

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**February 6, 2014**

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, February 6, 2014 at 10:00.a.m.

***Members Present:***

Legislator Kate Browning - Chairperson  
Legislator Robert Calarco - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Kara Hahn  
Legislator John M. Kennedy  
Legislator Monica Martinez  
Legislator William Spencer

***Also in Attendance:***

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory - District #15  
Legislator Robert Trotta - District #13  
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson - Office of Counsel to the Legislature  
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature  
Josh Slaughter - Aide to Legislator Browning  
Lora Gellerstein - Aide to Legislator Spencer  
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory  
Debbie Tinnirello - Aide to Legislator Hahn  
Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory  
John Ortiz - Senior Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office  
Tom Vaughn - County Executive's Office  
Amy Keyes - County Executive's Office  
Robert Waring - Captain/Chief of Department's Office/SCPD  
Michael Sharkey - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Patrice Dlhopsky, Director, Suffolk County Probation Department  
Christine Larkin - Vice-President/Probation Officers Association  
Lou Tutone - 1st Vice-President/Suffolk County Police Benevolent Assoc.  
Russ McCormick - Sgt-at-Arms/Suffolk County Detective's Association  
Jimmy Roddin - Superior Officers Association  
Tracy Pollak - Suffolk County Police Department  
Phyllis Seidman - County Attorney's Office  
Anthony Bocchimuzzo - Suffolk County Police Department/Communications  
Bill Rohrer - Suffolk County Police Department /Communications  
All Other Interested Parties.

***Minutes Taken By:***

Lucia Braaten - Court Reporter

*(\*The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. \*)*

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Good morning. We will start the Public Safety Committee meeting. If everyone would please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator Hahn.

*(\*Salutation\*)*

And we'll have a moment of silence for those who defend our country at home and abroad.

*(\*Moment of Silence\*)*

Thank you. Okay. Good morning, and welcome to our first Public Safety Committee meeting for 2014, and I'd like to say a special welcome. I know the committee hasn't changed too much, but welcome to Legislator Martinez, new member of our Public Safety Committee. And I see Legislator Trotta here today. I know you're not a member, but you're always welcome.

And, anyway, I think, too, this year -- this meeting might be just be the record quickest meeting.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

So I do not have any cards. Is there anyone in the audience who would like to speak? Nope. There you go, it is getting quicker.

Also, I guess we do have some representatives from the various departments. I know our FRES Commissioner did reach out to me; he's unable to attend this morning.

So I see Probation. Patrice, do you have anything you'd like to report or comments?

**DIRECTOR DLHOPOLSKY:**

No, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No? Okay. Mike Sharkey from the Sheriff's Department, no? Captain Waring, nothing?

**CAPTAIN WARING:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I almost said Harding. Okay? Does anyone in the Public Safety Committee have any questions about anything? Okay.

I guess one issue that, Kara, you had was the Community Protection Act. So, Captain Waring, if we could get a message back to our Commissioner that we would like to work on maybe next committee meeting. Josh, do we have anybody scheduled for next one?

**MR. SLAUGHTER:**

(Shook head no.)

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No? Okay. Maybe the next meeting or the one after that, Public Safety, we'll get back to you to let you know, but we would like an update on the Community Protection Act and how it's working. I'll

also reach out to Laura Ahearn from Megan's Law to see if she can come.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Through the Chair, if I can just ask that we make a request, or I'd like to make a request with the Administration through Mr. Vaughn, if we can. All of us are talking about the ongoing issue with vehicles, our police vehicles, and, you know, we've now taken delivery on them. And what I've heard is, is we have a new configuration with the installation of computers, and the pedestal issue has been resolved. However, it's my understanding that we're down to just one Communications Tech, only one or two of them. We have a real significant need to have at least one of those positions filled so that we can get what's got to be 40 or maybe 50 vehicles waiting to be prepped and out there on the road. It's a shortage throughout all of our precincts. Every one of us here knows it, you know, when we talk to our Inspectors. So, through the Chair, if we can just make the request that the County Executive strongly consider signing one of those SCINs for another Communications Tech, I think it would be beneficial for them.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah, I agree. Okay. And I did speak with the Commissioner also regarding the cars issue, and I believe there is -- there's been an issue, too, that there's -- I believe, even here in the Fourth Precinct, I think there's something like 18 cars that are still without the computers and the necessary equipment so that they can get out on the road. And, you know, I'm hearing that some of the cars are having to double up because they don't have enough cars. So if we could possibly, even when we have the Community Protection Act, if we have that presentation, maybe we can talk about the cars also. But, again, I'd prefer not to wait until next meeting to go find out.

So, Tom, I thought there was two, two people available to do the computers; you're saying one.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I -- there -- my understanding is that there are two techs. One individual may, in fact, be out on a short -- an illness, a leave, or something like that. But what I'm also told is that the techs that are tasked with doing this equipment installation ironically are the same individuals that do a lot of the communications work with our heavy equipment. And particularly when we're looking at all of the overtime that vehicles are out on storm duty, they're being taken away from the basic new installation work with our brand new cars and they're having to go out and do ongoing repair and maintenance of the existing communications equipment, not only with our fleet, but, you know, with our public safety -- our Public Works equipment as well. We don't have enough people. We need another person committed to that task so we can get these vehicles up and out and get our police officers in the cars.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I don't disagree. And, actually, I do have a letter that was sent to me. It is not signed. I do see -- I don't know how many other members received it, but, Captain Waring, I'll give you a copy of it, because, obviously, it's in relation to the issue with cars and the mechanics. And I will also make sure that our DPW Commissioner gets a copy of it, because I think there might be some valid issues in there.

911 operators, Kara, you wanted today ask a question?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah. I mean, I just think the first meeting of the year we should try to just get up -- if we can't get updates today, at least request them for next time on some of the issues we've been trying to track, you know, Community Protection Act being one of them, 911 operators and where we are with that being another one. Obviously, also for FRES/Fire Academy. I'm interested in seeing where we are with the online training for firefighters, police vehicles being another one you mentioned, Probation, the Narcotics Unit, you know, understanding where they're at, how they're doing, and maybe even getting Dr. Coyne to talk to us about Narcan and how many of our officers are actually trained and an update on that. So, you know, there are lots of issues that we continually follow and it would be nice to get some updates on them.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I mean, if you -- I know Josh is making notes for everything, but if you want to send an email to my office and we'll try and follow up on everything as much as possible.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay? With that, anybody else have any questions? No? Okay, good. So we'll get to the agenda.

Okay. **Introductory Resolutions:**

***1007 - Accepting the donation of a tow truck from the Peninsula Insurance Company, a Donegal Insurance Group Company, for the use by the Suffolk County Police Department (Co. Exec.).***

I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. On this, I believe this is a replacement to one that's been retired, that's what I've been told. John, do you have an answer, because I see it's a County Executive bill.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Your understanding is correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. ***(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0/Presiding Officer Included in Vote)***

***1010 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$250,381 in State funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, for the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Grant Program with 100% support (Co. Exec.).*** I Make a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0/Presiding Officer Included in Vote)**

**1027 - Adopting a Local, a Local Law to amend Section A13-10 of the Suffolk County Administrative Code to authorize donation of property held by the Police Property Bureau (Co. Exec.).** I believe this is still, yeah, tabled for a public hearing.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0/Presiding Officer Included in Vote)**

With that, we have no more business, so I'll make a motion to adjourn; second, Legislator Calarco. And we are adjourned.

***(The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.)***