

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 Thursday, June 17, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Presiding Officer Lindsay, Legislative District No. 8
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz, Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature
Robert Calarco, Aide to Legislator Eddington
Bobby Knight, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Jason Richberg, Aide to Legislator Gregory
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Caucus
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Caucus
John Ortiz, Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office
Ed Hennessey, County Executive's Office
Dennis Brown, County Attorney's Office
Joe Williams, Commissioner, Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services
Dot Kerrigan, AME, 4th President
Hope Collazzo, ARC - Community Service Program
Gail D'Ambrosio, President, Probation Officer's Association
Russ McCormick, SDA Sergeant in Arms
Robert Kearon, Division Bureau Chief, District Attorney's Office
Gilda Avram, SCPOA VP
Tracy Pollak, Suffolk County Police Department

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Alison Mahoney, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

(The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

If you would please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Cilmi.

Salutation

If you would remain standing for a moment of silence for all those that serve our country, both domestically and abroad.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you very much. Okay, start the clock. Okay. We have no presentations today and I have no cards. Is there anybody that would like to address the committee? Oh, isn't it a beautiful thing? Okay, then we will go right to the agenda.

(Legislator Muratore entered the meeting)

Tabled Resolutions

IR 1231, A Local Law requiring owners of private residential communities to ensure emergency access to roads after snowfall. (Romaine)

LEG. GREGORY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to table by Legislator Gregory. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***(Vote: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)***

IR 1390, A Local Law to prohibit cyber-bullying in Suffolk County. (Cooper)

Motion by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***(Vote: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)***

IR 1407, Achieving cost savings through effective use of light duty police officers. (Pres. Off.)

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

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Browning. On the motion, Chief?

CHIEF WEBBER:

Yes, good morning. My name is Ed Webber, the Chief of Support Services, and I'm here to offer some suggestions on why we should not pass that resolution.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Go right ahead.

CHIEF WEBBER:

While the number is fluid, there is a finite number of limited duty officers, all of which are currently assigned to some police function as we speak. It's my understanding on May 7th that each of the Legislators were prepared with a list of those officers out at that time, which was 87. There were 58 assigned to desks and the remaining 29 were assigned to multiple other units, such as applicant investigation, PAL, pistol license, etcetera.

If we were to move these present officers to other jobs we would have to backfill them with either full duty officers or hire civilians for where they're presently assigned. And also, it is difficult, these specialized units require training, and if we continually rotate as the officers either recuperate and go back to full duty or have some medical procedures done and they go no duty, we'd have to retrain their replacements on a continual basis so it's highly inefficient.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Let me ask you, this was introduced by the Presiding Officer. Have you met and spoke with the Presiding Officer on this issue?

(Legislator Kennedy entered the meeting)

MR. ZWIRN:

Only when we spoke here at the last meeting when he agreed to table it for a cycle, but we haven't had the opportunity to speak with him personally.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

So it's obviously not a real pressing issue.

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, it's only pressing in the fact that it's hard -- we understand the intent is to make sure that we use light duty officers. I know with the issue with the PAL we agreed to use light duty officers as opposed to retired Police Officers, but I think the Police Department is already making use of light duty officers as the Chief has stated.

The problem is that it's always fluid, you never know how many light duty officers you are going to have or who's going to be returning to full duty, so the numbers are constantly changing. So to put them in civilian positions, you are constantly going to have, as the Chief said, to retrain people as opposed to, you know, leaving somebody who is in a post that can be handled by a civilian. That person is trained, you know that person is there.

They are always going to make use of light duty officers when they can fill them in, but to -- this becomes such an onerous task with micromanaging the department. We understand the intent and we don't disagree. I mean, as the Chief has stated, that all the 87 individuals who are now on light duty have been assigned to different locations, but we have to come back to the Legislature, we have to give lists. I mean, if that's -- you know, it's just very hard when you are running a department of that size --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, and I hear you. Why didn't you make this argument to the Presiding Officer in the last two weeks? That's why we tabled it, right, so you could do that.

MR. ZWIRN:

But I made that argument at the last committee meeting. I'm just reiterating it again, and we have Chief Webber here speaking on it as well. Remember, at the last meeting it was -- we had a presentation, it was a long, long meeting. When this bill came up we passed over it. I'm just saying. The issues are still the same and it will always be the case with this particular type of legislation. Again, we understand the intent, and I think the Police Department is already doing that. This just really becomes an additional task that they will have to perform.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

All right. Well, thank you very much. We have a motion and a second.

LEG. KENNEDY:

What's the motion, Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

A motion to approve.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Fine.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And a second. Okay. Then I have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**. Okay, I imagine you will be talking to the Presiding Officer now.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

IR 1507, A Local Law increasing the accountability of schools on bullying behavior. (Cooper)

I'm going to make a motion table for a public hearing.

LEG. BROWNING:

No --

MR. NOLAN:

It's recessed.

LEG. BROWNING:

Public hearing still?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by, who said that, Legislator Kennedy. Okay.

MR. PERILLIE:

He was going to withdraw it, just hasn't happened.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Whatever will be will be. Table for public hearing, I've got a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1509, A Local Law prohibiting cyberstalking in Suffolk County. (Cooper)

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning. I'll second that.

LEG. CILMI:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

On the motion, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

I would just like to ask Counsel to -- my understanding of this is that it basically takes the cyber bullying law and sort of expands it to include adults; is that correct?

MR. NOLAN:

That is exactly right.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. We have a motion, I believe, and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
(Vote: 5-0-0-0)

IR 1512, A Local Law establishing a Gun Offender Registry in Suffolk County. (Gregory)

LEG. GREGORY:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Gregory. I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1533, Establishing a Suffolk County Emergency Preparedness Coordination Council. (Pres. Off.)

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair, I'm going to make a motion to table on this for one cycle. I had contact from the Smithtown Fire Chiefs Council in which they actually adopted a resolution in opposition to the resolution, and they actually referenced the Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council position. Nevertheless, I would like to take the opportunity to speak to the Presiding Officer. I know he brought this forward because of his concerns about coordination that's going on with our public safety agencies, particularly as to what happened in light of the bombing attempts in Times Square over the holidays. I am not necessarily opposed to it. I'm obligated to bring forward the concerns for the public safety agencies within my legislative district, and so I would respectfully request that we table for one cycle so I have an opportunity to discuss that with the sponsor.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah. Commissioner Williams, could you come forward, please? Yes, could you give us some feedback on this?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

I'm unaware of the concerns of the Smithtown Fire Chiefs right now and I will reach out to them to find out. My own -- my only concerns is what we spoke on at the last meeting with the open law -- Open Meeting Law. If we conduct these meetings, to make them productive, as per this bill they have to be an open meeting. If we're going to open our plans up, which should be non-FOILable, non-reviewable by anybody, we'll be in violation of our own Open Meeting Law that we passed. Those are still my concerns and some of the concerns of some of the people I spoke to.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes?

LEG. KENNEDY:

If I could, through the Chair. Commissioner, thank you. Actually the Chiefs Council meeting that I was at was in St. James, and I believe Deputy Commissioner Searing was there at that meeting as well. I had some brief conversation with him, it was on some other matters, some of our flooding matters and FEMA issues. We didn't necessarily speak about this resolution, but there was -- I had an opportunity to speak to the Chiefs Council, merely soliciting their assessment of the resolution, and after their discourse they adopted a position, actually not a neutral position, but they actually adopted a position in opposition to this resolution. What they predicated it on was a sense or a sentiment, and this was related by the President of the Suffolk County Chiefs Council, and forgive me, I forget the gentleman's name, but his comments basically were that the large majority of what's directed in this resolution is, in fact, occurring already. They also did point out that they noted that the fact that there was no position for the volunteer services, either fire or ambulance, they found, quite frankly I guess, to be of some concern.

Now, I tend to agree with you about the fact that, you know, I'm usually one of the loudest advocates here of public disclosure and sunshine for all. But when we talk about some of the things that would be deliberated in this type of a group, clearly it doesn't belong in the public domain at all. So I think your concerns are wise and right, and I'll add that to the other items that I bring to the Presiding Officer when I speak with him personally on this resolution.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you, Chairman. I'll second the motion to table in deference to the Commissioner's remarks as well as Legislator Kennedy's remarks. And I would just like to know if the Commissioner could discuss with us -- I find it difficult to believe in this day and age that we don't already have some sort of a coordinated effort to prepare for any sort of, you know, emergency, be it terrorism or otherwise. So could you discuss -- don't tell us what the plans are, but tell us what we're doing to prepare for that.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Back in 2005 we went through -- we issued an all hazard County-wide plan for every situation that we felt would happen. We also established a Terrorism Task Force, which was established right after 9/11, and we update this. What it does it clearly -- and I think you have a copy in your office; if not, we can get it to you. I know it was issued to all the Legislators at the time it came out. It clearly defines the role of every County department that would be involved in an emergency.

What our plans are right now is being the document is a living document, it should be updated, our plans in our budget for next year is to bring a consultant in again, because we feel us looking at it, or every department looking at it, we may look at it with a different eye than an outsider would look at it. The same gentleman or the same type of company that wrote it for us the last time, come in, review it, go through it, talk about it. Even at our Terrorism Task Force meetings we don't talk about the plans, we review the plans. So we do have a document that lays out every type of incident that we could possibly have in the County that we can think of. We have separate documents for hurricanes, planes, stuff like that. But this document will be reviewed, but if we had an incident tomorrow this clearly, clearly identifies the areas and responsibility, what everybody's particular job would be, who's in charge, and everything else.

LEG. CILMI:

Now, is that a public document?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

No. We've -- we get asked quite often about that from, you know, the media and all. We were advised by the County Attorney that our plans are not FOILable, they're confidential. You don't want to let them fall in the wrong hands. We do refer to some of them but we don't release that out to

the general public.

LEG. CILMI:

Does the plan address coordination of efforts, intergovernmental in addition to intragovernmental? You mentioned that it talks about coordination within the various County departments, but does it go so far as to talk about and plan for coordination with other governmental entities, the State, the Federal government, towns, villages, police, you know, other Police Departments, fire departments, etcetera?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

It addresses it and we also have -- we belong to the -- the County belongs to what we call an Urban Area Workgroup, which is made up of us, Nassau County, New York City. It's clearly defined on how we work usually together. We've done that, we depend on each other. It also, as far as the fire departments, it makes reference to them. Each fire department in the County we have signed a mutual aid agreement with guaranteeing them that we can help each other. That not only helps us in the time of the event, it also helps for reimbursement when we have to go to the Federal government and get that back.

LEG. CILMI:

And what's the title of this plan that we have?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

It's Suffolk County All Hazard Mitigation Plan.

LEG. CILMI:

Commissioner, if you could get a copy of that to my office I would be appreciative.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

I will.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Commissioner, so that I can get it right, we already have emergency plans for almost every situation. It sounds to me what the Presiding Officer's legislation is is to have a council that will make -- coordinate it to make sure everybody is talking to everybody else.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

That is correct. The Presiding Officer has spoken to me about this. It would get everybody talking, but I don't know how we're going to get that done with the public law.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, here's going to be my suggestion. Legislator Kennedy, you, our Counsel here and the Presiding Officer will have to set up a meeting and so you can discuss it, and at the next meeting we'll vote on it. But stay there for a second. We have a motion to table and a second, and that goes first.

MS. ORTIZ:

I don't have a second. Legislator Cilmi? Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

Bill wants to come in.

MR. PERILLIE:

The PO wants to speak before the vote.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Then I have question while the Presiding Officer comes in.

(Presiding Officer Lindsay entered the meeting)

We have another piece of legislation about the oil spill emergency. Now, does your plans already cover that? I mean, do we not need to put a separate resolution in for that?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

We have a plan in place. As a matter of fact, we just had a meeting with the Coast Guard yesterday. There is a plan, an oil spill plan, in place for Suffolk County, but it's based on what we have in Suffolk County. It's based on an old barge running aground, it's based on two oil ships hitting each other, very localized. We have no off shore plan for the magnitude of what's happening down in Louisiana.

The only thing I can tell you, based on the meeting we had yesterday with the Coast Guard, even if it does come around Florida and does come up, their feeling is the chance of it reaching here in the form of an oil slick is really, really slim. What we're probably going to get is these tar balls coming up, if they do come up, and they wouldn't expect that to happen until the fall. I know, because he mentioned it, we were asked before also on hurricane season, what would -- if we had a hurricane what would that do. They seem fairly reasonably sure that it would not effect it. If anything, it would help dispense the oil even more. So it's not wishing for a hurricane, but if did, it would actually be a benefit to dispensing the oil.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Right. I'm just wondering, you know, do we need to put legislation in for every possible, you know, catastrophe, or are you kind of covered for everything. That's what I was really kind of saying. It sounds like you already are looking at every emergency as they come up.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

We are looking at every emergency that comes up, but I know the people that work from own department is that I always use the same phrase. The day we say we know everything, that's the day we're going to fail. So, you know, looking at things and planning for things never hurts you either.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Mr. Presiding Officer. Did you want to --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Could we have Counsel just explain?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Sure.

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah. This issue regarding the Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings came up at the last meeting. The only thing I would say is that under both laws there are exceptions. For example, if the Council, if it's enacted, needed to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter that would imperil the public safety if disclosed, they're authorized to do that under Open Meetings. And under Freedom of Information Law as well there are exceptions. You wouldn't have to disclose a record or give up a record that would endanger the life of any person or as an interagency document prepared for law enforcement purposes. So there are exceptions that the council could avail themselves of if they believe there was a document that would be harmful to give out or to discuss in public. I believe the Council would have the ability to use those provisions.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Mr. Presiding Officer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Maybe I should explain to everybody what we're trying to do here. I am certainly not trying to interfere with the work that you do, Commissioner, or Chief White does with the Homeland Security. And nobody is taking exception to the job you do. What the thought was is to just to put the key players around the table maybe four times a year to go over what if scenarios.

For example, you know, and this is something that my staff brought up to me. We get almost all of our supplies on Long Island via truck. There's 20 -- I think there's 21,000 trucks that deliver water, food, drugs, everything that we have going for us, and they all come through the City of New York. You know, I was in the City the night of the attempted bomb, and it got me thinking about that. What happens if that's a dirty bomb and you can't move transportation through the City of New York. What are we going to do on Long Island? I mean, do we have a deep water port that we could ship supplies in here to exist? What are we going to do with the refugees that would move from Nassau to Suffolk for protection? You know, it's a horrendous scenario, but I think it's things like that that we should talk about, if nothing else, hypothetically.

As far as, you know, and again, I emphasize we didn't want to make the committee so huge that it was unwieldy. What we envisioned was like nine representatives from all the key players within the County and then offshoots. I know the fire rescue community certainly have a huge role in this. Truthfully, we thought that you represented them, but if we need to bring in subcommittees of the Fire Chiefs Councils or the ambulance folks or whatever we need, I mean, it would have the power to do that.

I certainly do not want anybody to divulge any kind of information that would jeopardize the safety of our citizens in a public record. If that became an issue, you know, I mean, we could probably modify the bill, the Meetings Law. Counsel doesn't think it's necessary, but if it became an issue I'd be happy to do that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes. Through the Chair to the Presiding Officer. We have had some brief conversations about this and I absolutely concur, and I think that your thinking is a hundred percent square on that we have the parties convened and make sure that they are fully comfortable with, as the Commissioner has said, a coordinated approach to every possible emergency.

I coincidentally happened to be at the Smithtown Chiefs Council in the late part of May, and I take full responsibility for not having brought this concern to you beforehand. Nevertheless, I did circulate the resolution to ask them for input and feedback as I usually do with any resolution that involves a fire or rescue and the ambulance, and there was a verbal vote and, as a matter of fact, they followed up with an e-mail to me raising that concern. Now, whether that concern warrants modification of the resolution or not, certainly that's the prerogative of yourself as the sponsor. When I asked for the tabling I did request that it be a tabling only for one cycle and I would be happy to coordinate with your office and try to bring in the President of the Smithtown Chiefs Council. For that matter, I would take responsibility to reach out to the Suffolk County Chiefs Council. Maybe their role on this council is not appropriate. As you have said to me, it looks like your vision is more on a macro level for the entities that are part of our County structure per se. But nevertheless, having gotten that feedback from the fire and safety community in a large part of my legislative district, I wanted to bring that forward and have that opportunity.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. What I've heard so far is that I think, I might be wrong, but I think the Presiding Officer said that he'd like to have this approved and he would be willing to modify it if in case your community wants it to be modified. So I don't see that not supporting this will cause a negative because you are going to have the opportunity to have the people you talk to talk to the Presiding Officer in person, and he's willing to work with them. So I don't see that as an exclusive thing. Mr. Presiding Officer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, you know, it's just a matter of if you put too many people in a room I don't know how effective the group will be. I mean, Joe, I mean, as the FRES Commissioner, don't you coordinate all fire rescue emergency services under your realm?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

We're a liaison to them, we work with them, but they're all individual groups. What I would suggest is we have a {current} right now, the FRES Commission. Our FRES Commission is an advisory committee to my office. That committee is already made up of representatives from every one of the Chiefs Councils, including the Suffolk County Chiefs, the ambulance companies, the Fire Marshal's Office. What I would suggest instead of -- if one Chiefs Council wants the representation, I can see there's going to be ten of them on there. What I would ask, if you look at, was to come back and have a representative from the FRES Commission who represents all the organizations, like their President or their Chairman, if that's what you want to do as far as get them involved, instead of having 25 more people. And nothing against the 25 more people, but I do have to agree that too many people are not going to get anywhere.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah. I would just like to respond to that to say that, you know, I do have a background in problem solving and groups dynamics, and the real research says that once you get past 12 you start to lose the effectiveness, and once you go past an hour-and-a-half, it's downhill too, not that we seem to follow that. But I'm thinking that there's already 20 people on this and I think the Presiding Officer has the answer. It's always recommended that you have subcommittees from that, so I think that's the answer here. However, we do have a motion to table.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, you know what, Mr. Chair, in deference to the Presiding Officer, certainly it's a worthy piece of legislation. What I will do is, is I will withdraw my motion to table. If there is another motion that comes forward I will likely abstain, and I will make certain that I speak with the Presiding Officer following this and at least try to have some dialogue from our area with the concerns and also bring that to the Commissioner as well. So I will withdraw that motion to table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Then I think there is a motion to approve and a second already.

LEG. BROWNING:

No, there wasn't.

MS. ORTIZ:

No.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

There wasn't? Okay. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. CILMI:

I'll second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

LEG. KENNEDY:

Abstain.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

One abstention. *(Vote: 4-0-1-0 Abstention: Legislator Kennedy)*

Introductory Resolutions

IR 1627, Authorizing and directing a Gulf oil spill emergency response plan. (Cilmi)

LEG. CILMI:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Browning seconds that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *(Vote: 5-0-0-0)*

IR 1630, Amending Resolution No. 444-2010 in connection with the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) replacement and integration with existing Fire Rescue CAD (CP 3240). (Co. Exec.)

I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

IR 1649, Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of heavy duty vehicles for the Police Department (CP 3135). (Co. Exec.)

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'll make the motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Kennedy, I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *(Vote: 5-0-0-0)*

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair, before we adjourn, can I respectfully request that we have just brief conversation with the department about the -- just a quick question on the Marine Bureau? Perhaps if Chief Webber --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah, sure. Could Chief Webber come forward.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Chief, I had an opportunity to hear that -- you were here two weeks ago and you know that we had a fairly lengthy discussion about the Marine Bureau, its current deployment and how it's going to function. Subsequent to that I was made aware that there's been a request for three sworns to actually be removed from the Marine Bureau, I guess the recognition that there were three positions that were assigned over to civilians now for clerical or desk duty functions.

I still have the same concerns that I had from two weeks ago, particularly in the areas on the north shore that my constituents would utilize for recreational and fishing purposes and things like that. I -- it just seems to defy logic that when we're in the midst of our recreational season and there's a need to have all five boats, I guess, on the water and fully staffed and deployed that will go to take three officers away from that function and put them someplace else. Do you have any knowledge on this?

CHIEF WEBBER:

I'm not sure at this time, Legislator Kennedy, that it's going to be moved before the end of the summer.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So, can -- then through the Chair, can I ask that if you can ask the Commissioner or speak with the Deputy Inspector from Marine or somebody to that effect to at least give us -- give my office those assurances that the current complement will remain intact? I imagine that our recreational boating season runs through what, October I believe it is, somewhere around there. If I could get that assurance I know I think my constituents would benefit from, you know, the hopefully having those north shore boats staffed and operational in the event that there's some need for them.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. You'll be able to take care of that for him. Okay, then if there's no other business, we'll adjourn. Thank you. Stop the clock.

(The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.)

{ } Denotes spelled phonetically