on there as well.

Look, the ultimate goal here I think is to keep as many sworn officers using their full skill-sets and all of the functions. And conversely, when civilianization is appropriate, we should be looking at it. To this day, I don't think you have a function in the academy for keypunching or typing. You may have many officers that are fast on a keyboard, but when it comes to data-entry, I'll tell you, I've had great experience working with Clerk Typists who can enter data like a cracker jack, and there I would be saying I wonder why we may be having our sworns entering data sometimes; I question, you know, the productivity of that.

I've gone far afield but, you know, I'll yield to the sponsor, to the Presiding Officer's motion to table. I'd be very interested in the total number of light-duty at this point, and some understanding of what it is in that pool of numbers as far as what we have. Is an average light-duty three months, is an average light-duty three years? That's important as we look at it. Thank you. I'll yield, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much. Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, I would like BRO, John, if you could respond to the number of vacant civilian positions. And I'm just curious, are any of those -- I mean, clearly there's quite a few of them and many of them could probably be filled by light-duty officers. Do you have the number of how many are on light-duty at this time?

MR. ORTIZ:

I do not. I did request that from the department, but I was asked to put it in writing. Currently there's 157 vacant civilian positions and I think about 18 of them were funded in the Operating Budget that have not been filled.

LEG. BROWNING:

How many?

MR. ORTIZ:

Eighteen.

LEG. BROWNING:

Eighteen? And there's 157. Are some of those positions that were originally Police Officers that were turned in to civilian positions during the time the County Executive was doing the civilianization?

MR. ORTIZ:

Well, every year the process is some sworn positions are earmarked as civilians and some civilian positions are earmarked back to Police Officers. So there hasn't been a dramatic increase or a decrease in civilianization positions. There was -- a few years ago the early retirement program eliminated quite a few of the civilians that were on staff.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. And I guess we'll ask for you on the record, we would like for John Ortiz to receive that number of officers that are on light-duty at this time.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

John, could I ask you when you made that request?

MR. ORTIZ:

I had called the Chief of Support Services, Chief Weber, and I had a litany of other information I was looking for and he said, "Just put it in a memo and send it out," and that was last week.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, okay. All right. Thank you very much.

All right. Well, we have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, **1407 is tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1434-10 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Welfare Fraud Investigation with 83.37% support (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1440-10 - Authorizing acceptance of public safety radio equipment for use by the Suffolk County Police Department and Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services in connection with the Regional Internet Protocol Gateway and Radio Cache Program (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Seconded by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

1442-10 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$5,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and welfare fraud investigation with 83.36% support (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. GREGORY:
Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:
Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1444-10 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$16,903 from the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the Tactical Diversion Task Force FY2010 with 83.37% support (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. GREGORY:
Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:
Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1445-10 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$16,903 from the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the Safe Streets Task Force FY2010 with 83.37% support (County Executive). I'll make a motion.

LEG. GREGORY:
Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:
Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1446-10 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$16,900 from the United States Department of Justice, Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF), for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in OCDETF Operations and Investigations with 83.37% support (County Executive).
I'll make a motion.

LEG. GREGORY:
Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:
Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1447-10 - Accepting and appropriating \$7,794 in sub-granted funds from the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc., for the Wyandanch Weed and Seed Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice with 83.2% support.

LEG. GREGORY:
Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion by Legislator Gregory. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1452-10 - Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law prohibiting demonstrations at funeral services in the County of Suffolk (Stern).

I'll make a motion to table for Public Hearing.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1475-10 - Approving the donation of one vehicle from the United States Marshal for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1476-10 - Accepting and appropriating additional Federal pass-through funding in the amount of \$63,450 from the New York City Police Department in conjunction with the Federally Sponsored Securing the Cities Program with 100% support (County Executive).

I'll make a motion to approve and put on Consent Calendar.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved and placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1477-10 - Approving an increase in fleet for the Suffolk County Police Department's Office of the Chief of Patrol (County Executive). A new car for the Chief? I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

The cars on reserve that are sitting there?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I have a question from Legislator Browning; is that one of the cars that we have on reserve that's sitting in the --

LEG. BROWNING:

There's a whole slew of them in Yaphank.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah, in Yaphank; would anybody know that?

MR. NOLAN:

Undercover; it's two undercover vehicles.

LEG. BROWNING:

Oh, okay. Forget it. Forget it.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, we've got the answer here. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, **approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).**

IR 1501-10 - Authorizing execution of Memoranda of Agreement with AT&T, Global Crossing Limited, Reliance Globalcom and Level 3 Communications, LLC in connection with the Homeland Security Buffer Zone Protection Program (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Gregory.

LEG. KENNEDY:

On the motion, Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

On the motion, Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Does this resolution just give us access to private communication towers? Reading the resolution, I'm a little uncertain.

MR. BROWN:

Good morning, Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good morning.

MR. BROWN:

No, this resolution was for approval of a Memorandum of Agreement to implement a Homeland Security Grant which was accepted and appropriated in 2008 for a hardening of sites relating to certain communication facilities, and those facilities are the ones that are identified in the title of the resolution. So this resolution, the subrecipients are these communication companies and we've entered into an agreement where the Police Department will procure, pursuant to this Homeland Security Grant, the equipment needed to harden these communication sites.

LEG. KENNEDY:

But whose sites are they; are they our sites? I don't want a specific on this, obviously, I'm not looking for --

MR. BROWN:

The sites of the communications companies.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So it will be us enhancing our access on private or commercially-owned towers. I see the Chief in the back nodding his head. I'm trying, Chief, I'm dying here, trying to understand this one; help me out.

*(*Laughter*)*

And as I said, I don't want to know any location, I don't want to know any community, I'm just trying to grab the concept.

CHIEF WHITE:

Yeah, the Buffer Zone Protection Program, this is one of numerous sites that we've been working with for quite some time now. The Federal government selects sites that are critical to the safety of a region, to the continuing operations of a region and sometimes throughout the region or throughout the country and it provides funding for that Buffer Zone Protection Program to the local agency to do a threat and site assessment for those sites, and we do that in conjunction with them and with FRES. And there are determinations made based on -- and survey instrument as to what kind of security improvements they need. And the Federal government, based on that document, will fund those improvements, but they're only funded as a pass-thru through the local law enforcement agency. So this is a pass-thru where we do the purchases to upgrade their sites. And we also sometimes, and you've seen resolutions in the past, will purchase equipment if we have a gap regarding that site to increase our capability.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And are they all working collaboratively with you, Chief? Do you have good access with the providers?

CHIEF WHITE:

Yes, we have total access. And we meet with them and that's why we sign these agreements, and we've done this on numerous sites in the past.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. That's fine. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I have motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).***

IR 1507-10 - Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law increasing the accountability of schools on bullying behavior (Cooper).

I'll make a motion to table for Public Hearing.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).***

IR 1508-10 - Amending the 2010 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) replacement and integration with existing Fire Rescue CAD (CP 3240). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm going to make a motion to table, Mr. Chair, just because -- not that I have an issue with the concept or the project. I've got a concern with one of the offsets, and if we could just speak to the

Exec's Office or whomever.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Ben?

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm sorry, Mr. Chair. We didn't get seconds. I didn't mean to invite the folks to the table yet.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

You opened the bag, man, they're out. Yes?

MR. ZWIRN:

You know, the only thing is that I'm advised that this is a time-is-of-the-essence on this. So if we can get this to the floor, and then if there's a question about an offset between now and Tuesday. We can talk to Legislator Kennedy. And if we have to amend it or do a Certificate of Necessity at Tuesday's meeting, maybe we can be accommodated that way.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, let me go specifically, then, to my concern. My concern is that we are removing 100,000 for the replacement of the Hauppauge tower which hosts not only communications for some of our own County agencies, I understand that we have the FBI on that tower, our Hauppauge Fire Department utilizes that tower. I know that we have had a prior assessment that that tower, which has been in existence for the better part of 30 years, is degrading and actually was identified as a high priority for replacement and upgrade.

So once again, we're put in the position where I don't want to have to pick between the lesser of two evils, Ben; both are important.

MR. ZWIRN:

If I might. I've been advised that when they reviewed the tower, it was in better shape than they originally thought and they don't have to replace it, but I would make the engineering study available to Legislator Kennedy so you can see that for yourself.

If we can get this to the floor, we'll have an opportunity the next couple of days to talk about the Hauppauge tower and that particular offset, but I'm told that this really has to go forward as fast as possible. And if we -- if you're not satisfied, we have an opportunity to talk within the next couple of days.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, again, I don't want to hold up the initiative. I will say that, you know, time may be of the essence with Computer-Assisted Dispatch, but I also know that it's something that's been under way for the better part of four-plus years in our County. And as a matter of fact, Commack Volunteer Ambulance Corps to this day remains one of the sole community sites that's actually continued to operate as a test site with an investment on the part of the department in excess of \$40,000 and we have never had robust or system-wide implementation. So I'm a little mystified by why we're looking at time-is-of-the-essence now when we've had multiple millions of dollars through State grants.

I see Commissioner Williams putting his hand up, too. Again, Mr. Chair, I just -- I don't want to impede the project, but I'm having a difficult time reconciling, you know, the sense of urgency when I've just laid out what the facts are, at least in my district.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah, I guess that this comes back to my theme of it's not what you do it's how you do it. If you had reached out to the Legislator with the information prior to this, it would be a non-issue, in my estimation, because the explanation would have already taken place and Legislator Kennedy would

see the significance. But if you wait until when you come to us and say, "It's immediate, we've got to make a decision," this is what's going to continually happen, at least in the this committee.

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, I think sometimes what you say is true, but we didn't know --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Hopefully sometimes:

*(*Laughter*)*

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, with respect to timing, and other times we don't anticipate that there's going to be any problem, because the bills are filed in a timely manner. We did not realize that Legislator Kennedy would have an issue with the particular offset. And on the other hand, the phones work two ways, we could have gotten a phone call earlier, too. But that doesn't matter, we --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair, I will say that I did not reach out to raise this. As a matter of fact, I recall that there's been previous discussion even when our Capital Program was adopted and I sat in and heard about the fact that at the time the assessment was done 12 to 18 months ago, that there was serious concern about the physical structure and the fact that it had sustained a lot of pitting, rust and was deteriorating.

I also took it upon myself, then, to speak with entities in my community; Mr. Barz you just saw here, fully familiar with the communications operations in Hauppauge Fire Department. And I also became aware that we had Federal agencies, not only the FBI, the U.S. Marshal Service, a number of other entities. That is one of the highest points that we have in Suffolk County, it's strategically located adjacent to the Expressway. So much like the memo that just came out on the other resolution some time last night, you know, Ben, I have to tell you, folks know Hauppauge and they know it's right here, that's me. So you've got to figure there's going to be some question I'm going to have.

MR. ZWIRN:

My comment was not to be confrontational.

LEG. KENNEDY:

That's okay.

MR. ZWIRN:

I mean, your questions are absolutely legitimate, I have no problem. But I think we'll be able to satisfy your concerns. And I would ask that it be discharged without recommendation, just get it to the floor so that we have an opportunity to have this conversation, which we might have had earlier but we still have an opportunity to have.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, then can we just go -- and again, it's the rule of the committee where they choose to go with this. But through the Chair, can Commissioner Williams tell us why things have changed in 48 months to take what was an initiative that admittedly went through many trials and tribulations. I heard we had --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

This is the PC Richards tower there?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, just so I know where we're talking about. All right.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. Yes, Commissioner Williams.

MR. ZWIRN:

Can the Police Department respond? Because it's more of a Police situation than FRES.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, could we have them both?

MR. ZWIRN:

At your pleasure, sir.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, well, thank you. All right, then we'll go with Commissioner Williams and then Deputy Inspector.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

If I could just have the Inspector speak to the tower. I can speak to the -- what we need to do at Fire Rescue.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR BERGOLD:

Good morning. Just regarding the tower, I had the opportunity to sit in on the meetings with the engineers. I was previously the Commanding Officer of the Communications and Records Bureau which oversees the towers and Technical Services Section for the Police Department.

Originally we were told that the towers were in far worse shape than they ended up being in, which led to the emergency capital request and the need for the funding. When we had the engineers go out and do the site survey and evaluate the towers, it was found that they need significantly less repairs than originally thought, than we originally anticipated. There was nothing structural that was going to cause the towers to come down. The sense of urgency was completely removed regarding all the towers that we asked them to evaluate, so that kind of put the powers on the back burner.

Regarding the CAD system, and a significant portion of this resolution pertains to the Police Department CAD system, the sense of urgency is that our present CAD system, which is 14 years old and is built on language that was popular back in the 1970's, is presently supported by just one member of our IT Section. There's only one member of the department that can upgrade the system, make changes to it. When it crashes, he's the only person who has the ability to make major repairs to that, and he is nearing or in the near future he may be looking at retirement. Coupled with that is the fact that in March of 2011, our licenses for the present CAD system mainframes will be expiring. The only way we can implement a new CAD system is over a period of months, they have to come in, build a system to meet the needs of Suffolk County and implement it and that implementation period was said to be between nine and twelve months to get that done; it can be accelerated somewhat, but not to the point that we can defer.

We'll be pushed into a position where we're going to have to replace the -- renew the licenses on the old mainframes, which is quite costly, it's hundreds of thousands of dollars based on the estimates we received, and then we will have to purchase a new CAD system on top of that. And I'm prepared to discuss the benefits for the Police Department of the new CAD system, many of which relate to

reducing response times, responding to major incidents and storms such as the Northeaster that we faced recently, Homeland Security issues, it will significantly enhance officer safety, and I can provide you with basic details on those enhancements. They're quite resounding and will certainly benefit the residents of Suffolk County greatly.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Inspector, I appreciate that. I guess I'm just going to make one request to you and then I guess one request to Commissioner Williams and not delay the committee.

If the engineers have now come to the opinion that there's more resiliency to the structure, I have to go with the experts and that's fine. You mention that it would require less maintenance improvement or repair than what had previously been determined. But my concern is our Capital Budget amount is being taken to zero; that's not less, that's none. So how do we rectify or remedy what the engineers are saying and what I have before me?

MR. ZWIRN:

I would just say, let's look to the 2011 Capital Budget, and I think the planning money has been moved there. We have an opportunity to deal with the Capital Budget put the money in if there's any additional funds that are necessary going forward.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, that's fine predicated on the fact that, I guess, the two of you have me at the disadvantage, because you've seen what the engineers have said. And if the thing is going to stand, function and operate without compromise to any of the departments that are utilizing it each day, I'm fine with that. Is that what the assessments say?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes. And I say we'll make the report available to you so you can -- you won't be at a disadvantage on Tuesday, if you want to raise the same issues. Hopefully we'll be okay with it then, but we'll have an opportunity to talk between now and then.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I appreciate that and I'll make sure that I read that between now and Tuesday.

Chief, if I can just turn to you then, Commissioner Williams. How will we include Commack Volunteer Ambulance Corps, then, in what Inspector Bergold is proposing which sounds like yet another change, I guess, if you will, regarding CAD. Mr. O'Brien and the folks there have been very diligent, as you know, in testing the usability or the functionality of CAD in a very active, busy ambulance corps that hits in excess of 3,500 calls a year and having done so, I think, very well. Are they going to be included somehow in what this migration or new initiative is?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Yes, Legislator, I can guarantee you -- we have Sayville Community Ambulance, other ambulance companies on that same system. What we're upgrading right now, there will be no change to them; if anything, there will be some more advantages.

What's happening is we're in the process now, and the Police Department is in the process through a Capital Fund of doing our radio rooms over starting in September. We have a CAD system in place now, it's been in place for five years; it's a Version 8 CAD System in FRES right now. Right now our communications back and forth with the CAD system the Police Department has is mostly by paper or by phone. What this new CAD system is going to enable us to do, we're going to a Version No. 9. What this will actually do for us is that this will give us the opportunity, when we get a call from Suffolk County PD through the 911 system, to actually download and have their records, they'll have our records.

This will be better record keeping for us, it will be faster response times. It will not effect our operation that we have in place with any of the ambulance companies outdoor whatsoever. If anything, it will afford the County and us and both departments a better record of tracking calls. We'll have their exact data, they'll have our exact data, they'll know when our fire trucks are responding, they will know when our ambulances are responding, we'll know when the PD is responding, we'll know when they show up at the scene, any new information. If their first Police Officer shows up at a cardiac and the person is not breathing and that comes back to us, we'll know that. What it's going to do is enhance our system.

The problem maybe why there is an urgency to this is that we're on a timeline with the vendor and everybody else. We saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by going together on this and we gave them some dates on which we would complete this by. And naturally, with a company you're working with, they're looking at their dates, too, their pricing and everything else. It's going to be a long, drawn-out affair. At the end of this scenario, we will have a much better system than we have today for both departments, Suffolk County PD and us and for the County and for the people we're serving.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And I'm pleased to hear that, Chief. And I am always in favor of improving the services that we deliver through technological improvements, you know, as we see them. These things change every six months. And so I realize to be reliant on language from the 70's probably reminds me of my days back in Fortron, back when, you know, the dinosaurs stalked the Earth.

So then I'll also just ask you, have you included the PSAPs in this as well? I know that in our Smithtown dispatch, they moved to a proprietary CAD system, something I think you probably know, Red Alert or Red Watch?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Red Alert.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Now, I think that there's been a move sometimes at some of the department levels, knowing the importance and the benefit of this technology, to go out there and procure on their own. Are you attempting to at least bring them in, or will there be a communications ability with some of their own software? Have they been in the mix?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

I can reassure you, right now we have communication with those PSAPs right now, the ones who have CAD systems; we do actually Babylon Central, Smithtown and all. If anything, this is the same vendor; not Red Alert, but we're using the same system. There will be no loss of any type of information going back in the room.

LEG. KENNEDY:

There will be a communications ability between the various types of software.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. That's fine. Based on that, Mr. Chair, I'll withdraw my motion to table. I'll support it, but I do very much want to see this engineering report, and I'll reserve my comments for Tuesday then. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. I would just like to say that I think you're hearing a theme about communications, and I know communications is two-way.

I do know, I can say that I have from our Health Department, and certainly DPW, I will get information on projects on things in my community, because sometimes it's -- I think in this case as an example of where you don't know the questions to ask. So that if that could be considered, I know there's 18 of us, but if there's something happening through the Police Department or something in our community, if we could just be, whether it's e-mailed or a quick phone call. I know we're talking about time, but I think it would eliminate certainly the ten minutes that Legislator Kennedy had to spend here. I mean, my meetings might be much, much shorter and we wouldn't get air time, but I'm willing to give that up. And I will try to be more active in asking questions, but I've got to know what to ask.

MR. ZWIRN:

And we all agree. I think one of the values of the committee system, which a lot of Legislators do not have this kind of system, is this is where a lot of this stuff can be vetted. And if we miss something, we have an opportunity to answer questions or know that we should answer the questions at the General Meeting, so I think there's an advantage to it. In this particular case, we just missed the offset that we thought Legislator Kennedy would have been interested in, it was just an oversight.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Okay, great, then. We have a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Can I ask a question?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, we've got Legislator Browning with a question.

LEG. BROWNING:

Sorry. I'm looking at the Wicks Road Corridor Study and improvements. I was looking through the 2010 Capital Budget, I didn't see it. Can you tell me a little bit about that offset?

MR. ZWIRN:

If I might, Mr. Chair. If we go could get this to the floor. We'll go over all the offsets with the Legislature to make sure that the Legislature is satisfied --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah, good.

MR. ZWIRN:

-- and that their questions are answered.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah.

MR. ZWIRN:

I just don't want to hold this up, but those questions --

LEG. BROWNING:

We don't want to hold this up either, but we want to make sure that the offsets are good offsets.

MR. ZWIRN:

Legislator Browning, I understand and I agree with you. And we'll have that discussion between now and Tuesday, to your satisfaction.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Great. Then we have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. GREGORY:
We have a motion?

MR. NOLAN:
We had a motion.

MS. ORTIZ:
I did not have a motion to approve, only to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:
We didn't have a motion?

LEG. GREGORY:
We had table without a second. We had no motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:
Well, son of a gun. That went through pretty quick; no wonder.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Jack, make a motion to approve. You want me to second?

LEG. CILMI:
I'll second the motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:
Okay. I make a motion to approve, Legislator Cilmi seconds it.
All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, now we can move on. ***Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).***

IR 1509-10 - Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law prohibiting cyberstalking in Suffolk County (Cooper). I'll make a motion to table for Public Hearing.

LEG. GREGORY:
Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:
Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).***

IR 1510-10 - Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law to strengthen citizen protections against sex offenders (Presiding Officer Lindsay).
I'll make a motion to table for Public Hearing.

LEG. GREGORY:
Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:
Second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions. ***Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 Including Presiding Officer Lindsay).***

LEG. KENNEDY:
Mr. Chair, just one request before we adjourn, Mr. Chair. I have one other item, since we do have Chief Moore and the Inspector from Emergency Services.

There is a question about procurement of a new vehicle. You may recall earlier in the year when I was trying to find some furniture, I had run the Emergency Services offset up the flag pole and I was told that it was critical, and as a matter of fact it came upon that some of the vehicles are in

some tough shape. So I was wondering if we're going forward with actually procuring those vehicles.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Does somebody want to answer -- I'm sorry -- Legislator Kennedy or tell us we can get it, or?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Do you know anything about that, Chief? Do we have -- we don't know anything about that. How about the Inspector from ES; any ideas at all? Nothing.

Okay, maybe we can find out next go-around where we're at as far as our inventory. I mean, earlier in the year we were told that a number of those vehicles were, you know, on their last legs and that they were seriously compromised. So as of last week, Public Works has no order for procuring a new vehicle, so I'm just hoping we can get some update. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. And I just --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Could I add to that?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

The other thing that's important about that, even if we can get by with those vehicles for another year, we're going into the Capital Budget cycle; if there is a need to replace that vehicle next year, somebody should tell us now.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No doubt, Mr. Chair. And I'm just wondering if circumstances have changed in the last 60 days.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Browning, you said you had some information just to share?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes, I do. I have -- while we were waiting, I got the number of light duties, John. I can give you the number of light-duty officers, is 86. And my request of, I guess, Chief Moore would be if we could get the information from you about the 86 light-duty officers, where exactly are they working at this time?

CHIEF MOORE:

Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

If they're all on the job, are there any that are light-duty but really not working? So all information you can give us on those 86 light-duties, we'd appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Do you have Newsday on your speed dial?

LEG. BROWNING:

No, it wasn't Newsday.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, okay. All right, just wondering. Wow.

Okay, then. With nothing else on the agenda, I'll adjourn. Thank you very much for your attention and cooperation.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.*

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically