

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, October 7, 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:

Legislator Thomas Muratore
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislator
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature
Kara Hahn, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Caucus
Christopher DeLuca, Aide to Legislator Cilmi
Jason Richberg, Aide to Legislator Gregory
Sarah Hartmann, Aide to Legislator Eddington
Jack Caffey, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Bobby Knight, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
John Ortiz, Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office
Ed Hennessey, County Executive's Office
Robert Moore, Chief of Department, Suffolk County Police Department
Thaddeus Nieves, Deputy Inspector, Suffolk County Police Department
Ed Webber, Chief, Suffolk County Police Department
Chris Burgold, Deputy Inspector, 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
Colleen Ancinelli, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Gail D'Ambrosio, Probation Officers Association
Joe Williams, Commissioner of FRES
Walter Dunn, Senior Fire Marshal, Town of Babylon
John Searing, Deputy Commissioner, FRES
Lawrence Zacarese, Stony Brook Police Department

John Gallo, Stony Brook Fire Safety
Roy Gross, Chief of Department SPCA
Laura Ahearn, Executive Director, Parents of Megan's Law
Dot Kerrigan, AME, 4th Vice President
Catherine Donnelly
Jeffrey Seeman
Amol Sinha
All other interested parties

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten, Court Reporter.

[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:03 A.M.]

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

All righty. At this time we're going to start the Public Safety Committee, and Legislator Gregory will lead us in the Pledge.

(*Salutation*)

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

(*Moment of Silence*)

Thank you very much. Okay. Before we start, I'd just like to welcome Legislator Muratore here. Thank you for participating with us and our Public Safety Committee. And I'm going to start the public portion, and the first speaker is Catherine Donnelly.

MS. DONNELLY:

Good day to you all. My name is Catherine Donnelly and I come here today to plead for ShotSpotter and more police presence in the Bellport/East Patchogue area. I am a hardworking and responsible taxpayer and active registered voter who should be entitled to protection and service by the police and leaders of the community, yet I live in fear every day in my home.

I moved here approximately two-and-a-half years ago from the Town of Babylon with my three children and the dream of our own home. I have built this home in East Patchogue and, yet, what I had thought to be a dream that was coming to fruition has since begun to resemble a nightmare. I cannot go out of my house once it is dark, and even during daylight have to keep my house alarm armed and set. If we need to take out the garbage, it waits by the front door until morning. If we run out of milk after nightfall, we do without until the next day. My children and I have become prisoners in our own home.

My son, Patrick, recently asked me if we can make S'mores in the backyard and I had to tell him no. I wish you could have seen the disappointment and confusion in his eyes as he asked me why we had moved here. When I first moved here I did do some research and called various Town officials to ask what was being done about crime in the area. I was assured repeatedly that there were programs and plans being implemented in order to better the area. Of my own volition, I volunteered as the recording secretary with my local civic association, as well as at the Fifth Precinct community meeting in order to be part of that effort. I participate regularly in the Brookhaven cleanups, as well as taking part in other betterment activities for the neighborhood with Habitat for Humanity, yet all of my efforts seem to have been in vain, as both my efforts and those of many other volunteers and taxpayers are not being supplemented due to the lack of police presence in my area.

There are normally only two patrol cars assigned to the North Bellport/East Patchogue area, two. In the midst of the current initiative there are four, but this is only a temporary measure. Either number is insufficient and is appallingly out of proportion to the amount of crime that occurs in this small area.

I would like to invite you to take a walk with me just once around my block. As I come out of my house, I look across the street to my neighbor's home, which sustained over \$7,000 worth of damage from someone shooting up her siding and windows with BB guns. There was no apparent motive for this.

I make a right out of my house and turn the corner and can see where two armed men sat in their car alongside my fence. When my neighbor's 19-year-old daughter stepped out of her car as she came home from work, they ran out, knocked her down, put guns up to her body and robbed her.

Before turning right on the corner, I look briefly to my left and see the house of my friend, a single mother who has two daughters. She recently came home from work to discover that her back door had been kicked in and her house completely emptied of all valuables. Next door to her is a house that was shot up a little over a month ago. Once turning the corner, I don't need to go far.

Only two houses down, I see Aida's house. She has had four break-in attempts over the past few weeks. Her teenage daughter was home at the time and I shudder to think what might have happened to her if she didn't hear them trying to get in. Her neighbor, Lillian, just had her house broken into this past Tuesday. She had gone to church to help her preacher with some tasks and came home to a ransacked house. The house across the street from her was burglarized two days prior to that.

As I proceed, I don't get much further until I see Jose's house. His wife picked him up from his second job and as they walked up to the front door two men walked up. One held a gun up to his wife and then robbed them both right outside their front door. I get to the end of the block and turn the corner, careful to step over the empty drug baggies, discarded condoms and assorted drug paraphernalia before turning back on to my street. The first thing to greet me is an abandoned boarded up house, which has sat there the whole time I have lived there. Next door to that is a Town-owned home, which has been the site of more than one shooting and other gang activity. All I have to do is look diagonally across the street from them to see another house which was the scene of another shooting about four months ago. The house was shot at and one person inside was hit. Thank God it was not the little two-year-old boy that lives there.

Almost home. Just have to walk past another CDC-owned boarded up house that recently had all the asbestos shingles removed by an environmental company. I guess they didn't find it important to remove all the tar paper and insulation that was underneath those shingles. And I hope that it was not affected by proximity to the asbestos, as the environmental company left that to blow all over my property and that of my neighbors.

Finally, I can turn into my driveway. I remember where all the solar lights that lined my driveway and the potted plants that framed my doorway were. These had been destroyed three times by vandals during daylight while I was at work, yet I keep replacing them, as well as the motion lights in the rear and sides of my yard. Somebody came into my yard over my six-foot fence and smashed them out. I worry that this means someone will be targeting my home while it is dark and my children and I are home sleeping. Welcome to my neighborhood.

A few weeks ago I was woken up by the sound of gunshots down the block and didn't go back to sleep. There were three shootings that night within a few blocks of me; the next night there were two more. Also, within those same few days were four daytime burglaries, one of which was at my friend's house. She went to the supermarket and came home to an emptied house. Her insurance company is now thinking of dropping her. She has had two vandalisms and a burglary all within a two-year period.

When being sworn in, Police Officers take an oath to protect and serve. I believe that you also take a similar oath upon election. We need this protection and service in the North Bellport/East Patchogue area badly, our lives depend on it. We are not getting the protection and service that we are entitled to and that we pay for with our taxes. We need ShotSpotter. We need more patrols and officers in our immediate area. We, too, have a right to a quality of life which surpasses the hell we currently live in. We are your people. We have voted for you, believed in you, and

supported you, and now we desperately need your support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. Could you just stay there for a minute. I just want to clarify that I did take you up on your offer and walked around the block.

MS. DONNELLY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And I did, at your meeting with the other 40 residents, tell you that I would come to here, come to this meeting and verbalize what you said to me and I did. And I think you read in the newspaper or a press release from the County Executive pretty well reprimanding me and calling me irresponsible and so on.

MS. DONNELLY:

Yes, I did.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Now, I heard that you've gone to a meeting that the County Legislator had -- County Executive had that I wasn't invited to.

MS. DONNELLY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

But did you read this to him?

MS. DONNELLY:

I read -- I did modify this for the current -- for you all. I did -- but it was basically the same thing.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And what was his response? Because now he's hearing it from the horse's mouth, quote-unquote. Sorry, Catherine.

MS. DONNELLY:

Whinny.

*(*Laughter*)*

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

But you know what I mean? I mean, he can't beat you up like he beats me up. What did he say?

MS. DONNELLY:

Well, I invited him, as well as Commissioner Dormer, to stay at my house for a few days or even a week just to fully understand what we live with.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And how has that turned out?

MS. DONNELLY:

No one has contacted me, no one has come. Kate Browning keeps in touch with me on this, as well as you. You did have the courage to take a walk around the block with me, at which I pointed out

many of these houses. Obviously, more of them have occurred since and nothing has changed.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, hopefully, maybe the rest of the committee will be supporting your efforts, too, I'm sure of that.

MS. DONNELLY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Browning had a question.

LEG. BROWNING:

Well I have to say, I guess crime is down?

MS. DONNELLY:

Not by me.

LEG. BROWNING:

Surprise. Not from what you're telling me and --

*(*Laughter*)*

You know, we had our last General Meeting, we had ShotSpotter, came and did a demonstration, and I know you were there, and that day you told me that just the day before there was shooting outside your home. And, you know, one of the concerns is, is that, you know, we don't get the phone calls. To say crime is down in North Bellport is basically because people are not reporting, correct?

MS. DONNELLY:

I have found through my own experience, when you do try to report these things to the precinct in my area, which is the Fifth Precinct, they are either disregarded, or they speak to you like a kindergartner. For example, I was in my car with my children coming from the supermarket, Stop and Shop on 101. I pulled up at a light next to people smoking crack in their car at the light. I called 911, I gave a description of the vehicle, the license plate number, everything, the description of the people and said they're smoking crack right at the light. "Well, how do you know they're smoking crack?" "Well, because they're holding a flame for a long time through a glass pipe and looking around like they're paranoid." "Well, are you absolutely sure it's crack?" And you're basically given a runaround even if you call in gunshots. "Are you sure it was gunshots? Are you sure it wasn't fire crackers. Are you sure" -- I'm not an expert in it, but I do know the sound of gunshots. I've seen on T.V., I know when someone's smoking crack next to me in a car right next to me. But when you do call these things in, you're treated like a kindergartner. They ask you the most ridiculous questions. And even when you try to provide them with information -- I've also called in drunk drivers driving ahead of me and waited on line behind them in McDonalds for a good five-minute line and the police still never showed up. They disregard your calls. When you try to call anything in, even if you try to go the precinct, you're given a runaround.

LEG. BROWNING:

Well, I don't think that's acceptable and --

MS. DONNELLY:

I don't either.

LEG. BROWNING:

I know the Chief is here and I think it would be important for him to check with the Fifth Precinct and the Inspector and find out why she's not getting the response that she's entitled to. And, again, on my way home, after we saw ShotSpotter that day, I was told that there was a shooting at 1:30 in the afternoon, and the school district had called with some concerns about it. We haven't read about it. I haven't seen anything about it.

MS. DONNELLY:

No.

LEG. BROWNING:

So I truly believe -- I was at South Country Community Conference meeting last night with you guys and they sat and read out all of the incidents that happened since the last meeting. I was floored. And I am sitting there looking at people telling me how many times their homes have been invaded, you know, the shootings that are going on, the drug use, the drug activity, the gang activity, and it's outrageous, it's absolutely outrageous. You do need more cops on your street. You need a heavy presence, not for six weeks, you need it permanently. And, yes, we need ShotSpotter. And we did meet with ShotSpotter and I will tell you, as we did last night, I contacted the precinct, I was also contacted by the Headquarters, "Why didn't you call me?" And so I did invite the Commissioner to join us yesterday afternoon with ShotSpotter and the Fifth Precinct and they rejected the offer and said they would not be there. So I'm very upset that they couldn't make a presence, and, however, we went ahead with the meeting and ShotSpotter. They were able to identify locations that they could use, and the community definitely needs it, and we'll continue to fight for it for you.

MS. DONNELLY:

Thank you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Jack.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much. Oh, I'm sorry Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah. Thank you for coming, ma'am, and I think that it's reprehensible that any citizen has to live in an ongoing condition like this. I know both my colleagues have spoken many times about a call to have additional police presence and additional police patrol in some of those areas, but my question is actually both for my colleagues and for yourself. I know here in the Fourth Precinct we have a community meeting each month that Inspector Rhoads hosts. Is it Inspector Diaz?

MS. DONNELLY:

Mojica.

LEG. BROWNING:

Mojica.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, Mojica. And so there's a similar type of meeting down in the Fifth Precinct?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. There is, ma'am?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I believe Catherine has gone to a number of them.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And what's your experience when you go to -- I assume that there was a community meeting there in the Fifth Precinct, what, last month --

MS. DONNELLY:

Tuesday.

LEG. KENNEDY:

-- in September or October. What's the response when you bring these type of incidents to the Inspector's attention or the Deputy Inspector's attention?

MS. DONNELLY:

I've been the recording secretary at the Fifth Precinct community meeting since it originated after the installation of Inspector Mojica. In that time I have not received one straight answer on what is being done. When we ask him these questions and we bring a large group of people down, he looks to his assistant as if he's not aware of what's going on. When we ask him about specific things, what is being done, we're told, "It's an investigation in progress, we can't release any details." Basically, we're given the runaround, we're passed off, and we're treated as if our concerns are inconsequential -- inconsequential, I'm sorry. I know many people in that area, since I've also been the recording secretary at the South Country Community Conference for this same time period, that when they do call the police about gang members hanging on the corner or drug dealers going on right in front of the house, we've been told, "Well, you moved into Bellport."

LEG. KENNEDY:

Which, obviously, is not an acceptable answer at all. There's no place in this County that should be given up as a lost stone. So there's been no discussion about trying to deploy COPE officers into this neighborhood to help assist the regular patrol function that goes on there? Has that ever --

MS. DONNELLY:

They've never given a definite answer. The only COPE officer I ever see over there is COPE, I believe it's 55. You don't see much police presence at all, and I live on a major thoroughfare on Taylor Avenue. I have, however, found officers sleeping in their car at Floral Fantasyland on 101. We've seen numerous cops hanging out at 7-Eleven, at the ambulance company, but they're not patrolling the areas. Unfortunately, when they're not sitting, they are so spread out and thinned out in their capabilities at this point that all they can do is respond to a 911 call and run back and forth and back and forth in a very inefficient way, which really does not employ regular patrol and the criminals are aware of it. The criminals are fully aware of it, where they've dealt drugs out of my mailbox. I've called it in. I was told by the Precinct to take a picture, myself, and submit it to them. I'm not going to put myself or my three children in danger in that manner.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No, I wouldn't think that you should, ma'am. And I, personally, am surprised that you'd get that kind of response.

MS. DONNELLY:

So am I.

LEG. KENNEDY:

What about the Gang Unit, has there been any discussion? I know that there was a time where we used to have Gang Units in each one of our seven precincts, and then I believe that that was converted to some type of a County-wide strike force. I'm not sure where it's at at this point, but whether it's precinct-based or County based, or whatever based, I'm told that there's a Gang Unit out there, purportedly. Has there ever been anybody from the Gang Unit who's spoken to you, or have you seen any Gang Unit presence in your area or in your neighborhood?

MS. DONNELLY:

The Gang Unit that they currently have in force is I believe covering three precincts, one Gang Unit; I am not sure, I believe it's five officers total.

LEG. BROWNING:

I did a ride-along with the Gang Unit. They covered -- I rode with the Sergeant and there was that night five others in two cars. And so with the three cars, we covered Shirley, Mastic, Mastic Beach, North Bellport and Gordon Heights, and if you know the district, that's quite a hike. In fact, at one point, we were in Bellport and there was a call to get back to Mastic; that takes time. What if we were in Gordon Heights and they had to get back to Mastic, or they were in Mastic and had to get to Gordon Heights or Bellport? It's not working.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, there's an old euphemism, it sounds like the inmates are running the asylum.

MS. DONNELLY:

Exactly.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It's -- I'm sure with my colleagues, as I said, I know them to be very effective, very vigilant and very concerned, and as all of us are here, and we will continue to go ahead and work to get you some solutions, because you and every resident deserves to be safe in their neighborhood. Thank you for coming to speak to us, ma'am.

MS. DONNELLY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Browning had another question.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, one more. In June, the County Executive had a meeting. I know you didn't make that one. I wasn't invited, but I was able to get there. I know there was a second one. I didn't realize there was a second one at the last committee meeting here. They did have a second one that you attended.

MS. DONNELLY:

August 24th.

LEG. BROWNING:

I was not invited, neither was Legislator Eddington. My question is, is that since June, there was promises of making some changes, positive changes to help. Can you say that anything has been done since June?

MS. DONNELLY:

It's a lot of empty promises, unfortunately, and myself and the other people in my neighborhood are the ones suffering. The last meeting that you weren't invited to was on August 24th. I have the notes from that meeting, I take shorthand. The next one is October 13th, I don't believe either of you were invited to this one either.

LEG. BROWNING:

No, no we were not invited.

MS. DONNELLY:

But if you'd like to crash, it's October 13th at 2 o'clock.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you.

MS. DONNELLY:

You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I appreciate your invitation, but that's not my style, so I won't. Legislator Muratore.

LEG. MURATORE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mrs. Donnelly, first of all, I want to apologize to you on behalf of the government in Suffolk County that this is happening to you. You know, being a former Police Officer in this County, I remember when, and I remember when we had enough people to man all the cars and do everything we needed to do to keep Suffolk County safe. And we've gotten to a point now, and who's ever throwing rocks at everybody here, whose ever fault it maybe, the reason is we can't provide you what we used to provide you, because just take a look next door. There's probably 20, 22 cars sitting there right now. Why are they sitting there? I remember when every one of those cars had a butt in the seat. Okay? And now they're sitting there empty because they refuse to hire Police Officers.

There is no COPE. Yeah, there's a the COPE word. Gang Unit, you know, it's five guys or girls that are running throughout Suffolk County trying to find bad guys. But, you know, as soon as you leave the area, the bad guy comes out. What we need to do is find a way to properly fund and properly man the Police Department. Those men behind you in the white shirts, they're trying, some of them are really trying. You know, they get a lot of rocks and shots, they take a lot of shots, too, but they're employees, they're employees of the County Executive, they do what he tells them to do. We in this committee, which I'm not a member of, but of the Leg. I am, we're trying to provide the proper service that you and your family can enjoy, because I remember when. I mean, I've been a here a long, long time, I remember Suffolk County when it was something. Unfortunately, now we have a Commissioner who like -- I don't know, I'll kind of date myself, but there was a movie many, many years ago called Beau Geste and it was a fort in the middle of the desert and they were being overrun by the bad guys. So what the Sergeant did, he took the dead soldiers, he put them on the wall and put a gun next to them to kind of fake out the bad guys, and that's what's happening here, it's all smoke and mirrors. They're running around, gang units, Cope units, you know, "Well, let's do this, let's do that." You go down with an empty promise.

I know on this committee you have a whole bunch of people that are really, really trying, their heart and soul is in it, so we'll continue to do that for you. We need support like you. We need more people to come here. We need to get the media behind us and stop painting, you know, not the right picture. There's more to what's going on, like you were saying. So, again, on behalf of Suffolk County government, I apologize to you and hopefully things can get better. Thank you.

MS. CONNELLY:

Thank you. I accept your apology. I just hope it definitely helps my neighborhood. Regarding smoke and mirrors, I understand what you're saying. Gang Unit, COPE Unit, as far as I know, two of the Sergeants who were part of COPE were then named Gang Units. So they're basically just changing the title, from what I've seen; I may be incorrect on that. And I may be incorrect on the actual numbers, but I know it was put into Newsday that there's 100 officers being hired. Yea, we're getting more police in the area. However, it neglected to mention in that same article the amount that were retired out, and I believe that was somewhere in the approximation of 113. So how are we increasing the police presence when the numbers are not matching?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Catherine, you're going to get in trouble. You're obviously an intuitive citizen, and I would thank you for coming forward and validating many of the things that we've been saying here for a long time. Legislator Gregory, would like to ask you a question.

LEG. GREGORY:

Hi, ma'am. Thank you for coming out today. So, again, and maybe I missed it, you were at the presentation yesterday for ShotSpotter?

MS. DONNELLY:

No, I wasn't notified of that one. I was at the one a few weeks ago right across the hall from here, the initial --

LEG. GREGORY:

Oh, you were here, oh.

MS. DONNELLY:

You were in there also.

LEG. GREGORY:

Yes, yeah, I know. Thank you. So you're supportive of it?

MS. DONNELLY:

Extremely.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay.

MS. DONNELLY:

ShotSpotter can help in a number of ways. I'm not doing a presentation for them. But besides the tracking the guns, tracking where the shots originating, seeing how many people are involved. Seeing who's shooting first will great help in criminal cases, but not just that. If I'm in the driveway, my scariest moment is when I'm strapping my four-year-old in his car seat, because I'm bent over into my car. I can't look around, I can't be upright, and I do worry that someone will come behind me. And if I'm shot in my driveway, it would alleviate some of my fears, because with ShotSpotter, they could tell where the shot originated from, they can show up there. I may not have to bleed out and die. I may have to end up in the hospital, but at least I'll get to live to take care of my children.

LEG. GREGORY:

I'm not familiar with your area. Is this a recent -- I don't want to say crime wave, but has the circumstances changed recently in your community, or has it been going on in for a while? What's the time period?

MS. DONNELLY:

It's been fairly consistent in the two-and-a-half years that I've lived there. However, obviously, as the economy worsens, crime increases.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay. From your experience, with all the things that you've witnessed and heard about, is it common that people call 911 when something happens, or they just kind of, you know, let it go?

MS. DONNELLY:

Sometimes you let it go because of the response you get when you do call. Another big reason that many people do not call is fear of repercussions. If I call about -- I have a house diagonally across the street from me that they're selling drugs out of. I've let them know at the community meeting numerous times, because if I call it in during the time, they come to my house. I'm not going to have my house shot up or my children shot. So, yes, fear of repercussions is a definite fear in that area, but, still, when we do call, the response we get is it's not encouraging for us to continue to act as good citizens in that way.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay. It's very important that you call. I was at a meeting yesterday, the County Executive was there for a bit, and after the meeting, after two-and-a-half hours, a gentlemen approached me and I kind -- I recognized him because I've met him before, but it's been a while, he's involved with the -- I represent the Wyandanch area and he's involved with the ambulance corps, and he pleaded with me, he says we need new vehicles. He says they had 31 shootings last month; I was not aware of that. I knew that we had 22 in the month of June. And he says, "My guys are going crazy and we don't have the vehicles." He said, "I would drive the vehicle to your office, but I'm afraid it wouldn't make it." That's how much they're using their vehicles. So it's important that we all get the message out that we have to call whenever we see a situation, document it so you have a record of it, and then bring it to us or the proper authorities and we can address it. Okay? I thank you for being here today.

MS. DONNELLY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much.

MS. DONNELLY:

You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Next speaker is Jeffrey Seeman.

MR. SEEMAN:

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. I have some written statements I'd like to distribute. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Give it to the Clerk.

MR. SEEMAN:

Thank you. My name is Jeffrey Seeman and I'm with the firm Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure. We're an engineering, consulting and facilities operation and construction company located in Holbrook, although Shaw itself is worldwide and we do a great deal of infrastructure

improvement and analysis. And today I'd like to just speak briefly about the new Local Law, commonly referred to as the Fire Hydrant Flow Testing Law. Shaw has been conducting several of these tests for our local clients and I have made some observations that we feel the committee should at least consider.

First, we're very supportive of this law. We think this is very progressive. We would like to see it expanded well beyond the residential requirements and for this committee to perhaps examine the potential for looking into private industrial parks, schools, university and the like within the County.

Second, we believe that there should be some standard set for the contractors or professionals that are going to be conducting these tests, and that the County consider assembling some type of qualification standard, as well as a list of qualified contractors. That would keep some consistency throughout the testing and conformity with the NFPA standards.

The third point I'd like to make is that each of these hydrants need to have information filled out about the specific conditions. And while the NFPA standards provide us with some format, each individual Fire Marshal has their wish list of information that they would like to have prepared. We would like to see some compatibility between the reporting on the flow and the pressure tests that the County is requiring with that information that each of the fire marshals for each township is seeking. We understand that a form may be the process of being developed. We would encourage that that form act as a database, and that that database then be complemented with the hydrant's location and that hydrant location and the information about that hydrant's condition be placed into the County's AutoCAD Mapping system. This might provide a potential for any first responder to know exactly where that private hydrant is, or even a Suffolk County Water Authority hydrant is, within that fire district, and also know what its physical conditions are with respect to pressure and flow. That might be very important.

And my final point, which may be minor in nature, we have discovered that some of our clients are a little unhappy that the Water Authority requires a permit to be filed. That does take sometime to process. The Suffolk County Water Authority has some restrictions that we do understand that we're not going to do these tests during the summer months or during periods of severe drought. And that does compress the time frame, because we certainly can't do these tests in the winter for fear of icing up the roads. And they were a little concerned about the \$10 permit fee, which just seemed to be a little bit of an inconvenience and a disincentive.

But I would encourage you to consider my first point, that should the County develop a list of qualified contractors to do the work, then I think that that could be compatible with the Suffolk County Water Authority's requirements to be sure that there aren't any potentials for cross-contamination. We're not using back-flow preventers here, this is just a standard fire flow hydrant test. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much. Next speaker, Chief Roy Gross.

CHIEF GROSS:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm not here actually to give a speech again as I did the last time, I'm here to answer any questions that you may have regarding 1879 and also 1952. I did speak a couple of weeks ago regarding this bill for the animal abuser registry law, which, obviously, makes sense. It would be the first in the nation if this is passed. And, as you all know, that animal abuse is on the rise in Suffolk County and actually throughout the nation; that we've probably had in the last couple of years a 20% increase in reported cases of animal abuse. The Suffolk County SPCA investigates approximately 2,000 cases a year of animal abuse and neglect. We have had a number of dog fighting cases, cock fighting cases, a lot of them perpetrated by gangs and gang

members. This law, obviously, is -- will prevent the purchase, hopefully will prevent the purchase or adoption of animals by animal abusers, registered animal abusers.

Again, the Suffolk County SPCA is providing this service to Suffolk County for the last twenty-six years. I guess some of you -- you should all be familiar with the recent cases of animal abuse. One that I want to just bring up again, one of the many that -- the Selden woman that had the -- seven children that was purchasing and adopting dogs from different shelters and pet stores throughout Suffolk County, allegedly taking them home, torturing them and killing them in front of their seven children. It was her 21-year-old child that eventually moved out of the house that did, in fact, turn her -- his mother in for doing this.

So, again, we strongly support it. The Suffolk County SPCA will maintain that registry at no cost to Suffolk County. I want to make that very clear, that will be no cost to the County. Any question on that, please, let's please address it now and try to get this law enacted. It's well time to do this, and, hopefully, this will be a model for other municipalities throughout the country to enact a law such as this.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. I have a couple of questions for you. Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

Hi, sir. Thank you for coming back today. I'm just interested to hear your opinion, if you have one, on a situation that just happened in Nassau with the woman who runs a pet dealer and she -- I think it was in Newsday yesterday, or is it today? Today?

MR. PERILLIE:

Yes.

LEG. GREGORY:

I get confused. I read Newsday at night and then I read the paper the next day, so I think I'm a day ahead when I'm actually on the same day. From my understanding, she -- or she found a pet, and then someone, the owner called into the -- found out that she had the pet, she said that she didn't, because she thought the animal was abused. The person tried to retrieve it and then she sent it to New Jersey, or something like that, and now there's some type of court action. Are there provisions? How would the registry affect or impact a pet owner or even a -- you know, a pet shop owner of acting in the best interest of the animal or the pet?

MR. GROSS:

Well, a shelter or a pet store would be required to call that registry, to check with that registry to see if the person that's purchasing or adopting that animal is on the registry. I'm not certain of your question.

LEG. GREGORY:

You know, in this case, from what I can tell from the story, is she believes that the pet was abused by the owner, and she took action upon herself to remove the animal or keep the animal away from the owner and actually shipped the animal to New Jersey, some safe haven, if you will, in New Jersey.

MR. GROSS:

Okay. I do recall that now. Yes. Well, again, she violated the law, she broke the law. You can't just take it upon yourself to take an animal like that, she should have called the Police Department. And she actually would be stealing the dog by doing what she did and taking it across state lines.

LEG. GREGORY:

All right. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks, Chief. A question for you with regard to 1952. And I realize it still has to go through the Public Hearing process, but I figured, since you're here, we may as well ask. What sort of resources does the SPCA have to deal with these incoming phone calls from -- or will it be strictly digital on the web, or how do you plan to handle the checks?

MR. GROSS:

Okay. That's basically -- we have a mind as to put it on the -- have the registry online where you could actually go online. If they call the office during the day, we would have that list available. But at off hours or on the weekend, they can check with the -- you know, with the registry that we'll provide online.

LEG. CILMI:

Now, if -- let's say -- I mean, it's hard to imagine at this point in time, but let's say somebody doesn't have a computer that's online at their pet store, for example, and it's a weekend, where I would imagine much of business takes place. How would they go through that process if no one's available to answer a phone call at that point in time?

CHIEF GROSS:

Well, again, it would be our new -- our plan is to have it on a computer on a registry, have the registry, again, on the -- online. That's something that we would have to work out. I'm sure we can do something to make it happen, but, you know, that's basically what we'll have -- we don't have staff on during the weekend, you know, but that's something that we were talking to Legislator Cooper about to try to work that out.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. Yeah, if you could -- if you could just keep us posted as to your progress on that question. I would just hate to have a situation where a pet store owner, you know, loses a sale and a pet potentially loses a good parent as a result of, you know, the inability for us to sort of navigate this law.

CHIEF GROSS:

Well, I can't really imagine this day and age that somebody wouldn't have a computer in a pet store or a shelter. I mean, I don't know of any that do not have it, but that's something that we will have to address.

LEG. CILMI:

I appreciate that. Thanks.

CHIEF GROSS:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much, Chief.

CHIEF GROSS:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Next speaker is Amol Sinha.

MR. SINHA:

Good morning. My name is Amol Sinha. I'm the Director of the Suffolk County chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union. I'm here to comment on I.R. 1876, which would call for training of neighborhood volunteers to monitor surveillance cameras in Huntington Station.

First, it should be known that the NYCLU is not against video surveillance as a general matter, as long as surveillance is proper under the circumstances and there's been a rigorous public discourse on the matter. I understand that surveillance may be useful in criminal investigations. However, while video surveillance may assist in criminal investigations after the fact, such as recognizing a criminal suspect's face, there's a serious lack of evidence that supports the contention that video surveillance actually prevents or deters crime. There is evidence, however, that surveillance merely pushes crimes to blind spots, areas where there is no surveillance, thus, creating pockets with intent to criminal activity, which is completely contrary to the goals of surveillance.

The proposed resolution would allow private citizens to monitor the activities of other private citizens. In addition to looking for crimes, your neighbors will be watching you. While there is talk of police training the volunteers, there's been no discussion of what this training would consist of and whether or not the Police Department actually supports the idea of training private citizens. Additionally, there's not been much discussion of the cost of the program. Would the County need to hire more Police Officers to do the training? How much would the technology cost? In addition to the one-time cost of supplies, what would be the cost of maintaining the program, and what would be the cost of constant police supervision of the neighborhood volunteers.

Whatever the public safety rationale for mandating the use of video surveillance cameras, there's an equally compelling interest that County Legislature must take into account, the civil liberties of Suffolk County residents. This government interest involves the protection of personal privacy, freedom of speech and association, as well as due process of law. Not only can surveillance cameras monitor the conduct of people in Huntington Station, they can also store in archive video imaged. These stored images can be transferred, uploaded and disseminated to the farthest regions of the internet. There must be frank discussion about the nature of the storage of information, who will have access to it, how long it will be stored. Additionally, the Legislature must take into consideration potential abuse of the system. If, in the implementation of a video surveillance law enforcement strategy, the County abandons its duty to protect the rights and liberties of its residents, then that strategy has failed.

Surveillance cameras can capture images of events, and in some instances those images can help investigators identify people carrying out criminal acts. I understand crime is a concern. We want safer communities. Suffolk has some of the worst crime statistics in recent years, but video camera surveillance is not a magic bullet. Cameras cannot prevent bad things from happening, and the money spent on them may, in fact, divert resources for more effective crime prevention strategies and tactics. Unless there is heavy and constant regulation of the practice, video surveillance cameras can be operated with almost no legal constraint or consequence. Before the Legislature votes this proposed resolution out of committee, I urge you to engage in thorough public and transparent discourse about every aspect of the issue in order to discuss the concerns highlighted today. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I've got a question from Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

So my guess is that you don't support volunteers monitoring the cameras, you don't support the Police Department doing it. I mean, okay, say it wasn't volunteers, it was just the Police Department, would you support it?

MR. SINHA:

We would support it after a thorough discussion of the cost and the technique of the program.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. You know, another thing, I have a community in Mastic Beach and they put up cameras. It has made a dramatic change for the community. They put up a brand new gazebo, it was busted in twice, and with cameras they were able to catch the people that did it. So I just wanted to say to you, I think that I understand where you're coming from. However, when a community is asking for it, and I know Huntington Station is asking for it, shouldn't we be giving them what they need and what they believe they need to help protect their community?

MR. SINHA:

I agree with you, but I also would like to say that there needs to be a thorough discussion of every aspect of the camera system. The community needs to know that they'll be watched in all their activities. And whether or not, you know, John is going to a friend's house that Stacy doesn't know about and Stacy is watching John go to this friend's house is a side effect of the system that John wants, then so be it. But, as it stands, as you said, the gazebo situation, cameras help -- excuse me. Cameras do not help prevent crime, but they help figure out criminal investigations after the fact, I do concede that point.

LEG. BROWNING:

Well, I think you're reaching too far. I think the police or volunteers -- you know, maybe I understand where you're coming from with the volunteers, but I think the Police Department, we don't care about where Johnny went, you know, they're looking for the crime and that's where their focus is going to be. So I think maybe you're reaching a little too far on that.

MR. SINHA:

I agree with you, that the police is properly trained to handle the situation. I don't know what the training would be of the neighborhood volunteers and that is my concern.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

What would you consider a thorough investigation?

MR. SINHA:

I'm sorry, I don't understand. Thorough --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, you said that you're not supporting it, you're supporting that there would be -- there needs to be a thorough -- a thorough discussion and investigation of the process and blah, blah. What -- how do you see that happening? Because, I mean, I know there has been discussion and investigation. What would you consider adequate?

MR. SINHA:

Well, I would like to know -- I would like to know whether or not the community has been informed of the system, whether or not their community has been informed of their responsibilities as neighborhood volunteers, and whether or not they've been informed of the cost of the system and --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Have you reached out to Legislator D'Amaro?

MR. SINHA:

No. I talked to Legislator Cooper about the situation and --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

But this is Legislator D'Amaro's, right?

MR. SINHA:

I understand that.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

So, if you want to really make things a little quicker, you've got to talk to the people that are developing it, because I think he would have answers for you.

MR. SINHA:

Right, right, absolutely.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

You know, if you come here and criticize without really doing sufficient work, I don't think that's fair. You should have talked to Legislator D'Amaro before you come and criticize or have problems with legislation, because the answers might have been dealt with for you.

MR. SINHA:

Well, again, I apologize for not talking to Legislator D'Amaro. I will talk to him as soon as possible. Legislator Cooper, though, informed me of the history of surveillance throughout Huntington Station and he -- though he's a friend of mine and the organizations, he wasn't able to answer all of my questions.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Thank you.

MR. SINHA:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

All right. Seeing no other -- anybody else like to address the committee? All right. Then I have Commissioner Joe Williams and his staff. You guys were going to come forward and give us a review of the emergency response to a specific incident that took place in Stony Brook. If you could just let us know the significance of that and what you were able to do.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Good morning. It gives us great pleasure to present this presentation to you with the perfect example of what went on with this particular event was multiple agencies, both County agencies, Town agencies, local fire department, two different police departments, working together as we always strive for, we always drill for. I'm happy to bring myself this morning here and also with myself is my Deputy Commissioner, John Searing, who was at the scene who will do the presentation. We have Walter Dunn, Senior Fire Marshal, Town of Babylon. We have -- excuse me, Town of Brookhaven. I moved him about 20 miles west.

*(*Laughter*)*

Larry Zaccarese, who's the Assistant Chief for University P.D. and head of Emergency Management, John Gallo, which is the Fire Manager, Environmental Safety and Health, University, here this morning. All these gentlemen were there. I feel they did -- they've done -- they did a fantastic job. And, again, Deputy Commissioner Searing will present -- do the presentation for you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SEARING:

Good morning and thank you for having us. And if the Chair doesn't mind, I'll just sit here and do the presentation from the table.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Sure.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SEARING:

I'd like to thank our colleagues who are here also to help in this presentation. They'll be able to answer agency-specific questions. I'll primarily present the role of Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services, which is really a coordination role, and we also provide the Decontamination Strike Team that was started about two years ago under Commissioner Williams' leadership, and that team is there for the entire County to use for any HazMat agency, and fire department, in the event that they feel there's an incident which requires a decontamination of people or responders as well.

This is a simple timeline. I don't want to read the whole thing to you, and I pulled out a few key points. The call came in about 7:30 p.m. on that Sunday, 7:31 to be exact. Responders started out, Brookhaven Town Fire Marshal started out. Chief Pete Leonard from Stony Brook Fire Department, who could not be here today, he tore his rotator cuff, was the incident commander. He did a great job. He was faced with an unknown HazMat situation. University Police and Fire Marshals were also on the scene. They did a great job assessing what they had and making some very good initial determinations and calling for resources that they thought they might need, and that call actually went out at 1946 and 1948 for additional help to the scene by way of Brookhaven Town HazMat, who provided -- yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Could you just start off with saying what the call was?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SEARING:

Sure.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

You know, not a baby needs help. What was the call, and then we can get all --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SEARING:

The call came in actually as an unknown release of some kind of material in the third floor of a dormitory, and some people were complaining of eye irritation and some other respiratory distress or -- as well. So that's how the call came in, as an unknown irritant, and then it went from there. And sometimes that's all the information that you wind up having, is that something has happened and now it's left the responders to make that determination. And so when the Fire Marshals and University Police got there and then, as well, with Stony Brook Volunteer Fire Department, they made a very good initial assessment and called to garner some extra resources that they don't normally have.

The request, not only for Brookhaven Town Fire Marshals, who actually do the technical HazMat pieces where they entered a building, you'll see a couple of pictures in a moment, but also for the Decon Unit, and the request was initially made for approximately 50 people that were on scene and

those were students that were in the dormitory. The Decon Unit arrived at about 8:29 p.m. on scene. The HazMat Team made their entry just a short time after that. Also, multiple EMS Units are on scene, Emergency Medical Services, providing care for patients. At some point, when the team let us know that they had a better feeling for what the agent might or might not be, and I would defer to Larry Zicarese, because I know that was under investigation, the decision was made just to, as a precaution, to decon the students. And then the decon was completed at 9:49, with the incident being over about 10 o'clock.

Just to show you where this was, this is a shot of the University. North is upward on the screen, and this is the Tabler Quad area, and the specific dormitory. The release of the material was on one half of this building up on the third floor, so it was fairly confined. There was no evidence of, you know, material coming out of the building or an active leak once all the responders started to go in.

A couple of things to point out. From a logistic standpoint, we had lots of area to work with, which was -- wound up being very good for us. We were able to put the Decon Unit on Tabler Drive. Technical Decon was all in here. We had a lot of staging room. We had an empty parking lot, which worked out marvelous for being able to bring all the units in, set people up, keep the, quote-unquote, contaminated folks from the decontaminated folks, and then also put the command post up on this side of the scene. So, from a layout perspective, it didn't get better than this that we had at the Tabler.

There were 17 agencies in total involved in this. It was a great inter-agency response. I've been at Fire Rescue for 25 years, not Suffolk Fire Rescue, but in the fire rescue business, and this was among the best I've seen in terms of communications and actual cooperation between all of the agencies that were there. They all had a sense of urgency, a sense of need to make sure that the students are protected and then make sure the public was protected outside of that. And you can see the short list of them here; I haven't listed all of them.

The FRES role, as I stated before, is to provide the Decontamination Strike Team. It started out about two years ago. It's made up of our Fire Marshals, our Emergency Management staff, Suffolk DPW, Suffolk Sheriff, Suffolk Police, a couple of folks from I.T., and a number of folks from Health and EMS. So it's a mixed group. Many of them on the outside are either first responders in their fire departments or EMS agencies, so it's a natural fit. And these folks train every month, and this is a really the first real test of this team in a real situation and we think it worked out fairly well.

A couple of shots from the scene so you could just see some of the -- of what goes on and how complicated these things can be. The Incident Commander has a lot of things going on, between protecting the life, safety of the responders, protecting life, safety of the public, trying to get the incident mitigated. So the more resources you can get in there in a rapid fashion, you can mitigate the incident pretty quickly.

So here's the decon tractor trailer being pulled up the, Incident Commander over here, and that was on that Tabler Drive in front of the dormitory.

University Police and Fire Marshals did a great job of being able to contain the students away from the scene, but still where we could reach them and provide any assistance to them. HazMat team getting ready to suit up and make their entry. Again, lots of different agencies helping out, because we've all kind of been cross-trained in a lot of the efforts that go on at these scenes.

Brookhaven's technical decon area set up for when the HazMat team came out, because it's -- you actually split those two. EMS agencies providing assistance to students, and just an overall view of the scene from different agencies and personnel responding. This is the command post. This is Brookhaven Town's unit, and you can see Suffolk EMS in there, Brookhaven Town Fire Marshal, Chief Zicarese, Chief Gallo from the University, among others.

How do we think this went? Well, we achieved the priorities, life safety. No one got hurt. There were four minor injuries. They were transported as precautionary measures to the hospital; all, to our knowledge, were released. The incident was mitigated successfully and we were able to achieve property and environmental conservation, no release, able to prove that the dorm was safe to inhabit. Excellent inter-agency cooperation, like I spoke about before. And, as always, we do learn stuff. We talk about this amongst ourselves. We go back and forth to make sure that we're all providing the right resources and the right discussions to each other, and some of those discussions get quite frank. In fact, we beat ourselves up pretty hard ourselves, so that's not even from another agency.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Would you want to say anything?

CHIEF ZACARESE:

Good morning. Thank you for having us today. I would just further reiterate Commissioner Searing and Commissioner Williams' positions, that in my nearly 20 years experience, all of us have professional relationships outside of our roles, and I would say that it's a testament, certainly to the training and the experience. It was one of the finest scenes and cooperations that I've seen in a long time. In judging from the potential with the nearly 50 students, I think it was managed extremely well and rather efficiently.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you. It was very impressive. So that you would be able to respond if this was really a toxic agent, you'd respond the same way and you've had really a live run-through.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Absolutely. The only thing we can do in the emergency services is that we have to go with the information we get. When the alarm came in, we really didn't know, or the Chief of Stony Brook didn't know what we had, not speaking for him, but that's generally how everybody runs their emergencies. And when he got there, he had to do a size-up, what we call it, call out the resources he needs. Sometimes we tend to, and which we always do, is ask for more. You can always turn them around, but you don't want to be caught in the position where you're needing something and it is an element of time in getting it there.

So, again, just echoing what everybody said, this was a -- we know we had -- it was a, and I was not there, but I was monitoring and talking to them, and we did do a debriefing, and they did a great job, who was there, but what happens is that the -- you got students and that some were happy or unhappy with what was going on. I know they had some -- most of them were very cooperative, and once they realized what they had to go through, they became all extremely cooperative. But they still -- I know the people on the in scene had to deal with that element also.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Well, I think it's very impressive to see that all the Decon Strike Team and all the parts to that, all the agencies worked so well together. I mean, that's really what we want to hear in our committee, that when we need public safety, everybody comes together and egos are put on the side, and that's basically what I'm seeing right here, that everybody functioned in a way to just help the kids. I appreciate it. Did you want to add something?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SEARING:

I was just going to say, Commissioner Williams brought up a point about the students. We did very early on, with the cooperation of the University Police and Fire, talk to the students and say, "Let us tell you what's happening," and I think that went a long way in just kind of soothing their fears, because, you know, with technology these days, information goes out quicker than you can imagine

from scenes. We think that worked out pretty well and probably contributed to some of the success we had here.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, thank you for your presentation. It's great to see that the agencies worked well together. One of my responsibilities in my former life when I was in the military, I was a military officer, and the military's infamous for, when you're not in combat, to giving you additional duties, and one of my additional duties was the battalion chemical officer, so I had to put on programs and do exercises, similar to what you guys just went through. So I'm curious as to see are you satisfied with the timeline when the Decon Unit assets were deployed, that time frame was adequate for you? If not, what are we going to do to improve that?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Our Decon Unit is kept in -- out in Yaphank by our office, and like any other thing, is that the -- when you're called upon, sometimes depends on the time of the day or night, this was a Sunday evening -- the way we have our response set up for that is our Fire Marshals, who do inspections, have County vehicles, and this is one of the main purposes why they're bringing the County vehicle home. One of those Fire Marshals were dispatched, he lived in Saint James, that was the closest, went out to Yaphank, picked up the unit and brought it there. Given those time frames, we're satisfied that being that this was a -- not to mitigate it, but not make it even smaller, is that the -- it's -- HazMat thing, by the time everything was all set up, they knew the trailer was coming, they made room for it. The Town of Brookhaven's Fire Marshals were there with some of their decon.

So the initial thing was actually, in my opinion, under control. It wasn't like a raging fire, where we're waiting for one piece of special equipment that took 40 minutes to get there. But, if it happened two minutes from now again, that unit would get there a little faster because my Fire Marshals are in the office. But, given the circumstances and given this type of call, I know I'm personally satisfied with it.

LEG. GREGORY:

Now, the first responders, when they went to the site, are they able to make an initial assessment, and did they make the call that we need more assets to come, or did I miss that?

CHIEF ZACARESE:

The way the University operates, the Fire Marshals and University Police are there 24/7, so the initial call was -- we responded within -- first Police Officer was there within two minutes, the first Fire Marshal was there a minute after. Upon -- they themselves being at least initially affected and not really being able to get into the building irritation the Police Officers retreated, the Fire Marshal donned some personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus and made an entry, and, at that point, determined the safest thing was to pull the fire alarm to evacuate the building, upwards of 300 students or so, and shortly thereafter, that prompted the response of the Stony Brook Fire Department. So, from the time of the initial call to a first responder on scene was less than two minutes.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay. My concern is, if it were to happen at SUNY Farmingdale, you know, and the assets being in Yaphank, you know, we would be in a similar situation, how would that -- the situation have turned out, you know, getting the assets there?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM:

Well, we also have around the County is that -- through the State of New York and the normal purchasing, we have various HazMat trailers, the small two-wheeler, four wheeler axle trailers that are kept at fire departments. We also have -- those departments have been trained in certain aspects of that, that they could either take that trailer directly to the scene. And you mentioned East Farmingdale, there's one there and -- or our Fire Marshals on the way to the scene would pick them up. What we're waiting for, the big Decon Unit to come in.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much, gentlemen, for your presentation. If I could have a representative from the Police Department come forward, we had a question. Thank you for being here today, I appreciate the presence.

CHIEF MOORE:

Well, thank you for having me. I am Chief of Department, Robert Anthony Moore.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Gregory had a question.

LEG. GREGORY:

Hi, Chief. Thank you for being here. Two things. One is a follow-up from the Presiding Officer at the last meeting. He had requested figures for overtime, and the gentlemen -- I'm sorry, I forget your name -- he said that they would try to get those numbers to us. I'm just following up on that, since the Presiding Officer is not here right now.

CHIEF MOORE:

Unfortunately, I missed the last meeting, but will follow up and see where we are with that. I'm not sure if he had gotten the overtime numbers yet.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay. My second question is, recently, I guess probably about a month ago now, I went on a ride-along and -- with one of the police officers in the First Precinct. And it's my understanding that a week after that, there was a new policy instituted that if any Legislator, I believe, I think was the wording, not just any person, civic leader, but I think specifically Legislator, were to do a ride-along, that they would have to ride with a Sergeant and not necessarily -- and not a -- just a police officer. I'm curious as to what's the reasoning behind that policy, new policy.

CHIEF MOORE:

I'm sorry, I thought I had to push and hold. Yes, the Commissioner promulgated that fairly recently, and I'm not really familiar with his reasoning. I would imagine that it has to do more with the sector car boundaries. As you may know, Police Officers must remain within their sectors generally, where a Sergeant has a much, much broader range, so perhaps that has something to do with it. You have more opportunity to observe if you're with a unit that has a wider span.

LEG. GREGORY:

I don't know. I recall we went to -- we went anywhere from Wheatley Heights to Wyandanch to North Amityville. I believe we went -- even went into Lindenhurst, I think Deer Park, which is certainly not in my district. So I'm just curious as to what the reasoning would be. I've been on ride-alongs before and it was never an issue, but now it seems to be an issue, so --

CHIEF MOORE:

Was this a sector car, sir, or was it --

LEG. GREGORY:

Yeah, yeah.

CHIEF MOORE:

It was. I really -- I can have the Commissioner respond to your inquiry on that.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay. Thank you, Bob -- I'm sorry, Chief.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I've got a couple of things. I've made a request at the last meeting that you weren't at that a ride-around be made available by the Police Department, by the Sheriff's Department, and by Probation for any of the Legislators that would like to do it, and the sooner the better. And I did specifically -- I didn't -- I wasn't informed of this, but I did request a sector car in North Bellport, in fact, in Mrs. Donnelly's area, because I've done a private walk-around. I wanted to see it through the eyes of a sector car, not a Sergeant, because he does have more room. I want to see the restrictions, I want to see what the officer has to do. So I'm going to have a little difficulty if that is, in fact, a new directive. And I would want to hear, because I think the Police Commissioner responded to me saying, "No problem, you can go."

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah. I'm not aware of any issues or problems.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah. I don't know if that is a policy, so -- I didn't get it, but somehow it's gotten to Legislator Gregory. So we need to have that clarified, because --

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I understand, but I want him to understand my perspective. I want to see through the eyes of that officer, you know. I mean, the Sergeant has to go all over, so --

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah, I would imagine that. And, again, this may just be a misunderstanding on our part. I would imagine that, you know, particularly later in the evening or early in the morning, you might find it much more useful to be with someone who has a broader range, but if --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And I could see that being communicated and leaving the decision to the Legislator. See, I'm not opposed to communication, but that seems to be the issue here for the last like three years.

CHIEF MOORE:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

And I wanted, since we've had this little communication -- as you know, no one was here at the last meeting, and then I forgot -- was it you --

DEPUTY INSPECTOR NIEVES:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

-- Deputy Inspector -- showed up, and, at that time, I was told he was assigned to the meeting. Well, you know, if the meeting starts at 10 and he came at 10:30, I just have a problem that he was -- I believe he was called and told, "You better get there," and, yet, that's not what I was told. I mean, people make mistakes, but if you're going to give me a story, then I don't know where the true -- when the true story comes out. Now we were asked for overtime stats, and because you personally weren't here -- so you're telling me that the officers that were here didn't communicate to you the request. See, I'm starting to have a problem with that, because I, too, served in the military and I don't know any organization that operates like that. If you said -- if you're told to be at meeting tomorrow, you make sure you find out what time it is. And when there's a request made by the Legislature, I would assume somebody had to get to you. So to me now, I'm starting to say that it looks like a stall tactic. Now it may not be, but I'm being -- you know what, for the five years I've been here, I've been open and honest, probably to my own, you know, bad feelings, or whatever. I'm trying to be honest with you, that's what I'm seeing, and I need -- I want that cleaned up. I want clear, accurate information. You don't have to be perfect. If you say it's going to take two weeks, it will take two weeks. But, if you tell me the information isn't getting to you, I'm having a little problem with that.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

That's safe. That's a good safe answer, thank you. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, Chief. How are you?

CHIEF MOORE:

Good morning, sir.

LEG. KENNEDY:

The citizen who was here before spoke very powerfully, as you could hear and see.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And, if you haven't gotten a chance to see her letter, I would encourage you to go ahead and read it. I need some clarification specifically. She spoke about many different things, and, as you know, there are -- there's supposed to be a bundle of tools that are available in each one of the precincts. My sense is that that bundle is dwindling mightily. But the Gang -- the Gang Unit is a technique, I think, that we've had in place here with Suffolk County Police Department probably for 20 years, 25 years. Unfortunately, there have been gangs in our County that go all the way back to the Pagans and motorcycles gangs, and things like that. She spoke about gang presence there in the North Bellport area now. What do we do about gangs now? What does the Suffolk County Police Department and how do we do it?

CHIEF MOORE:

As you may know, sir, up to, oh, about two or three years ago, and I'd have to check exactly when we began, most of the precincts, and not every precinct, but most of the precincts had their own

gang teams. But one thing that the Commissioner noticed was that the gangs migrate. While our sector car operators are asked to remain within the boundaries of their sector, the gangs didn't get the memo and they move around. So the Commissioner, in reflecting that, thought that perhaps, since the gangs migrate, it might be a good idea to have our gang teams migrate as well. So he changed the policy of the Suffolk County Police Department from separate and distinct gang units assigned strictly to a precinct or precinct area, he decided to develop a new unit in the Suffolk County Police Department called the Patrol Special Operations Team or PSOT. Initially, the members of the preexisting gang teams were combined into PSOT. Today PSOT -- and again someone mentioned five gang team officers. Well, in fact, PSOT has 59 Police Officers, nine Sergeants, two Lieutenants, and one Deputy Inspector assigned. So I'm not sure the five, that's the current complement.

Now, PSOT is subdivided into three units, each with a major focus. But, as you could imagine, their duties and responsibilities overlap. For example, we have a team that we call the Gang Team, and, pretty much, that is that formerly combined gang teams into a single unit. However, the increase in guns on the streets caused the Commissioner to add a second unit to PSOT and we call that today the Street Crime, but, as a matter of fact, that's the Gun Team. And their focus is guns, but, as you know, gang people are heavily involved with guns, so the Gang Team and Gun Team work very closely together.

One of the functions of the Street Crime Unit within PSOT is that they have seven of their officers assigned to the Heroin Task Force as well, and the third is the Community Response Unit. Now, initially, that was a group of officers whose assignment was, during the summer when there are a lot more people visiting the County parks and Town parks, perhaps it would be a good idea to have a larger police presence in those areas, and that was the origins of the Community Response Unit. Now, initially, that was a summertime unit. As we speak now, that is a part of PSOT.

So, again, 59 officers, nine Sergeants, two Lieutenants, one Deputy Inspector. Yes, they focus much of their attention in areas of the First Precinct, the Second Precinct, the Third Precinct. However, by definition, their assignment is to follow the gang members wherever the gang members go.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You know, policing and law enforcement is a true science, and forensics, I guess, tells you that, obviously, you need to change techniques as different things come on. Twenty years ago, 30 years ago, I'm sure there was no strong need to be conversant in how these things are used and what the messaging capabilities, techniques and all the other things are. Today I know we have a very active Computer Crimes Unit, and we also have glasses that are actually given, even for our citizens, to have parents be alerted to how children and drug dealers are communicating regarding purchases and buys and things like that. But I think -- you know, I hear the number 59 and I think of seven precincts, and, you know, Catholic school already taught us how to do math. That would be eight, you know, officers per precinct, and you would think that there would be an ability to bring a presence or a show of force in an area that's being talked about that essentially is under siege.

When we have a citizen describe to us that in a short walk to her home she is looking at known dangerous physical locations, in my mind that's an area that's under siege. And here's where my need to know, sometimes I guess I -- I guess I have to kind of ratchet back a little bit on, but I'm going to ask you to somehow convey to me, or, more importantly, convey to her how these 59 individuals that are cast to this function are actually responded to what she's bringing to us, because I'm not hearing it, I'm not feeling it, I'm not sensing it. And I'm thinking, if I don't see it, she certainly doesn't see it, and she's talking about the fact that her kids are basically saying to her, "Ma, why did you move us, why did you bring us to this place?" And I don't think any one of us is willing to concede that any square inch of Suffolk County is a cast-off, or we're going to just take a

walk on it.

So I'll stop there, but I'll ask you to, please, speak to her. I'd love to know a little bit more about this, but I don't want to know it in this fashion, but I desperately want you to speak to her.

CHIEF MOORE:

Absolutely. As a matter of fact, Ms. Donnelly was kind enough to share a copy of her comments with us, so we do have them and we're going to be following up with her.

Initially, I was accompanying the Police Commissioner to all of the areas within Suffolk County faced with these challenges. As you know, some areas are more fortunate than others, and that's why the Commissioner chose to focus our attention on specific areas. Recently, the Commissioner has decided that it would be more efficient if I were to focus my attention in the Huntington Station area. Assistant Chief of Patrol Pat Cuff is the individual who is focusing on the Brentwood/ C.I. area. And the Commissioner and the County Executive have, I believe, brought Chief of Patrol Nicholas Mango and Deputy Chief of Patrol John Meehan to many of the meetings and events in the North Bellport area. Of course, the Wyandanch/North Amityville area, we're fortunate to have Deputy Chief of Patrol Robert Cassagne, who many of you know is a former Commander in the First Precinct. So the Commissioner's tried to fit the specific knowledge of the Chiefs with an area that's facing these issues. And, as a result, I'm sorry to say that I'm not as familiar with the North Bellport area as perhaps Chief Mango or Chief Meehan, but we'd be happy to bring them along to the next meeting so that they could share what the response of the Police Department in that specific area.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Which is wonderful, Chief, and --

CHIEF MOORE:

North Bellport I think is --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right. But let me just --

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah, East Patchogue.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Let me just say one other thing to where I welcome the information and I believe that you speak with sincerity, and that you will bring these other gentlemen who are knowledgeable in that physical area. But two things: One, I believe a bird in a hand is worth two in a bush. You're here now and so is she, so that conversation I think is important. The other thing is, is Suffolk County, as you know, is a very diverse area, and while some areas do not have the physical presence of some of the gangs or some of the capital crimes that we've seen, other areas deal with things that are sometimes a little bit more insidious, but, nevertheless, equally as devastating.

I got a communication from Chief of Parks Police about two drug arrests that were just made yesterday, I believe it was, in Raynor Park. I have the misfortune of having areas in the 12th Legislative District that seem to be persistent and active concentrations of drug activity. And so NE/SOT I'm very familiar with and I know it does a wonderful job.

You spoke about the Heroin Task Force. I know there's a District Attorney's Heroin Task Force, too, and I wonder sometimes about the interactions between our Suffolk County Police Heroin Task Force and the D.A.'s. All I'm going to suggest to you with that is, is that we are in a time period where

we have to maximize all of the officers that we have at our availability and disposal. We're fortunate to have Park Police. I hope those Park Police are part of your dialogue when we're talking about activities and patrolling particular areas. They deal with our Suffolk County parks around the calendar. But, at the same token, we welcome your personnel in the parks where, unfortunately, there's persistent activity.

I'll yield there, I'll stop. As usual, I've taken a lot of time. But I just very much wanted to make sure you take a chance to speak with that woman and have some meaningful communication.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes, sir.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. If there's no other questions, then thank you very much, Chief and staff. If I could ask Chief Sharkey to just step forward. And, certainly, invite any of your other staff that you'd like to have come forward. I want to thank you for coming. I want to also just let you know, and the Chief, of course, and anybody else about my expectation. I don't want you to think you have to bring five or six staff members. At the last meeting there was nobody here. And my goal is either if somebody has a question, if the person here can't answer it, they'll relay it to you in a timely fashion. So, please, I don't want it to be misinterpreted that I want -- you know, I want five white uniforms here every meeting or all your staff. I appreciate you being here, and I know how hard it is to try to put this in your schedule, so I do appreciate it, your being here.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah. I just wanted to ask you, I've seen the Channel 12 editorial. I don't know if you've got to see it, Peter Kohler editorial about the jail. And, you know, I guess it was, you know, the County Executive still fighting, won't staff it. I mean, I saw the construction, it's certainly moving ahead very well. You know, I never really supported this monstrous jail being built myself, not to the extent it was proposed. The Sheriff has done a good job in downsizing it. But, again, where are we again with the staffing? You know, this editorial kind of disturbs me that he's still battling about not staffing the jail, and what is that going to do with you guys with variances?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

All I could say for now is that we -- you know, we have our first class that we were promised in. We asked for 50 and that class is in. Our indications going into next year is that there are two classes budgeted. Of course, the budget's not complete until it passes through the Legislature. The proposal, I believe, next year is for another 90 officers. Our initial hiring plan called for three classes next year. I'm sure that in between now and then there'll be additional dialog between the Commission and the Sheriff and the Executive.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. It's just, you know, my concern is, is we put staffing positions in the budget and they wind up not -- never getting filled. So, you know, I just wanted you to keep us in the loop, because we certainly don't hear from across the street. But I just wanted you to keep us in the loop and let us

know what's going on, because, you know, I'm concerned about the variances. We've spent all this money on something that we're basically going to let it sit there empty? And I just want to know that we are properly staffing it and you have what you need.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

All I could say is, from our standpoint, we are proceeding and it's our intention to open on time and with proper staffing.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

One other in lines with staffing, because I know we're going to have to be voting on this very shortly, maybe if you could get your overtime budget and have it for us so we could have the Police Departments and Sheriff Departments, so that will help us support any increase in staffing that might be made, if that's a possibility.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

If I'm not mistaken, that's already been submitted with our budget request. They have our 2010 budget, our 2010 projection, and our 2011 request.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Great. Okay, thank you. Then I'll be looking at that. Thank you very much.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Can I just ask something?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes, Presiding Officer Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Chief Sharkey, where -- the opening with the new jail, what is -- what's the latest on the scheduled opening?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

I'd have to check on an exact date, because there is some slight fluctuation, but we're still looking at late '11, early '12, somewhere around -- somewhere, you know, December, December 11th, January 12th.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And the two classes in the budget for next year, will they have completed the training when the jail is scheduled to open, or it can't open until they complete the training; we won't have enough people?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Our requested hiring plan for next year included three classes of 50 to achieve the number that the Commission is currently asking for. I believe, and again I don't have the budget to refer to right now, but I believe that the budget allows for two classes, one, I believe, is in January, and the other one, I believe, is in September, so both of those would graduate prior to the expected opening of the facility.

P.O. LINDSAY:

What are the size of those classes?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

It should be, I believe, 50 and 40. The budget allows for 90 next year, as recommended by the Executive.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And what do you -- and the Sheriff recommends 150. What is the Commission going to accept?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

At this point, we made our request for the 150 based on the Commission's current position. I don't know that there won't be further discussions as we proceed, but we've made our request based on the best information we had at the time we presented our budget.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Thank you very much. All right. Then I guess it's time for the agenda.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

We'll start with tabled resolution, *I.R. 1782 - A Local Law to register prepaid cell phones purchased in Suffolk County (Browning)*.

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to table for Public Hearing.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to table for Public Hearing by Legislator Browning, I'll second that. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: Tabled for Public Hearing 5-0-0-0)**

I.R. 1863 - A Local Law to reduce minors' access to spray paint (Browning).

LEG. BROWNING:

Same motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Same motion, same second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: Tabled 5-0-0-0)**

I.R. 1879 - A Local Law establishing a County Registry for animal abuse offenders (Cooper).

LEG. GREGORY:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion by Legislator Gregory.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1876 - Directing the Suffolk County Police Department to train volunteers to monitor Huntington Station security cameras as part of an Electronic Neighborhood Watch Program (D'Amaro).

LEG. KENNEDY:

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

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

A motion to table by Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Cilmi.

P.O. LINDSAY:

On the question. I was out of the room. The police have some questions about this reso? Is that --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

No, I didn't get any questions. We did get some concerns by the Civil Liberties Union.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. I've got a motion to table and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. It's tabled. **(VOTE: Tabled 5-0-0-0)**.

I.R. 1894 - Approving the reappointment of Rajeshwar Prasad as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (Co. Exec.). It's a reappointment. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1895 - Approving the reappointment of Dr. Yu-Wan Wang as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1896 - Approving the reappointment of Rabbi Steven A. Moss as Chair of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1897 - Approving the reappointment of Mark J. Epstein as a member of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: Approved 5-0-0-0).**

I.R. 1898 - Approving the reappointment of Augustus G. Mantia --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion. ***As a member of the Human Rights Commission (Co. Exec.).***

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

(1916) A local Law to ensure safe use of air guns in Suffolk County (Eddington). I'll make a motion to table for Public Hearing.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1921 - Directing the Police Department to study the ShotSpotter Gun Location System (Cooper).

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll make a motion.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Make a motion by Legislator Browning to approve; I'll second that. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

I.R. 1926 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$11,658 from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee grant (GTSC FFY2011) Buckle-Up Program, with 100% support for the Sheriff's Traffic Safety Initiative (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve and put on the Consent Calendar; second by Legislator Browning. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

I.R. 1939 - A Local Law to require Homeless Sex Offenders to report their overnight locations (Eddington). I make a motion to table for Public Hearing.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1952 - A Local Law to protect animals in Suffolk County from abuse (Cooper).

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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? **(VOTE: Tabled for Public Hearing 5-0-0-0)**

I.R. 1957 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal pass-through grant funds from the New York State Office of Homeland Security in the amount of \$2,151,792 for the "Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) (FY200) administered by the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and to execute grant-related agreements (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve and put on the Consent Calendar.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1959 - Approving an increase in the fleet for the Suffolk County Police Department Emergency Service Section (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1963 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$94,785 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, to enforce motor vehicle passenger restraint regulations with 83.37% support (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

Seeing the end of business, I will close the committee.

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:42 A.M.]