

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, April 21, 2011, at 10:00 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:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk, Clerk's Office
John Ortiz, Budget Review Office
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Caucus
Rob Calarco, Aide to Legislator Eddington
Bobby Knight, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Eric Kopp, County Executive's Office
Ed Hennessey, County Executive's Office
Robert Moore, Chief of Department, Suffolk County Police Department
Thaddeus Nieves, Suffolk County Police Department
Tracy Pollak, Suffolk County Police Department
Mike Sharkey, Chief of Staff, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Joe Williams, Commissioner of FRES
Anthony V. LaFerrera, FRES
Gail D'Ambrosio, President of SC Probation Officer's Association
Michael Rando, Suffolk County PBA
Patricia E. Sitler, Administrative Services Bureau SCPD

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer

*(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:03 A.M. *)*

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

All right. We're going to start the Public Safety Committee meeting, and we'll ask Legislator Kennedy to lead us in the flag salute.

*(*Salutation*)*

Please remain standing for a moment of silence for all those that serve our country, both foreign and domestically.

*(*Moment of Silence*)*

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you very much. Okay. Is there -- I have no cards here. Is there anybody who wants to address the committee? Okay, beautiful. All right. Then what I'm going to ask is Probation Director, Gerry Cook, to just come forward for a brief status report of the Interlock Systems.

DIRECTOR COOK:

Good morning.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Good morning.

LEG. CILMI:

Good morning.

DIRECTOR COOK:

At the present time, we have 622 people on Interlock, and because of the Local Law which mandates realtime monitoring, GPS, photo capability and 911 notification, the list of available vendors that we're now giving out, it has been reduced to four vendors. As far as the 911 -- the actual operation of 911 capability, we're meeting with the PD sometime mid May to work out the details. We're inviting the vendors to this meeting and, hopefully, by then we'll have this all worked out.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

How many did you say is currently -- did you say four?

DIRECTOR COOK:

Four vendors, yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Are currently at the level --

DIRECTOR COOK:

Yes, that they can provide everything in compliance with the Local Law. Two of the vendors use the same device --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay.

DIRECTOR COOK:

But there are four separate vendors.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. So that now the next step is to tie in the Police Department.

DIRECTOR COOK:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

What's the time frame on that?

DIRECTOR COOK:

We are meeting mid May sometime. The date hasn't been ironed out yet, because we would like to have the vendors present as well.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Is there any questions for Mr. Cook? No? Okay. Thank you very much for that update.

DIRECTOR COOK:

Thank you very much.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. I will start with the agenda. I've got tabled resolution, *I.R. 1093 - Naming the Suffolk County Police Department range "The Stephen J. Clark Memorial Range" (Co. Exec.)*. And I'm going to ask to table this, because the -- it has to have six months before it can be approved by the Naming Committee. So I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1121 - A Local Law to strengthen the County's Crack House Law.

LEG. BROWNING:

Did we close that?

MR. NOLAN:

We did.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. So I'll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

P.O. LINDSAY:

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

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

A Local Law -- *I.R. 1124 - A Local Law to change the formula for distribution of funds and fees generated from the seizure and forfeiture of vehicles (Schneiderman)*. I'll make a motion to table for Public Hearing.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I.R. 1146 - A Local Law to ban the sale of synthetic cocaine being marketed as "Bath Salts" in Suffolk County (Cooper). 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)*

LEG. KENNEDY:

Could you list me as a cosponsor, please?

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Introductory Resolution 1266 - A Local Law to register prepaid cell phones purchased in Suffolk County (Browning).

LEG. BROWNING:

Table for Public Hearing.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1277 - A Local Law to protect animals in Suffolk County from abuse (Cooper). I'll make a motion to table for Public Hearing.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

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

I.R. 1288 - Appropriating funds in connection with the Computer Aided Dispatch, CAD, and integration with Existing Fire Rescue CAD System (Co. Exec.). I'll Make a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Second by Legislator Browning.

LEG. KENNEDY:

On the motion, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

On the motion, yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Just a quick question. Is -- I think Joe Williams is here, or somebody from FRES who can speak to us just a little bit about where this project is at? It's been something that's been underway for quite sometime. I'm just curious as to what's -- where is it at and how are we using it and how is it going?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

You don't mind if I bring up Chief Bergold?

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm easy, Joe. Anybody who can tell me a little bit about what's going on besides, you know, a million bucks going out the door, I'd appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

If I can defer to Chief Bergold. It's integrating between the Police Department and the -- FRES. Our radio room is a backup opening, I know theirs is, he can speak to that. But what we're bringing about today is something mostly pertaining to the Police Department integrating with us.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

CHIEF BERGOLD:

Good morning, Chairman Eddington, and other members of the Board. We're presently in the process of implementing this system. We have a cut-over date around the middle of June when it will be fully implemented within the Police Department. Right now, we're in the testing phase and we're making modifications to the system based on, you know, experiences of other municipalities, and just to really customize the system to integrate it to Suffolk County's needs, so it's moving along. There's -- we anticipate, you know, June 15th, or there about, that we'll be cut over and fully operational on the new receiving dispatching system, as well as the new MDCs in the {caucus}.

LEG. KENNEDY:

If I can, and I'm going to go back over to FRES, Computer Assisted Dispatch has been a function that we've had here in the County for a period of time. The last couple of years there has been some CAD going on; isn't that correct?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

That's correct. FRES had instituted that approximately about five years ago, six years ago. It was

an original Federal grant.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

That has been in place with the Fire and EMS Agencies through FRES. What we've done now with the two new radio rooms being updated is going to enable us to actually communicate by CAD between us and the Police Department, which will give both agencies more information, more information to the First Responders, more information to the P.O. that's responding to that call also.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And then if I can go back to Inspector Bergold. So, from the PD's perspective, you see that the technology works, you're now looking to go ahead and apply this in a greater fashion? I mean, is this something that's going to work it's way down to our sector cars where dispatch function is actually going over their computer terminals or how's -- without getting too complicated, how's it going to work?

CHIEF BERGOLD:

Absolutely. It's going to tie the Police Department -- one of the most significant components is that the Police Department will be communicating with FRES electronically now. Instead of a caller calling 911 telling our the -- you know, our 911 operators their story and then us transferring the call to FRES and having them re-interview the complainant completely, we're going to electronically transfer the information to FRES and then they just -- the call will be transferred and they'll follow up with the information we've already sent. This will enable us to start resources responding immediately with the inception of the call and not waiting until after FRES is done. Simultaneously, this information will be sent out to our sector cars electronically and they'll have a fully interactive system on their mobile data terminals where they'll see the 911 call, they'll see all the text related to it, and they'll get a lot more information regarding calls.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So you'll be the initial point of contact. Joe, you'll have some dispatch? In other words, is that how we're going to get the emergency responders, as well as the sector car, there now electronically by moving to the screen that's commenced with a 911 operator, is that it?

CHIEF BERGOLD:

The way it works now is when someone calls in and they provide their name, their address, they describe the incident to the Police Department, and it's a fire, medical emergency, or another emergency that requires resources from FRES, we then transfer the call to FRES, they have to repeat all that information again, their name, address, and what's going on, and that slows down, you know, the call-taking. It's an unnecessary step that with the use of this new technology will completely eliminate. Now, FRES still has to perform the emergency medical dispatch questioning and the emergency fire dispatch questioning to get their resources, you know, the proper resources responding and to provide proper instruction, you know, pre-emergency response instruction, but this will certainly speed up us getting initial resources responding to these calls.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So your response time for the initial car should be about what it is now, but if you bring in additional resources and if you come to the call, that's where we're going to get the gain in quicker response?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

That's correct. We'll be getting a quicker response, plus we'll be giving more information. What happens right now, we'd be switching over. We'll know, and we'll be updating as we go along, we'll

know what police -- what sector car is responding to that. If he arrives on the scene, we can update, or the first responders going, questions sometimes come up. P.D. will ask or the P.O. will ask if we have EMS responding. We can actually communicate that back and forth that the P.D. operator will know already who's coming, if there is, what unit's coming. If they get there and there's a different type of situation, then it's been reported to us, they can report that either for a fire or EMS. The bottom line, there's going to be better communications between the first -- between us and P.D., which will only generate better communication between the P.O. on the scene and EMS, fire service coming to the scene.

LEG. KENNEDY:

One other iteration to this. So there appears to be a logic to have this integration go on with Suffolk County P.D. Has there been any communication with our Village or our East End Police Departments? Have they expressed a desire or an interest, or are we looking at this kind of as the sole app. at this point?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Right now, as far as FRES, most of your east end departments are communicated by a -- dispatched by their own Police Departments.

LEG. KENNEDY:

PSAPS, okay.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

And their own PSAPs, which is mostly out east that --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

When their technology comes up to date, it can integrate with our CAD system, we can give them this information. But what we've done now, even with our fire service, the EMS service, any information we have in that CAD is automatically faxed right to their dispatch center. So they're getting the same information. If it's not electronically, they're getting it in paper form. A lot of the PSAPs we can integrate with them. Right now, I don't have the answer as far as which ones are integrated with on the East End.

LEG. KENNEDY:

The West End, I'd be very interested about the Smithtown PSAP, and I'll have that conversation with you offline after this meeting. I don't want to hold everybody up other than one last question, and now I'll go to BRO. This is solely and exclusively County funding, or do we have any grant monies that are being utilized in this?

MR. ORTIZ:

No grant funding.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So it's a million dollar -- and so then I'll go back to the Department. Inspector, I mean, you know, you find money all over the place. Is there any Federal funding or State funding that promotes or supports this type of an initiative?

CHIEF BERGOLD:

We've actively sought, you know, and looked at grants that are available. We haven't found any grant funding. In terms of implementing the system, we were able to really capitalize on the fact

that FRES has the -- an existing system, and in terms of the -- you know, the 2.2 million dollar expenditure by the Police Department for this system, it's a farce. It's a very good deal compared to getting a new system, because we really built off FRES' system.

Just to clarify one point about the Police Department's response to calls and whether our response time, you know, will be quicker to true emergencies. The new system, we anticipate it will significantly reduce our response time to our highest priority calls, because rather than taking an entire call and then sending it for dispatch, the new system will automatically recognize incident types, the highest priority incident types. And once we verify the incident location, which is automatically done by the -- will automatically be done by the system and the nature of the call, it will automatically be sent for dispatch as the 911 operators continue to ask for additional information, so that will significantly cut our dispatch time.

Also, the new system allows us to dispatch based on closest available unit instead of strictly based on sector boundaries. And we've configured this system within the Police Department to identify for the highest priority assignments all resources of the Police Department, so not just a sector car. If there's an ES truck in the area, Crime Scene Unit, or other units, it that will pull them in for our highest priority emergencies.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And how are we doing that? In other words, do all our vehicles have the GPS for location purposes now?

CHIEF BERGOLD:

It's completely GPS based yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Great, good. Thank you very much, gentlemen. Thank you, Mr. Chair, I appreciate it. I just wanted to get an idea what was going on.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yeah. I would just like to follow up, because I think Legislator Kennedy brought up a great idea. You know, we're talking about closest available unit and how this is going to really, you know, make it more efficient. Are we including the Sheriff's Department and the Park Police in this?

CHIEF BERGOLD:

We have reached out to the Sheriff's Department to discuss this matter with them. At the present time, the system is -- it's being implemented in the Police Department, and in Fire Rescue. I'm not sure the Sheriff's intention, the Sheriff's Department's intention regarding that. As for the Parks Police, we do dispatch them. We have had discussion regarding bringing them online with the new system and that's our intention once funding becomes available for that purpose.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Well, maybe, Joe, you could -- Mike Sharkey's right back here, so maybe we could make sure that you do reach out to the Sheriff's Department. If this is going to do good, let's do it with all law enforcement personnel in the district -- you know, in the County and give everybody the opportunity to respond quickly.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

One thing that we've done and the procedure we've put in a while ago on the -- with the Sheriff's Department on the two highways is that if a call comes in for a normal type of call, a mechanical breakdown, that type, it goes right directly to the Police Department. If we get a call that's come to the Sheriff's Department, if it comes in that a motor vehicle accident and it seems like it's a serious

accident, the call comes to us first, we get the ambulances going, and not to delay the Police -- the Sheriff's Department, and we're taking the call first and passing it on to them.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Great. Thank you very much. All right. Then 1288, I have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

Okay. Thank you very much. If there's nothing else, I'll adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:21 A.M. *)