

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, August 12, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Legislator Jack Eddington, Chairman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislator
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature
Terrence Pearsall, Chief of Staff, Presiding Officer's Office
Kara Hahn, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Caucus
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Caucus
Christopher DeLuca, Aide to Legislator Cilmi
Jason Richberg, Aide to Legislator Gregory
Robert Lipp, Budget Review Office
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office
Ed Hennessey, County Executive's Office
Brendan Chamberlain, County Executive's Office
Robert Moore, Chief of Department, Suffolk County Police Department
Thaddeus Nieves, Deputy Inspector, Suffolk County Police Department
Tracy Pollak, Suffolk County Police Department
Michael Sharkey, Chief of Staff, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
Joseph Caracappa, Under-Sheriff, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
Kerry Kneitel, Deputy Chief, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department
Mike Rando, Suffolk County Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Assoc.
Noel Digerolamo, Second Vice President, Suffolk County PBA
Dennis Brown, County Attorney's Office
Gail D'Ambrosio, Probation Officers Association
Joe Williams, Commissioner of FRES
Russ McCormick, Suffolk County Detectives Association
Dot Kerrigan, AME, 4th Vice President
All other interested parties

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten, Court Reporter

[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:06 A.M.]

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Good morning, everyone. We're going to get started with the Public Safety Committee meeting this morning with a Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator Browning.

(*Salutation*)

For those of you who don't know, I'm Legislator DuWayne Gregory, the Vice Chair. I will be running the meeting today. Chairman Eddington has an excused absence, so he won't be at the meeting.

We don't have any cards for the public portion, but is there anyone in the audience that would like to come and speak, please come forward. Okay. Do we have any Commissioners, Department Heads, Administration that have any comments on any bills or anything?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Vice Chair.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I don't know if you had an opportunity to see the letter that I received from the Huntington Town Council members --

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Smithtown.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes, regarding coverage at the Fourth Precinct. At some point, whether you choose to do it now or after we conclude the agenda, I would like an opportunity to have a conversation with Chief Moore --

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Sure.

LEG. KENNEDY:

-- and members of the Department about not only that, but some other matters that are ongoing with the Department.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Sure. Let's do that now before we get into the agenda.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

The Chief has the look on his face, "Why do I volunteer to come here?"

CHIEF MOORE:

I didn't volunteer, sir.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Well --

LEG. BROWNING:

He was volunteered.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

I use the word "volunteer" loosely. Thank you, Chief, for coming. Legislator -- I saw your letter yesterday. Go ahead. Do you have any questions?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair. Chief, you, I hope, have had an opportunity to see the letter that came from the four Smithtown Town Council members with concerns specifically about coverage in our Fourth Precinct. As you know, I have nothing but the highest respect for Inspector Rhoads and, for that matter, all our Inspectors. They do an outstanding job, but, quite candidly, Chief, I'm embarrassed, to say the least, that I find from Town Council members that there is only one Detective that is on call for a precinct of this size.

There are a number of other issues, and, as a matter of fact, you're aware I shared directly with the Commissioner my concerns about NESOT. And I did speak with -- I know Chief Varrone placed a call and I spoke with Deputy Chief Stallone yesterday about that. This is a recurring theme, and it is something that is growing tiresome and weary for all of us, but we have no excuse when it comes to providing safety for the public. You know, all of us have that mission. You have an oath, I have an oath, we all have an oath. And not having staff for a township which had a 46 million dollar tax levy this year is unconscionable and it's unanswerable. I have absolutely nothing to give these Commissioners -- these Council members when they raise these concerns. What do I tell them, Chief? Give me a clue, give me anything. What do I tell them?

CHIEF MOORE:

In the case of the Detectives, and again, we're still looking into this situation, but preliminarily, there are five Detectives assigned to that team. And on the night in question, there was an unfortunate confluence of Detectives calling in sick, and then the other sorts of time off that the Detectives generally have. Now, I can tell you that -- so, yes, there was one Detective on duty, I think it was an evening shift. The Detective does have the right, if not the obligation, if he or she feels that they need additional support, to call the Supervisor, their Supervisor, his or her Supervisor, and then the Supervisor can make provisions, either by calling in other Detectives who are not currently working, or reaching out to other Precincts for support. So, preliminarily -- and again, I'll be happy, any correspondence we forward to the Town I'd be happy to share with you, and if you would like us to elaborate further, we certainly will.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I would, I very much would. And I think any organization is always going to be subject to unanticipated or unplanned occurrences. I know there is a vacation chart that's put into place. All our personnel, whether it's P.D., Sheriffs, sworn, civilian, anything, that's just a function of our organization's operating and people get sick, there's family emergencies, there's all different kinds of things. But, at the end of the day, the answer that, "Oh, well, we had some events occur," doesn't cut it. It's not as if we're selling Hallmark greeting cards there. That's where citizens' safety for the 12th and 13th Legislative Districts comes out of, a pretty good sized area.

And, you know, I had a chance to find out yesterday in a conversation with one of the representatives from the Detectives Union that we are now at 55 vacancies for Detectives, and after the retirement schedule goes the way folks are anticipating, in three to four months, it shouldn't be surprising that as many as another 25 might go out the door. You know, we're larger than thirteen states. How -- suffice it to say that I'm concerned, I'm very concerned. I'm very concerned that my constituents and constituents throughout this County are not getting the protection they pay for, and that we're not meeting our most fundamental basic core responsibility to protect the health, safety and well-being of the electorate. Please, carry that message to the Commissioner for me, and, please, do something to fix it. Thank you. That's it.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

And, Chief, while we're on Detectives, it's come to my attention recently that during this administration, there have been 120 promotions to Detectives. Zero, and I repeat zero, have been African-American, and that's a concern for me. And I'm meeting with the NAACP next week, Tracey Edwards, to talk about some of those concerns. I appreciate the concerns of Legislator Kennedy,

you know, and I'm sure Legislator Browning does as well. Our Precincts, you know, have some issues that have to be dealt with and we want to make sure that there's proper police coverage, so -- all right? So --

LEG. KENNEDY:

And, Mr. Chair, there's just one other issue that I need to go ahead and share with the Chief, and it is, again, something that I've been made aware of this time, just by rumor, so I don't know whether it's fact or not, that Heroin Task Force. I've been told that the Heroin Task Force has been disbanded and that it's no longer functioning in the way that the County Executive and the Commissioner had convened it probably around 13, 14 months ago.

I was at an event last night, a fund-raiser actually for Pederson Krag. Their substance abuse and addiction programs are busting at the seams. We didn't stop heroin in this County in the last 14 months, drugs didn't go away. Am I wrong? Did the -- what's going on with the Heroin Task Force?

CHIEF MOORE:

I'm sorry, sir, I'll have to find out, I don't know. You said the Heroin Task Force has been disbanded?

LEG. KENNEDY:

That's what I was told, yes.

CHIEF MOORE:

I'll get back to you before the day is out. I'm sorry, I really can't speak to that right now.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Well, and again, I appreciate that. Maybe it was, you know, just I got it wrong. Again, I pride and value all the work that gets done by all our law enforcement officers, from beat cop, to the arson guy to canine, to NESOT. Every one of them has their area of expertise and need. And again, I'll go back to the fact that we are a nationally renowned law enforcement organization. But I am perilously concerned that we are meeting that reputation through the resources that we continue to put at hand to meet those missions. It keeps dwindling and getting peeled away and getting undermined, and pretty soon the house of cards falls. And I believe criminal justice and policing and law enforcement is planning by nature. You set out your resources anticipating what be the most calamitous of circumstances, and to operate otherwise is just -- it's a tragedy waiting to happen and I don't want to see that. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Just one last question for me. The second police class, what's going on with that? I understand that you're doing the background investigations. Is that -- I'm hearing two different stories. One is that if we sell the Foley Nursing Home, the class will go forward. Then I'm hearing this other rumor that the County Executive has decided to move forward with the second class, regardless of selling the nursing home, so I just wanted to clarify that, if you may.

CHIEF MOORE:

The County Executive doesn't share his thoughts with me on policy. I can tell you that --

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Welcome to the club.

CHIEF MOORE:

-- the Suffolk County Police Department is moving aggressively to vet, if you will, between 70 and 80 individuals that -- and our -- and we anticipate that those individuals will be ready for employment by mid-November.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay. Because I had heard late December, then I heard the November date as well. Okay. All right. Anybody else?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yep.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

Well, I'd like to find out -- I'm reading the Newsday article about the County Executive visiting North Bellport, which I did not get an invite to, in my district. And I can tell you, the end of it is saying, when he's saying that an increased police presence is not -- you know, isn't the only thing that's going to change it, an increased police presence can certainly make a difference to change the community around. You know, I think it's kind of hysterical that he shows up at 10:30 on a Wednesday morning in North Bellport. And I don't like to say North Bellport, because that's not what it is, it's Bellport; that he shows up at 10:30 on a Wednesday morning in Bellport. And I have done a ride-along with the Fifth Precinct in Bellport, but I did it on a Friday night, when -- that's when the action is. And I would challenge him to go back on a Friday night or a Saturday night, when there's more activity, and ride in a police car and see what those people have to deal with.

So, again, this is a reaction to three events that occurred in one week, and again, lack of police presence doesn't help. There's supposed to be some kind of police initiative going on. Where is it? We had three shootings on a Wednesday night, we had a shooting on a Thursday night and we had a lot of fires being set on Friday. So this -- what I see is this is the same thing that he's been doing as in Huntington. And I'm not shooting the messenger, I'm sorry, but I'm outraged that, you know, all -- you know, things flare up in Huntington Station and he goes up there and does a press conference, and "I've got a ten-point plan." He goes to Brentwood, "Oh, I've got another ten-point plan." You know, now he's in Bellport. What's the ten-point plan, because these ten-point plans aren't working. So, we need more cops on the street, and the only way that this community is going to be able turn things around -- we have sustainable Long Island trying to help, we have Habitat for Humanity saying we can't get people to live here in the homes that we're building, so it's not working. And if we don't have cops on the street showing a presence, these gang members, I keep saying it, they've won, they're winning. We're losing because we don't have the presence and we don't have the people we need to do the right job.

The other thing is about the Duty Officers. I mentioned it to you at the last meeting. What is going on? Can you give me what the function is of a Duty Officer, and are they being civilianized?

CHIEF MOORE:

Duty Officers have a wide range of functions, and they are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They act as the conduit between the Police Department and other agencies. And they also help to communicate from one area within the Police Department to another, you know, particularly during those times like early morning hours, when much of the command staff is not available. They're the individuals who ensure that the command staff is aware of what's happening within the County.

The civilianization plan, with the help of the Department of Civil Service, made a determination that a civilian title, a PSD, Public Safety Dispatcher III, which is a high level dispatcher, was an appropriate title for the function that was being performed by the Duty Officers, and, as a result, the Suffolk County Police Department has begun the process of hiring and training PSD III's, Public Safety Dispatcher, and as those individuals are hired and trained, they will be replacing uniformed sergeants who currently hold the position of Duty Officer.

LEG. BROWNING:

So we have civilians who are going to be trained in what police functions, when -- because they deal directly with 911 operators, right?

CHIEF MOORE:

The -- yes, they do.

LEG. BROWNING:

And so, if a 911 operator needs direction when they get a call, say, for a police call, that person is the person who's going to direct them in what they need to do?

CHIEF MOORE:

The Suffolk County Police Department has for quite some time -- when I first became a Police Officer in 1975, the Emergency Complaint Operators were Police Officers, and the dispatchers were Police Officers as well. Over the 35 years that I've been in law enforcement, police departments throughout the country have wholly civilianized their Communications Section. If anything, Suffolk County Police Department was not a leader in civilianizing its communications function, rather, it was a follower in civilianizing its communication system. So, following the lead of so many other major police departments in the country, and after discussing the job descriptions with the Department of Civil Service, the Police Commissioner felt comfortable civilianizing the function of a Duty Officer.

LEG. BROWNING:

And that's 11 Duty Officers, and how many civilians are going to be hired?

CHIEF MOORE:

I'm not sure. I would imagine 11.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay, because I know that there are civilianized positions that are still not filled, so that's my concern, is are we going to civilianize 11 Duty Officer positions with six civilians? So I'd like to find out exactly how many civilians are going to be hired.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Any other questions? All done? Okay? All right. Thank you, Chief. Chief Sharkey, Legislator Browning has some questions for you, if you could please come forward. Oh, and I'm sorry, Joe Caracappa, sure, yeah. I didn't see you. I'm sorry, I apologize.

UNDER-SHERIFF CARACAPPA:

I'm doing my best.

*(*Laughter*)*

LEG. BROWNING:

Good morning. You know, I've heard some complaints. I have a lot of corrections officers who live in my district and spoke to a lot of them and I've heard that another warden, a SCIN form was signed for another warden. And what I'm being told is the Commissioner of Corrections has said we only need one warden, and now I know we have one that's out on a medical reason, but now that we -- now we have three. We're having a problem getting corrections officers for the jail. That's a concern, that we're going to have a brand new jail with not enough corrections officers. And I feel like we've got now too many chiefs and not enough Indians. And I'd like to know, is that, in fact, true, that there is now a third warden, because I am -- and I got the Civil Service list. I don't know who the person is, but I see there's about six names, and so I had a couple of questions about that.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

All right. First of all, yes, there is -- someone was promoted to warden recently. It's not somebody -- not a new employee hired off the street, this is a promotion. The Sheriff's Office has operated with two wardens since Sheriff Tisch's administration, so this is not something new. Unfortunately, the second warden has, in fact, been out with a long-term injury for most of Sheriff DeMarco's tenure. As you know, we are going to be opening a very large facility in Yaphank and we felt it was prudent at this time, because there is no indication that the second warden is going to be back to work any time soon, would be to fill an additional warden spot to -- so that we will have two wardens leading up to the run-up and opening of the new facility.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. And I just gave Joe the Civil Service list. And, you know, I know we can't mention names, we can't discuss names, but in selection -- in selecting that warden, you know, how did you determine who to promote, because you have I think about five people on that list eligible for a promotion. And I'm wondering, is that the most senior person that you promoted? And how do you determine -- you know, did you do an interview? Did you look at their personnel record? And, you know -- and again, is it the most senior person? I know there's one woman on that list. Do you have diversity in those positions, and was that -- you know, there is a woman on the list and it would have been nice to see that it would be a more diverse selection and a minority being chosen.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

I can't say what went into the selection process. I can tell you that Civil Service rules were followed, and one of the people in the top scoring zone of 85 was chosen.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. Well, so I guess it was just picking the name out of a hat is how they did it?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

I can't comment on that, I have no information.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. Well, like I said, I see one woman, and I'm curious as to who's the most senior person on that list. And, you know, I'd like to find that information out, because I think, you know, when you're selecting -- what, it's one, two, three, four -- okay, there's four people on that list. And again, go back to the Commissioner of Corrections. I've been told that he has only recommended that we have only one warden; is that correct?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

That's not something that I'm familiar with directly, but as I said, this is not a new development. We have been operating with two functioning wardens since Sheriff Tisch's administration. We just felt a need leading up to the opening of the new facility, you know, there's a lot of things that are going to go on in the year or so leading up to the opening of the facility that we need to have someone up to speed and can't rely on someone coming back to work that's been out for an extended period of time.

LEG. BROWNING:

Right. You know, do you have enough officers to open the jail?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

I think we've discussed that at length. We have a long-term hiring plan to get there. The first step will be in September to see if we realized a class that we're anticipating for September.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. You know, I'd like to follow up on the Commissioner of Corrections and his recommendations as far as wardens are concerned, because, you know, I got some information from BRO on what the salaries are, and one warden, I mean, you're talking 133,000 to 124,000 is the salaries. That equals -- one warden equals two corrections officers and we certainly need them. So I do question spending money on a warden when we need corrections officers. And I just think, you know, we're called the tax and spend liberals sometimes and I don't see this as being conservative.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

I just want to point out, again, this was a promotion, so you're not -- we didn't hire a, going with your figure, \$130,000 employee off the street. We're not spending an additional \$130,000, we promoted a captain.

LEG. BROWNING:

Right, but is that promotion needed? That's my question, what was that promotion needed? And again --

CHIEF SHARKEY:

I think --

LEG. BROWNING:

-- when the Commissioner of Corrections -- if his recommendation is no, you didn't need it, then, you know, I want to know why.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Just I think --

LEG. BROWNING:

And I wish -- I wish maybe you guys could talk to the Suffolk County Police Department, because they can't get promotions.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

I think we made it clear that we believe that it's necessary, and, ultimately, the Sheriff is responsible for managing the facility in Suffolk County, not the Commissioner of Corrections.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

UNDER-SHERIFF CARACAPPA:

Just to add to that, in this instance, we firmly believe that the position was warranted to fill, seeing that the other warden most likely is not returning, and he hasn't been there one day since I've been on the job. So, with 360 beds coming on line, you've toured the new facility, you've seen the massiveness of it, the hiring is absolutely legitimate, and it's one area that we have the flexibility to do hiring and promote someone within. As it relates to a class, we have put that hiring plan forward, and if we could sign the SCINs, we most certainly would and our hiring plan would be followed. So we're just keeping in line with what the facility needs, and operating with one warden over the time that I've been there, with a facility as large and as overcrowded as it is, I would certainly hope that you would understand the necessity moving forward with a new warden.

LEG. BROWNING:

Again, of the list of four people, it would have been nice to see a minority. And again, is that the most qualified and the most senior person that's on that list?

UNDER-SHERIFF CARACAPPA:

We feel they're all qualified, and Civil Service score dictates that, obviously. We are very happy with the functions of each person on that list in their current capacity, which is they're all high ranking officers within the Sheriff's Office. You keep bringing up the woman on the list. She runs our Yaphank facility almost entirely, and we are very, very happy with her leadership there. And we can go right down the list with who are all in that number one position, and they're invaluable as it relates to the job they're doing currently.

LEG. BROWNING:

Well, yes. And I can tell you, I've been to Yaphank Jail before she was in charge and I was there afterwards and she did a phenomenal job.

UNDER-SHERIFF CARACAPPA:

Absolutely.

LEG. BROWNING:

And that's -- and, of course, that's one of the reasons, not that I'm pushing for that particular person, but I've seen what she's done, I've seen what she's accomplished. And so it does surprise me that she did not -- was not considered for the position, if it was that needed. That's it.

UNDER-SHERIFF CARACAPPA:

Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Legislator Kennedy, you had had a question?

LEG. KENNEDY:

You know, I was going to ask, just with the warden situation, and Under-Sheriff Caracappa mentioned it, if the warden that's been out for the period of time that he's been out, is he going to go out on retirement, is he going to go out on disability retirement, or has there been any conversation?

UNDER-SHERIFF CARACAPPA:

Yeah. He is going through the process with the State of New York for disability retirement.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So his injury was within the context of work? Did he --

UNDER-SHERIFF CARACAPPA:

It was.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. All right. So then it may very well be a time that comes up in the not too distant future where actually you're going to drop down to two wardens, because this warden no longer is going to be on the payroll, he's going to convert to a permanent retiree.

UNDER-SHERIFF CARACAPPA:

Yes, absolutely right.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. All right. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

And as far as -- I'm kind of confused going back and forth with the staffing of the new prison. I know the County Executive is looking to lower those numbers, where you're hopeful to go ahead with the numbers that has been kind of scheduled? Has there been a change? I know those were -- I believe that there's been a request by the County Executive to get a lower number of correction officers.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

We can only proceed with our hiring plan based on our discussions with staffing with the Commissioner of Corrections. You know, they make the recommendations for minimum staffing, and so we've prepared our hiring plan based on that. Initially, we had planned on hiring two classes of 40 this year and three classes of 50 next year. As the number was not realized for the January class, we had to make up the difference on the September class. So, as of right now, I've submitted the SCIN forms to hire 50 in September. I have not had any communication indicating that anything different is going to happen.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay. All right. Thank you. That's it, gentlemen. Thank you. All right. I guess we'll get to the agenda.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Tabled resolutions, *I.R. 1231 - A Local Law requiring owners of private residential communities to ensure emergency access to roads after snow fall (Romaine)*. I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

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

(VOTE: Tabled 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Chairman Eddington)

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Introductory Resolutions: *I.R. 1782 - A Local Law to register prepaid cell phones purchased in Suffolk County (Browning)*.

MR. NOLAN:

It has to be tabled.

LEG. BROWNING:

Table for Public Hearing.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Browning makes a motion to table for Public Hearing, I second that motion. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: Tabled 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Chairman Eddington)**.

I.R. 1796 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$7,000 from the United States Department of Justice, U.S. Marshals Service, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in Operation SCORE with 89.77% support (Co. Exec). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

LEGISLATOR CILMI:

Second.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Second? Seconded by Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: Approved 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Chairman Eddington)**.

I.R. 1799 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in amount of \$16,903.25 from the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the Long Island Cyber Crime Task Force (LICCTF) with 83.37% support (Co. Exec). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEGISLATOR CILMI:

Second.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

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

(VOTE: Approved 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Chairman Eddington).

I.R. 1803 - To extend the date upon which the Task Force on Hate Crimes in Suffolk County submits its written report (Gregory). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *(VOTE: Approved 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Chairman Eddington)*.

I.R. 1806 - Amending the 2010 Adopted Operating Budget to reallocate funding for a new initiative, the G.R.E.A.T. Program in the Sheriff's Department (Co. Exec.). I make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Second. Just from Counsel, what is this program?

LEG. BROWNING:

That's actually started and it's working right now.

VICE-VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Is it? I'm not familiar with it.

MR. NOLAN:

All I can tell you what the resolution does, which moves money from a line in Probation Department to the -- for this program in the Sheriff's Department. I'd have to defer to somebody else to explain the program.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Chief, I'm just not familiar with it. What's this program?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Just to be clear, we didn't prepare the resolution for this because it was coming out of Probation's budget, so it's slightly -- there's a little bit of a misnomer in there, it says a "new program". This is not a new program, this has been in operation at the Sheriff's Office for about five years now.

G.R.E.A.T. is Gang Resistance Education and Training. If you may have noticed, I think Joye Brown had an article in Newsday maybe two days ago highlighting the parts of the program in Nassau County, but we've been operating it in the schools in Suffolk County for the last five years. We're in Legislator Browning's district. Legislator Eddington had asked us to do Patchogue-Medford. We started in Bellport, Central Islip. Off the top of my head, I'm not sure of all the districts we're in.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay. So it's gang related initiative or a program within the schools?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Yeah. It's a program that is geared towards middle school children and elementary age children. It's like an early intervention life skills type of program. It's not strictly about gangs, it's about gang avoidance and giving them the skills to avoid becoming involved.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:

Okay, great. Okay. Thank you. We have a motion to -- we have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

I.R. 1833 - Accepting the donation of a 2010 Volvo XC60 on behalf of the Suffolk County Police Department (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll second it.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Second by Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:
Nice Volvo.

VICE-VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Yeah, a nice Volvo, right? Do we know what this vehicle is going to be used for?

MR. NOLAN:
According to the resolution, using the vehicle, which is called "The Convincer", to -- as an educational tool to convince people to wear seatbelts.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
It's expensive convincing? Nice donation. Okay. All right. We have a motion and a second, right?

MS. ORTIZ:
Yep.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GREGORY:
Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***(VOTE: Approved 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Chairman Eddington)***.

Okay. We have no further items on the agenda. We stand adjourned. Thank you.

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:42 A.M.]