

**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, March 13, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

***Members Present:***

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

***Also In Attendance:***

P.O. DuWayne Gregory - District #15  
Legislator Thomas Cilmi - District #10  
Legislator Sarah Anker - District #6  
Legislator Robert Trotta - District #13  
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson - Office of Counsel to the Legislature  
Alicia Howard - Legislative Aide  
Robert Lipp - Director/Legislative Budget Review Office  
Jill Moss - Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office  
Massiel Fuentes - Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office  
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer  
Josh Slaughter - Aide to Legislator Browning  
Bill Shilling - Aide to Legislator Calarco  
Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer  
Lora Gellerstein - Aide to Legislator Spencer  
Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy  
Lisa Pinkard - Aide to Legislator Martinez  
Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Trotta  
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern  
Tom Vaughn - County Executive's Office  
Amy Keyes - County Executive's Office  
Robert Braun - Suffolk County Attorney's Office  
Robert Waring - Captain/Chief of Department's Office/SCPD.  
Edward Webber - Commissioner of Police  
Mark White - Chief/SCPD  
Adina Beedenbender - Aide to Commissioner Webber  
Tracy Pollak - Research & Development/Commissioner's Office-SCPD  
Kevin Fallon - Deputy Chief/SCPD  
William Madigan - Chief of Detectives/SCPD  
John Hanley - Communications Mechanic/SCPD  
Patrina Hubner - Public Safety Dispatcher/SCPD  
John Sumwalt - Chief of Department's Office/SCPD  
Matthew Lewis - Chief of Detective's Office/SCPD

Public Safety 3/13/14

Dr. Scott Coyne - SCPD  
Vincent DeMarco - Suffolk County Sheriff  
Michael Sharkey - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Kerry Kneitel - Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Lou Tutone - 1st Vice-President/Suffolk County PBA  
Russ McCormick - Sgt-at-Arms/Suffolk County Detective's Association  
Jim Gruenfelder - Superior Officers Association  
Jimmy Roddin - Superior Officers Association  
Jose Nunez - Secretary/Deputy Sheriffs PBA  
Arthur Sanchez - Treasurer/Deputy Sheriffs PBA  
Jay Egan - Suffolk County FRES Commission  
Anthony LaFerrera - Suffolk County FRES Commission  
Suzanne McBride - AME/President/Police Emergency Unit  
Philip Berdolt - Deputy Commissioner/DPW  
Michael James - Fleet Manager/DPW  
Christina Larkin - Suffolk County Probation Officers Association  
Laura Ahearn - Parents for Megan's Law  
Michael Wasser - Parents for Megan's Law  
Robert Carboine - Parents for Megan's Law  
Mike Gunther - Parents for Megan's Law  
Tim Haley - Parents for Megan's Law  
Jim Murphy - Parents for Megan's Law  
Ryan McCormack - Parents for Megan's Law  
Lauren Zimmerman - Parents for Megan's Law  
Susan Haley - Parents for Megan's Law  
Joe Falcone - Parents for Megan's Law  
Miguel Vergara - Parents for Megan's Law  
Greg Byrne - Parents for Megan's Law  
Silvy Ovale - Central Islip Community Patrol  
Kevin McEveddy - AME  
All Other Interested Parties

***Taken By:***

Lucia Braaten - Court Reporter

(\*The following testimony was taken and transcribed  
By Lucia Braaten, Court Reporter\*)

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

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Good morning. We'll start the Public Safety Committee meeting, and if everyone could rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator Calarco.

*(\*Salutation\*)*

If everyone could stand for a moment of silence for people who defend our country at home and abroad, and also for the victims in New York City from the explosion.

*(\*Moment of Silence\*)*

Thank you. Okay. We do have a couple of presentations. I don't see any cards. So is there anyone in the room who would like to speak? No? And, Sheriff DeMarco, I see you're here, and I believe you -- did you want to come up?

**SHERIFF DEMARCO:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. With that, we will do the agenda first today, and we'll start with tabled resolutions.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

***1027 - Adopting a Local Law, 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'll make a motion to table for Public Hearing; second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? So it is tabled for Public Hearing. ***(Vote: Tabled for Public Hearing 7-0-0-0)***

**REASSIGNED FROM BUDGET AND FINANCE**

Reassigned from Budget and Finance: ***1045 - Adopting a Local Law to provide for fair and equitable distribution of public safety sales and compensating use tax revenues (Schneiderman).***

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Public Hearing. Motion to table for Public Hearing. Who said that?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I did.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Oh, Legislator Calarco; I'll second that. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled for Public Hearing. ***(Vote: Tabled for Public Hearing 7-0-0-0).***

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

Introductory Resolutions: **1210 - Approving the appointment of Richard Rizzuti as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission (Co. Exec.).** Is Mr. Rizzuti -- He's not here, right?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No, Legislator Browning, Mr. Rizzuti is not here. He's actually in New York City this morning. We did talk to him. He would be available to come to the General Meeting, if this could be discharged without recommendation.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Sure. That's what I was thinking, because I believe we have one other that's coming, right?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes, ma'am, we do.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So I'll make a motion, a motion to discharge without recommendation; second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's discharged. **(Vote: Discharged Without Recommendation 7-0-0-0)**

**1211 - Approving the reappointment of Anthony Sullo, as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission (Co. Exec.).** Motion to approve, Legislator --

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion, Legislator Spencer; second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

**1212 - Approving the reappointment of Ryan J. Murphy as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (Commission) (Co. Exec.).** Same motion, same second, same vote? It's yours?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Mine.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So we'll take the motion from Legislator Calarco; second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

**1213 - Approving the reappointment of Jay Egan as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission (Co. Exec.).** Same motion, same second, same vote work?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

(Nodded yes).

**(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I'm sure Jay is here. Congratulations again, Jay. Good luck.

**1214 - Approving the reappointment of Bryan Prosek as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission (Co. Exec.).** We'll do same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

**1215 - Approving the appointment of Kyle Markott as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (Commission) (Co. Exec.).** I'll make a motion to discharge without recommendation. He's coming to Tuesday's meeting. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is discharged. **(Vote: Discharged Without Recommendation 7-0-0-0)**

**1216 - Approving the reappointment of David Carrigan as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission (Co. Exec.).** Motion to approve, Legislator Calarco; second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0).**

**MR. NOLAN:**

1217 was withdrawn.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah, that's right. And **1217** was withdrawn.

**1219 - Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of communications equipment for the Sheriff's Office (CP 3060) (Co. Exec.).** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

**1222 - Accepting and appropriating Federal pass-through grant funds from the New York State Office of Homeland Security (NYS OHS) in the amount of \$40,000 for "Operation Shield" under State Homeland Security Program (SHSP FY2011) to be administered by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the East End Marine Task Force, Suffolk County Police Department and various other Federal, (State) and Local Agencies, and to execute grant related Agreements with 100% support (Co. Exec.).**

**LEG. HAHN:**

Motion to approve and put it on the Consent Calendar.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar by Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

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

**1224 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$280,000 from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (SLETPP) (FFY2013) with 100% support (Co. Exec.).** Same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

**1225 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$21,235 in Federal pass-through funding from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, for the Suffolk County Police Department's Motorcycle Safety Education and Enforcement Program with 78% support (Co. Exec.).** Motion to approve, Legislator Kennedy; second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

**1226 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$218,925 in Federal pass-through funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the 2013 Bomb Squad Initiative Program with 96.41% support (Co. Exec.).** I guess we'll same motion, same second, same vote.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

On the motion, please.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

On the motion, go ahead.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I don't know if there's someone that can offer an explanation.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

The Commissioner and Chief White are here.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I guess my question is we've seen partial grants, but to see a grant that offers 96.41% is -- you know, it's not only not supporting 3%, that just -- this is the first time I've seen that. Is there some reason it's not 100% funded, or where -- you know, why is it 3.59% not funded? I'm happy to accept the money, but it just seemed -- you know, we see 75, 50%, but to see something that much funded and not to have the whole thing funded it, just seemed different to me, so I just didn't know if anyone had an explanation.

**MS. MOSS:**

There is a County share that's 3.59% that makes up the difference.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right. But I guess he's --

**MS. MOSS:**

The amount would be 8,141.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think he's asking why can't it be 100%. So any -- Mr. Vaughn?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I honestly don't know. I'll be happy to look into it for you. And we would be happy to let the Federal Government know, if they want to give us 100% of any funds, we'll gladly accept them.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I think it's not, you know, anything to do with this particular grant, we're very happy and we're very appreciative to accept it, but to understand just how the funding mechanism works. And why you would have something that would fund 97% just seemed a bit odd to me, so I thought I would ask the question, because it may help me in the future in terms of processing and understanding how these grants are done.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No. I certainly think it's a fair question. We'll certainly try and give you an answer on that.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Okay.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Okay? So I think we've covered that one, right? Okay. I think we did, we voted that one, right?

**MS. HOWARD:**

There's a first and a second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah. Okay. **1227 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$132,020 -- there you go. Why not just round it off? In Federal pass-through funding from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to enforce motor vehicle passenger restraint and aggressive driving regulations with 77.45% support (Co. Exec.).**

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion to approve, Legislator Calarco; second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

**1228 - Donating surplus Meals Ready-To-Eat and bottled water to municipalities and recognized not-for-profit entities providing relief to Suffolk County residents in need (Co. Exec.).** Motion to approve, Legislator Hahn. And I got a question.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Can we get an explanation on this, Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And I'm curious whether or not there's any kind of cost impact with it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think these are -- these are the MREs that they're not quite expired yet. But, you know, I'm just curious where they're going, because MREs, there's like 1,000 calories per packet. And I know when my husband was deployed, they were warned never to give up their MREs to anybody because of the calories and that can cause a problem. How do you say it? For people who are not used to eating them and maybe not as active as they are. So I was just curious who we're giving these to. Craig, you get that.

**MR. FREAS:**

Yeah. I thought they had like 5,000 calories in them.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think it's --

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Yeah, 3,000.

**MR. FREAS:**

Yeah, it's a lot of -- it's a lot of --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I thought one packet was 1,000 calories.

**MR. FREAS:**

No, no, no. They have -- they're really designed so that it could be a sustainable meal for an infantryman for a day or two.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right, because the -- and their activity, they can burn that off.

**MR. FREAS:**

Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So I'm just curious who we're giving this to, that's my concern. I don't want somebody getting sick and then we wind up getting a lawsuit.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I thought it was for -- when there are emergency circumstances and we give them out to families like in hurricane situations. They must be different than military meals.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No, that's why -- they are military meals, that's basically what they are. They're MREs, right? Tom, go ahead.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

So the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services was approached by Island Harvest. We do have both the MREs and the water in -- that is contained in this resolution is set to expire. They were given to us during Superstorm Sandy. They have an expiration date of approximately May of this year, which is why we needed to put the bill forward now. And Island Harvest approached -- it was either dispose of them or donate them.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Go ahead, John. I'm sorry, you have a question.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Through the Chair to either Tom and/or BRO. This is cost neutral? We --

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I actually have the answer to that.

**MS. DONO:**

Yes, there's no cost.

**MR. FREAS:**

Yes, there's no cost.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

In other words -- no, no, no. Wait, wait. So, as usual, I misspoke. Did we pay anything to acquire these meals or the 260,000 bottles of water?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

We did not. They were donated to us by the State and Federal Governments. So I guess we, as taxpayers, did pay for them at some point in time, but, specifically to these meals, no, we did not.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

They didn't elect me to Federal Government yet.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

We can only hope.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, from your lips to God's ears, huh?

*(\*Laughter\*)*

What about the meals? So there's an expiration on there. But the water also has an expiration? We gave out tons of water after Sandy over at the Dennison Building.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

We are being told that water also has an expiration date of May on it.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. All right.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. You know, I'd like to -- you know, I guess if you want to put it out in committee, I'm just a little apprehensive about, based on knowing -- we have Dr. Coyne in the room. I would like to know what a physician would think about, you know, maybe some people eating that stuff when they're not used to it.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I'm not like a real doctor or anything.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Oh, I'm sorry.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Oh, my.

**DR. COYNE:**

Dr. Spencer, I defer to you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So he's an EMT. Okay. We can get another doctor in the room and see if we can get you all to agree.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

Sorry, Dr. Spencer.

**DR. COYNE:**

Well, I don't think we want to give them out indiscriminately, because people do have dietary medical issues and they should be screened, you know, that type of thing. I think that's what you're referring to.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right.

**DR. COYNE:**

I mean, I don't think intrinsically that they're toxic or they're dangerous.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No.

**DR. COYNE:**

But they have to be, you know, given out prudently.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I'm sure Island Harvest is a responsible agency, that, you know, I am sure when -- but when people are hungry, they'll eat a 3,000 calorie meal, the same as they would eat --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Have you tried them?

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**LEG. HAHN:**

I would imagine --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

They're not very --

**LEG. HAHN:**

I would imagine if people want them and need them, and they're about to expire and we can't use them for the purposes they were given to us, that we should give them to people who are hungry.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I'll see if I have any MREs at home. I know we still have some in my house, but I'll bring you one in, you can try them. They're really, really not delicious. But, anyway, I guess -- did we have a motion to approve? Dr. Spencer, would you like to say something?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I would. I do think we -- Dr. Coyne, if you take someone that doesn't eat a lot of calories on a regular basis, and all of a sudden you introduce a very high caloric meal to their intestines, you can create some shock that you can create, like a dumping syndrome, or you can have a lot of gastric upset, or -- and these meals are designed, again, for personnel that are out for extended periods of time, high -- burning a lot of energy hiking and things of that sort. So I would be concerned that whatever agency has these meals, that they come up with strict guidelines in terms of who they distributed it to and under what circumstance, because I do think that there could potentially be some medical issues with 5,000 calories in a very small quantity of food.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. You know, like I said, I know when my husband was deployed, and as hungry as some of the people were that they came across, they were always told never give them the MREs or share their MREs. So that's -- that was my concern.

I mean, do we want to make a motion to approve or put it out on the floor? And I think --

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I think we have a motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

If we --

**MS. HOWARD:**

Kara made the motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

We have a motion.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I'll second it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And we have a second?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I'll second it.

**MS. HOWARD:**

No second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second. Can we reach out to Island Harvest, Tom, and see what they're planning to do with them,

and let them know what our concerns are before next --

**MR. VAUGHN:**  
I'd be happy to.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**  
Before next Tuesday?

**MR. VAUGHN:**  
Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**  
Okay. I appreciate it. So with that, there was a motion to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

***1234 - Appropriating funds in connection with the safety improvements at the Police Firearms Shooting Range in Westhampton (CP 3111)(Co. Exec.).***

**LEG. CALARCO:**  
Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**  
Motion to approve, Legislator Calarco; I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

***1235 - Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of Marine Bureau Diesel Engines of -- Marine Bureau Engines (CP 3198)(Co. Exec.).***

**LEG. CALARCO:**  
Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**  
Motion to approve; I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

***1251 - Taking common sense measures to protect front line employees from carbon monoxide (Spencer).***

**LEG. SPENCER:**  
Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**  
Motion to approve --

**LEG. CALARCO:**  
Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**  
-- Legislator Spencer; second Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: Approved 7-0-0-0)**

**LEG. CALARCO:**  
Alicia, cosponsor.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

**1271 - Establishing a Commercial Building Carbon Monoxide Task Force (Kennedy).**  
Legislator Kennedy?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yeah, I'll make a motion to approve this resolution.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Motion to approve.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Do we have a motion to table?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So there was a motion to approve; I'll second.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

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

Okay, done. Okay. So now we -- I believe Laura -- oh, you are here. Laura Ahearn from Megan's Law, we will have the presentation on the Community Protection Act. And I guess, Laura, you were going to come up first and let us know how your organization is doing.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Good morning. My name is Laura Ahearn. I'm the Executive Director of Parents for Megan's Law and the Crime Victims Center, and I was asked to come here to present to you our current status on the implementation of the Parents for Megan's Law component of the Community Protection Act.

And for those of you that are new to the Legislature, I'd like to welcome you. My name is Laura Ahearn. Legislator Trotta, it's nice to meet you, and Legislator Martinez, it's nice to meet you as well.

And, first, I would like to just give a real quick overview of what our specific responsibilities are under the Parents for Megan's Law portion of the Sex Offender Management Plan. The agency is charged with in-person home address verifications for all of Suffolk County's registered sex offenders. Outside jurisdictions or jurisdictions outside of the Suffolk County Police Department have all been invited to join the program, as is offered in the contract that we entered into with the County. At this point, four of the jurisdictions have stated that they wanted to participate and they're in the process of making that happen in their local towns.

We also do work address verifications as part of in-person verification, so work addresses are never verified in person. The organization's inside analysts do technology-based proactive monitoring.

We're ensuring that the registered sex offenders are indeed providing to the State their email identifiers and any social networking identifiers that they may be using, that's required under the law. And, also, as part of -- a crucial part of the Community Protection Act is engaging the community, so involving the community in that they become the eyes and ears for law enforcement. So they have opportunity to report registrants that they believe may be out of compliance. Our inside staff does that research, does the leg work, and then provides viable leads to law enforcement to follow up for investigation and potentially arrest, and then the District Attorney for conviction.

Also, as part of engaging the community, we expanded our website. Now I've spoken to many of you Legislators already about the specialized registries that are now available to Suffolk County -- to Suffolk County residents and that's the homeless registry. So you can go in and look specifically just at those offenders that are registered as homeless, and there are tools in there that are available to the community to quickly report any information that they might have to the agency so that we then can follow up and do the research. So, in other words, if a homeless person or if an individual is registering themselves as homeless, or is -- has an unknown address registered, that information, then, is -- the community views it in one spot on the website and then there are tools to quickly report any additional information they may have. So if that individual is registered as unknown and they know that individual is living right next door to them, they can quickly report it via email to our agency and our SORT, Sex Offender Registration Tip analyst, can investigate that internally through available resources, and that's databases and other types of publicly accessible resources, and then provide those leads to law enforcement.

The website was also expanded for increased email sex offender notification. So sex offender notifications are going out for move-ins, move-outs, for homeless offenders. Any time there's a change to the registry in the homeless area of the unknown, email alerts are going out to the community. Also prevention education services were beefed up, I'll talk about that later, and also crime victims services.

So the public expects sex offender management laws and programs that get tough, are fair and evidence-based, but also get serious measurable results.

Information that follows in this presentation is sometimes under active investigation, so I have redacted names and specific identifying information so that we are not compromising law enforcement's investigation. So let's talk about some measurable successes.

On May 28th, less than one month into the program, the agency transmitted 101 failure-to-register leads for photographs for offenders residing in Suffolk County. The State Law requires that registered sex offenders that are Level 3s have to update their photograph once annually. Levels 1s and 2s have to update once every three years. The agency found 35% of the Level 3s were not up to date and not compliant with their photographs, and 15 -- about 15% of Level 2s were not compliant. That's really important because we have seen transformations of registered sex offenders, meaning they are registered initially and then their appearance significantly changes. They shave their hair off, they change their hair color, they gain weight, they lose weight. And the efficacy of the registry is really reduced when the community can't get up to date and accurate information.

So working with law enforcement, and they've worked very hard on this, the agency now is happy to report that 97% of the Level 3s in Suffolk County are now in compliance with their photographs. And I'm going to repeat that, 97%. That is significant. Ninety-nine percent of the Level 2s are now in compliance with their photographs.

So now let's talk about some of our measurable home address activities. Our registry verification representatives are doing in-person attempts to verify the address information that's provided by registered sex offenders. So, at a total, within a six-month period -- so let me just back up a little

bit. We're required in the contract to verify Level 2 and 3 offenders every six months at least once. So twice a year for the 2s and 3s and once a year for the Level 1s. We made -- our guys made 1,328 home address attempts, completed within the first six months. All Level 3s, and all Level 2s, and Level 1s, because they're checked annually, we will and are on target to verify all of those Level 1s at least once a year by the end of April. Of those 1,328 in-person attempts, 580 were verified. Ninety additional home address investigative leads and informationals were transmitted to police.

These are the types of leads and information that we are sending to law enforcement on the home address activities. Sex offenders that were registered at an address but never lived there, sex offenders who moved to another address and failed to register the new address, inaccurate house numbers, misspelled street names, incorrect zip codes, deceased and deported offenders who are on the registry, but are dead or deported.

Here's an example of a sex offender who registered an address but never lived there, clearly, because it's a vacant. Here's another example of a Level 3 offender, and actually that was a level -- this is a Level 3 offender convicted of Rape 2 against a 13-year-old who was registered at this CI vacant house. Here's a Level 2 offender who was registered at this Bay Shore vacant house. Now, offenders also will move to another address and then fail to provide the State and law enforcement that new address, and this is a case example where we had a Level 2 offender who was convicted of First Degree Sodomy. He was registered at a Mastic address, and our registry verification staff went to visit his house and at the curb there was furniture. Clearly, it had been there for a significant amount of time, it was rained on and deteriorated. The offender was nowhere to be found. They went a second time, the offender was nowhere to be found. They went a third time and on the third occasion, there was a new family moving in. So, clearly, the offender had not been there for a significant amount of time, and also the offender's photograph was out of date.

Here's another example of illegal activity. It may not be specifically a failure to register, but it's an individual sex offender living in a double-wide trailer illegally on an industrial site in Kings Park. And we're working with the Town and they are -- they are moving legally toward -- toward evicting that individual.

So here are some results on our work address verifications. Again, Parents for Megan's Law never visits registered sex offenders at their places of employment. We had 834 work address attempts completed, all Level 3s were completed, and 253 Level 2s. Along the way, we were -- in the contract, we're required to verify the Level 3 work addresses, and as part of the program, we're also, because Level 2s have to provide that, we're also verifying that as well. Two hundred and forty-three work addresses were verified for Level 2s and 3s. 80 work address investigative leads and 97 informationals were transmitted to police. Informationals in this case include offenders that are residing within health care facilities or treatment facilities, and under HIPAA Law they're protected and we can't verify certain information in those circumstances.

In addition, if an offender is incarcerated in a local jail, we can verify they're incarcerated. And I have to add that the Suffolk County Sheriff has been extremely collaborative in this -- in working with the agency in this program, and we are able to verify sex offenders that are in state prisons, sex offenders that are in INS custody, but we can't verify, which is a problem, we can't verify their work, because they could legitimately be operating a business from their jail cell. We can't say 100% they are working or are not working. So those are informationals where we cannot absolutely verify.

These are the type of work address investigative leads that we send to police, sex offenders failing to register work addresses altogether, so it's just blank; not updating the work address, so they had a prior address, aren't working there anymore, working somewhere else, and didn't tell the State; offenders that are failing to register their complete street address or workplace. Like when we first

started and we took a snapshot of the registry, we had work addresses verified such as Sunrise Highway, or Smithtown, or any city without a zip code or without a street address. But the law requires that the registrant has to provide the exact street address.

So here's a really good example of a Mastic Beach offender who claimed he had no employment to register. Now, again, I redacted the actual name of the organization. He drove a van, and it was a service company logo on the van with a phone number and with a website address. On the offender's door, he had the same logo, home door, so his residential door, he had the same logo, work logo, he had the same phone number and the same website address. The phone number that was listed on the van and on the house was active and that individual answered that phone, yet he reports he has no work address to report. So that's the type of lead that is given to law enforcement. Clearly, there's every indication that that individual is working, and is answering that work phone, and is driving that work van, but the offender had no work address to report.

These are deceased offenders that were removed or that were on the registry, are now removed. One of them is still up there and they're being removed. This is leads for absconders and unknown addresses. As I said earlier, on the website we have specific registries now, because of the Community Protection Act, of those offenders that are registered as unknown or absconders. Leads that have been sent to law enforcement, our inside SORT analysts do a lot of research using public information databases, and get current address information, send that to law enforcement. And I happen to know the sex offender is currently -- is currently under arrest, and there'll be more charges to come, I'm sure.

These are offenders that were deported, clearly out of the country and still on the registry at a particular address, and some of them now are in the process of being deported and will be removed because there are eyes watching the registry now at all times.

Internet Identifier Results: I have to be really cautious here, because the agency does a lot of research on social networking sites. And if we identify all of those sites here publicly, I'd be happy to talk to you in private session, but if there is a social networking website out there, there are registered sex offenders that are on those social networking websites. We recently gave a lead regarding an offender who was under supervision who has four, four active social networking sites that he is on. And if you are on supervision, whether it's parole, or local probation, or U.S. probation and parole, you're precluded from using social networking to develop a relationship online. To date, the agency has provided 182 internet identifier leads to law enforcement.

Now sex offenders are required to register their email addresses and, as I said earlier, their social networking identifiers, but that doesn't necessarily mean they're out of compliance. So a lead could mean also its information for law enforcement to follow up to ensure that they're registered. And the objective here, and it's always been from the beginning, is we want to ensure that that registry is up to date and accurate. It's not necessarily about arrest and convictions, it's about ensuring that this registry is what it's supposed to be. It's supposed to be a tool for the community to use to protect themselves and their children from those that are known to pose a risk to public safety. So what we're doing is bringing this registry, working closely with Suffolk County Police Department, working with Probation, working with Parole, working with the Sheriff, working with all law enforcement agencies, for sex offenders to know that this registry now is going to be up to date. And law enforcement, with the assistance of Parents for Megan's Law is watching what is being registered and ensuring that that information is up to date.

Other Leads: The agency has provided to law enforcement probation and parole violations, residency restriction violations, and any other violation of law. Because of the Community Protection Act, the Suffolk County registry is more up to date than it's ever been. And I would -- I would feel very comfortable saying that Suffolk County's registry is more up to date than any other

county in this state, and probably any other state in the country, because there is no other state, or municipality, or jurisdiction that has created a public -- excuse me -- a public/private partnership whose aim is specifically to ensure that that registry is up to date, that the tool that is granted to us as a community is up to date and accurate. It's a right under the law, under sex offender registration laws, for the community to have this information to protect themselves and their children. The registry over time will become even more up to date, because this continual and constant verification will put offenders on notice that this law is now being enforced in Suffolk County.

So, just quickly, to give you an overview of where our leads come from that we provide to law enforcement, its in-person verification activities, so when the guys are going out knocking on doors, that information on failure to register is a lead and then that's transmitted to law enforcement. In-house proactive research and monitoring by our inside staff who use, as I said before, advanced technology, and we're using all different kinds of software to monitor sex offenders' usage of social networking, and also to ensure that that information is up to date and accurate in the registry with their employment addresses.

Technology has advanced to a point where now the agency has taken processes that maybe would have been taken weeks, and with the press of a button we can find information and report it to law enforcement within hours.

Also, tips are coming through, community tips are coming through the Megan's Law Helpline, through our 24-hour hotline, through email, through our website, through our new SORT app that you can get on Google Play, and also through community education programs. Since program's start, the agency has conducted 107 children's programs in public and private schools here in Suffolk County. To date, we've educated over 130,000 children and adults on child sexual abuse and rape prevention. And as part of the Community Protection Act, and other responsibilities we have with law enforcement and to the community here in Suffolk County, we continue to provide crime victim services, which is part of the Comprehensive Sex Offender Management Plan.

I've been asked by some of the Legislators, "How can you possibly keep track of the nearly 1,000 offenders in the County?" Our IT staff have developed a specialized program just for the Community Protection Act, and it's with ease that we are keeping track of those registrants.

Before closing, I'd like to recognize if you would, Parents for Megan's Law staff who work on this program, who are every day knocking on the doors of the County's nearly 1,000 registered sex offenders. If you could stand, please.

**(\*Applause\*)**

Analysts and IT staff who conduct support analysis-driven intensive research to ensure that the registry is up to date, and prevention education and crime victim advocacy staff who educate and provide support services to our community here in Suffolk. Thank you.

**(\*Applause\*)**

I'd also like to thank our law enforcement partners here in Suffolk County in the Suffolk County Police Department, who without them this program would just not happen. Chief Madigan, Inspector Lewis, and Special Victims -- and the Special Victims Unit.

**(\*Applause\*)**

In addition, Suffolk County Probation, Mike Burdi from the New York State Division of Parole, who is

leaving us, he's the Division Director, he's retiring, our Nassau County partners, the U.S. Marshals, the FBI, and U.S. Probation and Parole. All of these law enforcement partners collaborate with this organization on a regular basis to ensure that this program is effective. And I would also add, as I said before, the Suffolk County Sheriff, who helps us out with issues related to the inmates. Thank you.

And lastly, I'd like to thank County Executive Steve Bellone who had the foresight last year to call me and ask me, "Laura, can you help us out with a Sex Offender Management Plan here in this County?" When I wrote that plan, it became part of the Community Protection Act. But that option was given to this Legislature. Does this Legislature fund or stream resources toward building mini shelters for sex offenders, or are they going to stream funding toward implementation of a comprehensive Sex Offender Management Plan? I have to thank each and every one of you who voted unanimously to pass the Community Protection Act. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you, Laura. And, Chief Madigan, if you want to --

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Yes. We just set up our program to follow Laura's.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Does any -- do you want to hold off on questions until after they're done, or do you have any questions for Laura? Okay. Laura, our Presiding Officer has a question for you, if you want to go ahead and ask while they're getting set up.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Yes.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Good morning. Thank you, Laura, for your comprehensive presentation this morning. You obviously pointed out some shortcomings in our tracking of sex offenders and because we're -- I guess we have a more -- I guess to state it this way, we have more of an intensive focus on it, so we noticed that we weren't looking at things as closely as maybe we should, and verifying information as closely as we should be. But there's one thing that you said that really sticks out in my mind.

You said that the registration or the information is absolutely a necessity for the community to have. And that brings to mind what I have heard many times complaints from members of my community, and what I see as a flaw in this program, and that's -- and it's not -- I'm not even sure you're the person to address, but since you're here, that's the homeless sex offenders, because they're moved around so much that they don't register. So we have people that we know have committed acts of violence, sexual -- of a sexual nature and we don't know where they are and that concerns me. I expressed that concern with the original legislation, that those people would be a burden, and I will say that, or put in low income or minority communities more so than other communities. There's no mechanism in this legislation to verify that, or to track that, or to monitor it, and I would like to ask for that today, because I don't know.

I've heard -- I was just talking to Legislator Martinez, there's a house in Wyandanch where they have six sex offenders in one house. That's -- you know, Wyandanch is just a part of my district. I don't know if that's true. I don't know what the status is, but I've heard it for months and I can't get an answer.

**MS. AHEARN:**

There are over or nearly 1,000, over 900 registered sex offenders in the County, and last count I did is 30, between 30 and 40 homeless.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Yes.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Yeah. The homeless population is not a population -- the agency is monitoring and doing in-person verifications for the 900 or so that are not homeless. That's not something we were charged with doing, but I will pass that off to Chief Madigan, because that is something that the Police Department is doing.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Right. That's why I had said -- I wasn't sure if you were -- I know it's either the P.D., or I know Social Services is involved in it, but, you know, there's a concern. And there -- you know, they're changed you know every nine days to -- you know, so they don't have to register. And I think you said it perfectly, this is information that the community should know. There's no way the community would ever know with the way the system is established, that these people are in their communities. So. At least internally, we should be having that information, so when the community calls my office, and they do, I could say, "No. Well, this week we had five," you know, "Two weeks ago we had four," or whatever the case may be. I could have -- I could have all 30 in my district right now and I have no idea. Yes, Bill.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

If I could answer your question, please. My name is Chief William Madigan. I'm the Chief of Detectives for the Suffolk County Police.

Just in response, I actually have that in my -- in the show, so we do cover that. To answer your question, currently, right now today, there are 24 homeless sex offenders that had applied through DSS for emergency -- or for housing. They have been placed into a facility by DSS and then monitored by us, the Suffolk County Police Department. Additionally, there are 10 others that claim homelessness. Their responsibility is to call in, as is the responsibility of the 24. The other 10 also, so 34 in total, are responsible every night to call in to the hotline at Suffolk County Police Headquarters to report on where they are, and it's a recorded line.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Right. But how do we get that information, we as Legislators? Because the whole -- in my -- from my perspective, the whole issue behind this was concentrations in particular communities. We could have concentrations in particular communities and not even know it if there's no reporting mechanism. You guys are monitoring it, but we don't know. But we're receiving the calls and I don't have a way to verify. Because there's a lot of rumors, and I don't try to play into the rumors, but I have no legitimate basis to give them any type of answer, because I don't have the information, as well as any of my colleagues. So how do we establish a mechanism? It doesn't have to be public, but at least internally, I think for us, we should be able to have a mechanism to respond to those requests.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

I'm not sure that we are in a position to answer that. We'll do whatever we're asked to do, obviously.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

So my request is -- I don't know who it is, but can we establish a mechanism where there's a weekly

reporting requirement of how many sex offenders in each Legislative District? I think that's simple.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

If it's okay with you, I'll bring that request back.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Yeah.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Or I'm sure there's somebody here from the Administration that could bring that request back. You know, we'll certainly do whatever we're asked to do.

**MS. AHEARN:**

So you're asking for a weekly report of the registrants that are homeless?

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Homeless. Yes, homeless only.

**MS. AHEARN:**

So the ones that -- because there's -- there's actually two categories of homeless, one is an offender who registers himself as homeless. And it's unfortunate, but that is a reality, that offenders can do that, and we feel that that's terribly unjust, but it is a right that a person has, they can register themselves without a residence. So that offender who is not under any at all government, has no contact with government whatsoever other than registration, that's a separate population, and then there's a second population of offender who is receiving services from Social Services.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

That we are placing, that we are actively placing at our will, at our discretion. I want to know where a Suffolk County agency is placing sex offenders in the particular communities. And I don't -- and I would like the report for all districts, not just mine, because, you know, you may tell me I have six, but there may be some that have none, and I want to know why, why I have six and another district has none, zero. So, you know, this is supposed to be a fair system. I want to make sure that it's a fair system, but there's no way of doing that. Thank you. I'm sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. No. I know we did have a few other questions, and I see that the question that we thought was for Laura wound up going to Chief Madigan. So I think what I'd rather do is let Chief Madigan do what he wants to do. And I know there's a lot of follow-up questions of yours. In fact, I have comments that I'd like to make also. But, Chief, go ahead and --

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Hopefully, some of the questions --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Hopefully, some of the question will be answered under my portion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

There you go.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

I thought he was --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No, no. He's doing this also. Thank you. Go ahead.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

And I would like to thank you for having me here today in order to address the Community Protection Act from the Police Department's perspective. And I think one important person that didn't receive any thanks from Laura, of course, was Laura. I think she was a driving force, obviously, behind it, and she thanked everybody else, so she left me no one to thank.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

To begin our slide show, these are the requirements that were imposed upon the Police Department, or that we gladly joined in, and it's our responsibility to do these four things. Number one is investigate the suitability of proposed homeless shelters. As I said before in answering that question, we have vetted out a number of locations to see if they would qualify under the Community Protection Act. Currently, there are 45 locations that are eligible to be used by the Department of Social Services for placement of homeless sex offenders upon their request. They are -- I can answer partially that they are spread out throughout the County. How is that done? It's done by a visual inspection conducted by the Detectives from the Special Victims Unit. Also, to satisfy the law's requirements, a Google Earth review for the distance to any vulnerable entities, okay, that's measured as the crow flies, it's in feet.

As you know, our law, the Community Protection Act, is actually more restrictive than the State Law. We have -- the State Law is 1,000 feet, Community Protection Act is 1320 feet. So we require the homeless shelter or the proposed temporary shelter to be further away from a vulnerable entity.

Number two, our second responsibility is the emergency housing reporting compliance, as mentioned earlier. Every night they have to call in with their current location, and we'll cover that. I'm laying out what we have to do, and then I'll go into a little bit of depth on each of them.

Number three is offender monitoring. That's the responsibility of the Detectives from the Special Victims Unit. And then, of course, our partnership with Laura Ahearn's group, Parents for Megan's Law, is their referrals. They come in two forms, basically noncriminal, which are address and employment verification, and also criminal SORT tips.

As to the emergency housing reporting compliance, it's a three-pronged test that's used by the Police Department as to whether an arrest can be made under the Community Protection Act. The first prong of the test is an offender requests emergency housing placement. That's done through DSS. That request goes in. DSS has this grouping, and it changes. You know, it's a contractual arrangement, I believe, with the housing, so the -- like I said, right now, this week, it's 45 houses that we, the Suffolk County Police, have vetted for them that satisfy those requirements, as I laid out in point one.

Point number two is that the offender checks into the assigned housing. Okay? That's basically what it says.

Number three, the offender must make the Community Protection Act mandated call -- in. Okay? That is starred, because failure to do that triggers an arrest and the charge is an unclassified misdemeanor under the Community Protection Act. If you'll just hold for a second, John. What that means, so when you look at the three-pronged test, Number three is an automatic arrest.

That -- if they fail to call in at night as to where they are that night, it's an automatic arrest. Okay? Number two, you would say, "Well, what happens if they ask for housing and they didn't check in?" Number two doesn't constitute an automatic arrest unless they don't call in, because it's quite possible they could be staying at a family member's house that night; don't show up in the meantime between the time they requested housing and the time they actually checked into it, they went to someone else's house. They still must call in, report that house that they are at that night. So that's how that shakes out, basically.

Let's look at the cases that have emanated out of emergency housing reporting compliance. As you can see, 2012 is zero. The Act was not in place at that time. 2013, 243 cases. 2014, we have 65 year-to-date.

Moving over to the arrest side, 2012, the law had not been in place, so the arrest was zero. 2013, there were 15 arrests of subjects, homeless offenders who violated the law or violated that section. Those, if you move across the outline, those 2013 arrests of 15 people led to 53 charges. You might ask what does that mean? The failure to do that, the failure to comply as an unclassified misdemeanor may, in fact, lead to a parole or a probation violation, or it could be as simple as they didn't call in two or three nights in a row. So the number of charges can be higher, obviously, than the number of arrestees.

In 2014, as you see, year-to-date, there are six and that has emanated or has grown into 19 charges out of that.

Offender monitoring: What the detectives and Special Victims Unit, is they verify the offender present at DSS-assigned locations. As I said earlier, there's right now, this week, 24 that have requested housing and are currently in DSS housing. In addition, we conduct random on-site checks throughout the district. That means other offenders, you know, in their houses, the Megan's Law checks, for lack of a better word.

Every day -- this is an interesting thing that we put in place last year, and it's very, very important, and it's actually led to cases. Every day any contact by an offender with the SCPD generates a notification to the Special Victims Unit. What does that mean? What kind of contact are we talking about? The person had their rims stolen off their -- a sex offender had their rims taken off their car, made out a police report, basically. Sex offender involved in a domestic incident report with their significant other, generates a report to the Special Victims Section immediately the following morning. It's done on the overnight. The next day that can generate what could be a case. A sex offender driving on the roads of Suffolk County, maybe not in a community -- I think I said this back in January. One of the reasons we'd like to get the whole State registry to bounce up against our system is that we would love to be able to see a sex offender from Buffalo who's driving down on the Long Island Expressway and receives a ticket for speeding, that would be great. We're working on that. We're hoping to get to that point. But currently, that is in place here in Suffolk with all of our 975 offenders.

And not -- on top of that, if a sex offender were to engage in pawns, if they were to be pawning merchandise, possibly burglary proceeds, possibly just stuff from their house innocently, if they were pawning things at a shop, our Special Victims Section would get a report on that. And it's an interesting question to ask the offender the next time we have to see him, "Hey, we saw that you were pawning stuff up at" wherever. It's just -- you know, it's interesting that we're keeping an eye on them as they're out there.

Parents for Megan's Law, as I said earlier, they provide us with two separate tips, for lack of a better word, noncriminal, which are address and employment verifications that they do. They basically send to us those sheets. They're innocent, it's noncriminal, the person was where they're supposed

to be. What we do, as the Suffolk County Police now in Special Victims, the Detectives open a case on that. You say why? Because now, today, March 13th, we can say "X" was at that location through the tips that we receive from Laura. It means nothing today because it's noncriminal, they are where they're supposed to be. Six months from now, when they're supposed to be there and they're not, we have a timeline to start from. They were supposed -- they were there then, they're not there now. Now, where are they? Now, let's move forward, let's make a case. So it's good. It's a nice system for setting up our tracking of them.

As you can see, in 2012, the number was zero, obviously before the agreement came into place. 2013 there was 674. 2014, there's been 202 so far year-to-date.

Now we move into the criminal SORT tips. 2012, obviously there was zero. 2013, 363 we received. Each one of those, as in the noncriminal, generates a case within the Special Victims Section. And in 2014, as you see, we have 59 year-to-date.

Going into the caseload of the Special Victims Section, as you could see, the total caseload in 2012 was 1340 cases. That increased exponentially, as we figured it would when you're getting more information in, using this forced multiplier. In our partnership with Laura Ahearn and Parents for Megan's Law, we're getting these things. Whether they're innocent and whether it's noncriminal and we're putting it in and making a case out of it, it's still a case and it gives us documentation moving forward. 2013, the caseload went to 3628. 2014, year-to-date, is 581 cases.

Next to that is the sexual and physical abuse cases, because a very important part of what -- and extremely important part of what the Special Victims Detectives do is every -- new cases. These are cases where something happens in one of our communities here in Suffolk County, and, as outlined in our rules and procedures, the specific cases that our Special Victims Unit would investigate, they get new cases for investigations and potentially arrests. 2012, that was 529; 2013, 702. And 2014, 84 year-to-date. I think, as you could see, the results are outstanding. In 2012, 156 arrests were made by the Detectives of the Special Victims Section. 2013, 204 arrests were made by the Detectives in that unit. 2014, 18 arrests year to date.

I think in the end, everybody here, all the Legislature, the Administration, can all agree that our goal is to actually see the number of arrests go down. We don't -- you know, arrests are great, and if they go up, it's because they're not in what we're all seeking here, everyone. Everyone here in government is seeking is compliance. There's no -- there can be no "no" to that. It's basically we are looking for them to comply, us to keep an eye on them, and they have three choices, basically, comply, be arrested, or move. It's very simple. It's really very simple. And I think to that end, things moving forward, it's -- we've got it down. We've got the road paved, and moving forward, it's just getting better, clearing out some of the glitches.

I hope that answered some of your questions. And again, thank you very much for allowing us to appear here today to give an update.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No, thank you. And to answer some of our Presiding Officer's questions, I think if we remember former Legislator Eddington was the one who put the bill in to require that they register every night. And I have a bill that I passed quite some time ago that prohibits no more than two sex offenders -- no, sorry, it was one to reside if they're on probation, Social Services. So there should be no more than one in a home if they're receiving DSS, if they're on probation. Now, I know the Town of Brookhaven has a law that says no more than two. And so, again, I don't know what Islip has, if they have anything. Laura, do you know if they've done anything?

**MS. AHEARN:**

In the Town of Brookhaven, it's no more than two in any single family dwelling. So, irregardless of probation or parole, it's just straight no more than two. Town of Islip I don't believe has any restriction like that, I think Town of Brookhaven is the only one at this point.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

And I can tell you, if a report comes in, because Laura and I have spoken about that, if she gets a tip, or we, the Police Department, get a tip that there are six, as you said, in a house, that's something we act upon pretty quickly. We're out the next day to verify that information when it comes to our attention.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right, and I see a difference. I mean, I am actually seeing I get more e-mails. And, you know, Josh has got the automatic e-mails coming in, and believe me, I have it on mine. And thank you, Laura, because I know way back when, and everybody was worried about when they got the notifications on sex offenders, but never getting the notice when they moved out, and they keep thinking they're getting more and more and more. And I really haven't seen a big change in the numbers, but at least now we know when one moves out. However, the school district doesn't let you know. So I always encourage people to make sure that they register with the Megan's Law so that they get that notification, because we've seen it. Oh, you know, one moved out, he's back in jail, and my guess is Community Protection Act.

So I want to say a special thank you to you guys for all your work on this. You know, it's an important issue for me in my district, as it is for many of our Legislators. Legislator Cilmi, you have a question?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Yes. Thanks, Madam Chair. Thanks for being here, for both of you, and for all the work that all of you are doing.

Laura, you and I have had some conversations with regard to the integrity of the registries that are available online, and we know there are a couple of different registries that people can actually go to and look at. And there has been some inconsistency of information as to what may be on one and versus another with regard to people's, you know, addresses and such. In addition to that, there's the issue of the homeless sex offenders. And to piggyback on Presiding Officer Gregory's questions, I'm told, and I was just told this last night, I haven't had the opportunity to go look yet, but I'm told that there are still some sex offenders who list their address, or I should say their address is listed as our DSS building in Ronkonkoma. Can you speak to that at all, either of you?

**MS. AHEARN:**

First, I would just want to acknowledge the work that we did with your community. And thank you, because there were a lot of issues in the registry. When we first started the program, the objective was to kind of get yourself wrapped around all of the processes that lead to an offender being on the registry or not being removed. And working with Legislator Cilmi, we were -- and his community, one of the civic associations, we were able to identify processes that we improved upon to ensure that the information that was out -- put out to the community was up to date and accurate.

We still have issues with the State Law. The State Law has to change. Sex offenders are provided 10 days. And this would resolve some of your issues as well, Legislator Gregory, in that if an offender is given 10 days to change or update their address, that's a lot of time. So an offender can

go to one location, register themselves there and then leave the next day, and they have 10 days. So they could bounce around, and this is notorious and it happens across the country. But what happened as a remedy to that is under the Adam Walsh Child Protection Act, which is the Federal law now providing guidelines, it reduced that time period from 10 days to three days, because everybody in the whole country was having the same problem. But in New York State, we're not in compliance with those requirements.

So I am working with Senator Zeldin, Senator Skelos, and now Senator Boyle, I met with him last week. And I was told that they were working on trying to get that in the budget bill, but I don't think that that happened. So that's a major -- if we can change that, that will change a lot of the issues surrounding the homeless, because you have three days. So that was also a process we changed.

Just to reiterate this, working with your community, there are issues related to prisons, jails, INS and detention centers where offenders were deported, or offenders were incarcerated and information wasn't up to date and accurate. And to date, our register -- our SORT analysts, and those are our inside staff that do a lot of the processing of tips and research, a lot of the back-end research, we've developed relationships with those units of government to ensure that it's open communication.

So it really does come down to everybody communicating to make sure everybody is on the same page, because you have so many different processes at play here, that one flaw in a process, which is certainly not intentional, it's just nobody's been watching those processes. But Community Protection Act now has focused so much light on it, that all of those processes now are being improved. And the collaborations to make that happen are astounding. They are just everybody wanting to be part of that process. So, in the end, we will get that 10 days changed to three and that will change the situation we have with the homeless offenders in the County.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So you would say the consistency has greatly improved between the different lists that are accessible to the public?

**MS. AHEARN:**

(Nodded yes).

**LEG. CILMI:**

What about the issue, then, of sex offenders registering or listing the DSS center's address as their place of residence?

**MS. AHEARN:**

If you want to charge me with that responsibility, I would gladly accept that. That has to be decided in the contract. We were excluded from homeless.

**LEG. CILMI:**

No, no, no.

**MS. AHEARN:**

But I would gladly be part of that, if that's what you charge me with doing.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I'm not -- you know, we may want to suggest that, I don't know, but my question really is not -- I'm not asking you to do that, I'm asking both of you. Clearly, we don't have sex offenders living at the DSS building on Vets Highway, but, yet, their address -- that address is showing up as an address

for some sex offenders, apparently. So my -- I'm asking either of you to comment on that, why that is, should that be allowed to continue, you know, and what can we do about it?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

I'm going to surmise that that address may be used when they're released from jail temporarily until housing or suitable housing is put in place and then reported, you know, to the registry. That would be my first -- at first blush, my first answer to your question. Secondly, though, I could see if a homeless offender used that address, because he was homeless and being placed by DSS, so then he doesn't have other -- you know, he changes every 10 days. He's moved from one of the facilities to another. That was done intentionally to make it more uncomfortable for them, and let them find housing, let them find something that's suitable permanently and then we'll have that address. That's just two, I believe, quick answers to the question.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Is there a way to restrict registration addresses? In other words, is there a way we could somehow plug into the system, you know, 45 Smith Street is next to an elementary school? Therefore, if somebody tries to put in 45 Smith Street as an address, it will kick back and not allow it? The DSS building is obviously not a residence, we don't have anybody living at the DSS building. If somebody tries to put that address in, they won't allow it. It seems to me that if we allow them to use that address, then they're going to use that address and they can -- they can play, if you will, within that 10-day window that Laura described. But if we prevent them from using that address when they first get out, then they can't. Then they're going to have to be more specific as to where they are, because, I mean, if -- they're not necessarily -- if you put that address in, it doesn't necessarily mean they're homeless, they're using that address. So now they have 10 days to wander around and do whatever it is they want to do. If they, however, list themselves as homeless, now they have to report in every 24 hours.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Yeah. I believe many of the offenders, too, until that location is -- in speaking with our partners in Probation and Parole, until their house locations are verified as acceptable by them, and I'm not -- I think this is the answer. They use that address until Parole and Probation can vet their address to make sure that their address isn't violative of the State law or the County law.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So I'm not sure that that's a good idea. I'd ask -- I'd ask you both to kind of explore that a little bit and maybe report back, because I have folks, you know, in my district who are calling me and saying, you know, there are "X" number of sex offenders living at this building. Clearly they're not. Therefore, they must be somewhere wandering around our community and we don't know where they are.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Legislator Cilmi, there -- the registration process itself is actually done in Albany, so they're the keepers, so to speak, of this large registry. And then outside jurisdictions or law enforcement jurisdictions across the state are informed when an offender moves in or out of their area. However, they can do the registration here, they can get a form here, they can update their registration form here with law enforcement. But the actual entry into the system is done by DCJS, by Division of Criminal Justice Services. So I would tell you right now, there -- to me, there would appear to be absolutely no way that they would take on that responsibility, because they're the ones that -- they're the ones that actually put the data into that one huge registry of 38,000 registered sex offenders.

But the problem is that -- you're right, that offenders, really, they have two options when they're coming out of jail, or prison, or coming into the County in some way without an address. They can

register themselves as homeless and then be required to call in every 24 hours, which sounds like a good idea, because then at least law enforcement knows where they are or have a description, you know, they're behind a supermarket on XYZ Road, they have some idea of where they are.

The other -- the other option, which is seemingly what's happening as well, is that the offenders are using an address that belongs to Social Services. In doing so, they're being given that 10-day period. And it seems to me if Social Services -- I was told by Social Services they don't give them that address, that's not what they give them. I was told by Parole, "We don't give them that address." So it's kind of known. It's like the Coram Dodson House is kind of known, you just put that address.

**LEG. CILMI:**

How many people do you think are working at DCJS that are actually inputting? I mean, it is a huge -- or is there, you know, a dozen, a half a dozen people who are doing it?

**MS. AHEARN:**

I would venture a guess at probably half a dozen --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right.

**MS. AHEARN:**

-- data entry people. I don't think it's that many. It's a lot of -- it's 30 -- somewhere around 38,000 registered sex offenders now in the state, and they don't even -- they can't even inform people on residency restriction laws.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So through your contacts with DCJS, if we all agree, and I'm not sure that we do, but if we all agree that they shouldn't use that address, the DSS address as a residence location, can't we get in touch with DCJS and New York State and say to them, "Look, you know, you're doing the" -- "you're doing the input of these addresses, do not accept that address as a valid address; everybody who lists that address should be listed immediately as homeless," something like that?

**MS. AHEARN:**

I think you'd be -- quite frankly, I think you could accomplish that, and you have the jurisdiction to accomplish that, on a County level, that Social Services be precluded from providing that address, if that is indeed what is happening. If Social Services is indeed telling the offender, which I am told they're not, but if they are indeed telling an offender they can use 2 XYZ Road, you can preclude that, and maybe even in policy preclude it, and then see from there if that's still happening. But we could also -- you know, I'm not trying to discourage you in any way. We can also continue down that path. I can work with some of the State Lawmakers and I can see that ultimately the resistance they probably would have when you play that out in terms of its process is those addresses have to be updated regularly. So, if an offender, if they enter 200 Wireless Road, today 200 Wireless Road is not a good address, but maybe in three weeks another address is not a good address. So their complaint would be, well, who maintains that -- who maintains that -- the address file? So -- and who's responsible for maintaining that address file? That's the objections I think they'll have, just going right in, but we can still do Federal -- do State legislation with the Long Island delegation to restrict -- we could say in language to restrict the usage of any government building, unless they're residing within that building. We can try that, if that's --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Yeah. If we can work together on that issue, and if it takes -- if it takes Counsel, wherever he went, to draft up -- to draft legislation here at the local level to do that, to accomplish that, then I'll

work with him on that. But let's work together on it, and maybe there's a way -- it seems to me, if -- this brings out sort of another challenge of the legislation, that you found all of these addresses now through your investigatory process that are clearly not valid addresses. You cited a vacant lot, for example, that somebody used as an address. It would be a shame that if a sex offender who's is getting out of jail today had that address and they were able to register that address as a valid address of residence, and at some point in the future you're going to get to and validate or invalidate, obviously invalidate in this case, the address, but you've already done the work, so that address should be -- should be sort of off limits as a valid address. So, if somebody goes to input that address, now that we found it to be invalid, you know, we should make that address off limits for somebody to input, you know what I mean?

**MS. AHEARN:**

You're talking about using advanced technology and I'm on board with you.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And it's not really all that advanced.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Right.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I mean, this is not stuff that's rocket science.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Right.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So we'll have to work on improving that aspect of the whole -- of the whole system. Thanks, you guys, for all the work you do.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Thank you.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. You know, and to add to it, I think the one good thing that we do have now is the law that requires them to register every night. So even though they're putting that DSS address, they know where they are because they have to call them. And I know there's never a perfect --

**LEG. CILMI:**

That's not true.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No, they have to -- if they're homeless, they have to respond.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right, but they're not -- but if they're using that DSS address, are they, in fact, homeless?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I believe they are.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

That's the question we need to get answered, yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right.

**LEG. HAHN:**

The system has them as having an address.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So, you know, unless they're using that and saying they live there, I mean, granted -- and I have to say that the Sex Offender Unit, I know, based on experience out of my office, they're pretty quick to respond and to do a checkup when they do give an address.

And, you know, I think, John, you had a question, maybe, of the Sheriff's Department, but --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Let me just -- if I could, let me just go back with the Chairwoman for a second. So, if they -- if they are homeless, if they are considered homeless, then it shouldn't show the DSS address as their address.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No, you're right, you're right.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right? So somehow we have to -- we have to fix that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, I --

**MS. AHEARN:**

That's an excellent question. It's an excellent question because it could be an opportunity for an offender to be exploiting the process.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And I'm going to -- I'm going to pick up on that theme a little bit, Laura, because you were helpful with us specifically with 200 Wireless Road. So by definition, then, there should be some kind of addresses. Key punches, data entry is very routine. It doesn't matter what you're doing, whether it's sex offenders, or tickets, or whatever, widgets, there should be blocked addresses that just cannot go in, they're blocked, locked out and excluded. Any commercial building, any municipal building, anything along those lines we know absolutely cannot be a residence.

And the question that comes to mind, and I'll have to look at it, I guess somebody's going to have to advise us, the burden is upon the individual to go ahead and furnish the address.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So notwithstanding the fact that they present to DSS -- and I would say, Madam Chair, probably

we're going to have to ask Mr. Vaughn or somebody to get John O'Neill over here, because that's the gentleman who I guess is charged with the housing responsibility, but is not at the table. There's got to be a little bit of dialogue coming back from them as well, too, when it comes to this residence. If the individual is in their car, if they're living in a kennel, I don't care, I want to know where it is and 200 Wireless Road doesn't get it.

Now, specifically, you were able to help us identify that one or the two names, in fact, actually was either an absconder or out of state. They had left, but, nevertheless, the address was showing here in Hauppauge. So that was -- I don't want to call it a failure of the registry, but I guess it just goes to show that, you know, information comes to you that's pertinent, but it's not necessarily making it to the registry to actually reflect. Because, like every one of us around this horseshoe, that spreads like wildfire through the school district, and before you know it, you have 20 or 30 calls that are coming in, "Do you know that, and what's going on?"

So your ability to go ahead and to get accurate or contemporaneous info is helpful. I would almost say that if DCJS or you, you know, are maintaining the registry, the ability to update that or to get it accurate would be helpful, but that's another question to go ahead and explore.

The other aspect of this, I guess, that I wanted to ask, and I know we've talked about it a little bit, when an individual's coming out of our Riverhead facility or they're coming out of state prison, by definition, don't they have to have a physical residence, someplace to live to be released to? They can't just be released to Veterans Highway, right or wrong?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I don't know about that.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Yes, I -- yes.

**MS. AHEARN:**

The guys that are being released from state prison, Parole actually does a community prep. So, yes, absolutely they check the residence, that it exists, and also Probation has to approve it. I'm not sure with Suffolk County Probation what their exact process is, but I do know they're doing a home visit, because there are issues surrounding that community prep.

Legislator Kennedy, when you talked earlier about that one offender who was still on the registry, but he had absconded, that goes back to what I had said earlier, processes, there were processes. He was on the parole absconder website, but the sex offender registry had not been updated, so --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So, see, when you talk about the interaction at the State there, really, what there ought to be is, is there ought to be an overnight backing against the two databases to true up on a 24-hour basis. And that's a very simple, you know, instruction, I guess, for the two databases, assuming that they can talk with one another. Every 24 hours they ought to be truing up, so that what you're getting the next day is the most accurate between the two of them.

The other piece that I wanted to go to was -- well, so, Chief, your people have looked at 46 physical locations that are meeting the Community Protection Act parameters, which then you would advise DSS, DSS must then let the agency who's seeking to establish know it passes muster with you, and it's now a valid location from your perspective?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Yes, that's correct. And we approved 45. However, we check far, far more than that and

disapproved far, far more than that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. So, again, to Madam Chair, that's something that I'm going to ask that Commissioner O'Neill -- and that goes to I think what the Presiding Officer's first discussions or comments were, if there's 46 of them, you know. And I know that we have Social Service confidentiality, trust me, I know better than anybody with the shelter that we've dealt with for the last seven months. But, nevertheless, we can still get that information in executive session. And I think we ought to see what's been sought to be established in the first instance, then what's been vetted by them, and then what's been entered into contract by -- with DSS. That's pertinent for all of us. So, if we can make that request to DSS, however that's going to happen, I would appreciate it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right. And Monica, if -- and maybe we could have him -- if he can say anything on the record, have him come to the next Human Services.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, he can do it with us either on the record or Executive Session. If it's got confidentiality, we invoke it. Counsel tells that, we go into executive session and he shares this. We have a -- not only a right, but a duty and an obligation to know, but it's a determination as to whether or not it's in general or executive. But, absolutely, we have -- we have an unfettered right.

Chief, finally to you, tell me a little bit about Special Victims Unit now. You've given us metrics, I guess, that show that your activity has ramped up significantly. What is the size of this unit, how many personnel?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

The unit currently is 13 members. It's 13 Detectives, two Detective Sergeants and a Detective Lieutenant that supervises the operation. On top of that, the Deputy Inspector, Matt Lewis, who was mentioned earlier by Laura, he overruns that and a few other divisions under him.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. So let me go back to my sheet here, because it was interesting the way the metrics were being laid out. The one thing that seemed a little odd to me was that -- ah, here we go. Arrests, let's talk about the arrest category in particular. So you have 156 and 12. That's prior to when CPA, Community Preservation Act, went into place. You were getting them through whatever particular area. Thirteen, you go to 204. That's after some of our folks here started with, I guess, some of that information. You got credible info that led to an uptick in arrests. Year-to-date now is only 18. We're at the end of the first quarter. If you flip that over three more quarters, we wouldn't crack 80. I mean, is it -- have we been so successful in encouraging those who are chronic offenders to go elsewhere, or what's going on? How do you -- how do you reconcile that?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

I think it's a couple of things, yes. I think it's the focus or increased focus on arrests. Also, there is compliance, we're starting to see compliance. As Laura mentioned earlier, we have 99% compliance on the photographs. Once they're in compliance, there's less, we hope. That's a good number, Legislator Kennedy, it's a good number to see go down. I hope it does go down.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

You know, again, I mean, if these individuals are doing what they're supposed to do, absolutely, everybody should abide by the law. But I just -- so you have enough people to do what needs to be done based on what she's feeding over to you, because when you look at the broader metrics here, your caseload, you know, went up pretty much 200%, 250%, from 12 to 13. But, nevertheless,

you've successfully been able to work your way -- I mean, I have no way to necessarily know, Chief. When you look at it, 3,628 cases, 204 arrests. I guess I have to assume the balance of that was examined, vetted, explored, and resulted in something that was either given rise to the level of an arrest, or --

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Correct. Some remain open. There are a lot -- as Laura mentioned earlier, there are the internet cases. Those are very subpoena centric, they require a lot of documentation to come back to, in fact, prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt. We work in close proximity with the District Attorney's Office, particularly in this unit, to make the cases the best that they can be. And to answer your question, yes, that's basically what it is. A lot of the cases are open, a lot of them are currently being investigated, and we have reviewed the year-end statistics, obviously foreseeing that there will be this increase in the caseload within the unit. And we have been meeting with Lieutenant Hernandez, who runs the unit, to basically determine the future needs of the unit.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. That's good to know. So we may see something in our 2015 budget with that. Just out of curiosity, from information to an arrest to a conviction, because, obviously, that's really what we're interested in if they're bona fide bad guys, what are we talking about, 18 months, 24 months, six months? How long does he get to throw them back in the can?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

I'll speak from the investigative end from the time of the tip or the lead coming in, that -- to making a case. Depending on the case, some are rather simple, it could be as quick as a few weeks, and the case is made and an arrest is made. As far as it working through the court system, I'd have to get back to you with that information.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'm just curious, you know, because I'm trying to, you know, kind of get an idea in my head. But he also pointed out, too, with an arrest, an arrest typically is a violation of probation or parole. That in and of itself may be enough in order to go ahead, revoke that status, and then they're reincarcerated.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Certainly, yes. If that's the case, yes, absolutely. They're reincarcerated oftentimes based on a violation of the Community Protection Act. That unclassified misdemeanor may lead Parole or Probation to file for that violation and make that the violation of the conditions. And they go to court the next day and they don't exit if the violation qualifies.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Good, good. That's what I like to hear. All right. Thank you. Thank you for being here.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Thank you.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'll yield, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Legislator Hahn had a question, but I'd like to real quick ask a question. Of all of the sex offenders, and I know that there's a lot of them on probation and parole, how many of them are not, they have served their time, that may not be on probation or parole?

**MS. AHEARN:**

It's usually about two-thirds, so about a third usually. I mean, on a statewide basis, it's about a third. So you'd have to -- we'd have to bring -- we'd have to bring Probation in.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

That are not on probation or parole?

**MS. AHEARN:**

One-third are under some form of supervision.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

One-third.

**MS. AHEARN:**

And two-thirds are not under any supervision. So that includes parole, probation, and U.S. probation and parole for Federal cases.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you. Kara.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. There were several -- several like discussion trails that I wanted to follow. So if I'm jumping around here, I'm sorry.

So Laura had some numbers, about 144 failure-to-update photographs, leads that were sent over, 182 internet identifier leads. I didn't see a number on failure-to-register leads, but I imagine it's -- was that in there?

**MS. AHEARN:**

The home address?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah.

**MS. AHEARN:**

For the home address?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah.

**MS. AHEARN:**

It was 90.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Ninety.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Ninety -- hold on.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And so, I mean, I just want to understand, is there a -- not being in law enforcement myself, there's clearly -- you know, a lead will come over, it doesn't necessarily -- like you said, it doesn't necessarily mean that there's an arrest or conviction when there's a lead. But are there choices

being made here to allow them to come into compliance, as opposed to just choosing to arrest?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

There's a number. We have to, as I said, work in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office to see how long were they out of compliance, what does their original paperwork say, what does the case -- what does the evidence indicate, and will it make a case that is ultimately provable in court?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. And -- because, clearly, the attention from Parents for Megan's Law is incredibly important, but I would imagine the real thrust of the compliance, bringing into compliance, is the activity from Suffolk County Police Department and showing that there are real consequences for noncompliance. And so it's -- you know, the follow-up from the Suffolk County Police Department and the action on your behalf and on behalf of the District Attorney is super important for future compliance and the overall success of this act. And so, you know, I'm really encouraged to know that there's this partnership and that we're seeing success, but the continued -- you know, the real -- the hammer, the real -- or the real strength of that hammer is in the Police Department and the District Attorney's Offices, you know, and so that follow-up is critical. And so we'll be -- you know, being sure to monitor all that, and know -- and know that that's happening, because this is a tremendous partnership. And we're clearly leading the way nationally, as you said, and our residents are going to be safer because of it, and so thank you. Back --

**MS. AHEARN:**

Legislator Hahn, just really quickly, I just wanted to mention that the Agency has been meeting with the District Attorney and having ongoing discussions. So now the collaboration, we had to square away our procedures and the processes, and we worked with law enforcement to make that happen. And Law Enforcement was working with the District Attorney, and now the Agency has brought that together for sort of a real close triangle, all of us, Law Enforcement, District Attorney and the Agency working together to ensure we're all on the same page. And, ultimately, that's going to lead to the success of the overall program long-term, not only for ensuring that the registry is up to date, but all those processes and procedures along the way are getting better.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And you all are -- you all are like, you know, leading the way in creating something that can be replicated, I'm sure, you know, nationwide. So, you know, it's a -- I'm sure there are places to stumble along the way, but you're really on the cutting edge of something that can protect not only, you know, children and residents here, but all over the country eventually as people follow suit what you're doing.

Okay. So back to homeless, and I'm sorry. I know, it's like they're only 30 out of 1,000, but I did have some questions, and it does have to do sort of with technology, and hopefully I'm not duplicating what anyone asked before. But when someone calls in to request emergency housing, does it trigger an automatic removal of their home address that they had registered previously from the registry? You know, because -- so John "X" calls in one night, he used to live on Oak Street, but he calls in one night and says, "I'm now" -- "I now need DSS housing." Does that mean the Oak Street address -- he no longer lives there. You understand what I'm saying? Like there -- I feel like there should be a red flag or some sort of trigger that highlights that old address as like potentially no longer being valid, because now he's saying, "I don't have a place to live," you know, that one time. So I don't know if that currently happens in the system or if that's something that could happen.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

To answer your question, yes. What happens is the following morning the Detective who is responsible for that job basically reviews the tape from the night before, and "X" says, "I live" -- you

know, is registered at 123 Main, or was supposed to be at 123 Main, and tonight he's staying at 456 Main. That Detective then begins an -- a case is open that day, looking at, okay, is this -- you know, is it permanent, is there an address change required? Again, that gives them the 10 days also to do that address change if it's going to become permanent. However, we open a case the next day.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And then, do you have a sense -- and again, I'm jumping around, I'm sorry. But do you have a sense of -- you said 24 currently, just this week, you know, in DSS housing, but there must be kind of a pool that's larger than 24 of people who kind of go in and out of that housing -- homeless, you know, homeless population that maybe is slightly larger than 24. And are they -- do they circle in and out of that homeless population? There are -- if you get what I'm asking, that they're kind of chronically or on-again-off-again homeless, maybe you can look at them?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Yes. Last year, I believe, when the program started, they were as high as potentially 35 or 36 homeless offenders that were in the trailers at the time. I think by the fact that we are not putting them someplace for more than the 10 days, by putting them in a place and every 10 days, we make it uncomfortable for them to stay in one particular location, and then they -- they are then moved to a different DSS-approved location. So by doing that, I believe -- I believe that has helped to bring the number down to what we currently have, which is the 24 that are using the locations.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. So it's the same 24 pretty much, the same to all of --

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

It does, it changes, yeah.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Right. So there's a pool of probably larger than 24 folks that, you know, kind of circle in and out, and I would imagine that that's another red flag for your Detectives, you know, someone to keep that extra eye on.

Now you said -- and I'm sorry that I didn't follow it. I'm hoping I understand correctly, and I'm remembering from last year, those 24 sector operators will know where they are and are aware of where they are? Are they checking? Remind me what you're doing to check. When they call in, are they -- how are they being checked on?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

The sector car operators are made aware of the locations and they do drive-bys.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Remind me about the laws about multiple offenders living at the same address.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Town of Brookhaven has a requirement that no more than two sex offenders can reside in a single-family dwelling. In Suffolk County, the commitment made was that no more than one registrant would be at any one particular homeless shelter.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. So the system wouldn't flag if -- or maybe it does, not because it's criminal, but just because it's of interest, I would hope, if multiple offenders live at the same address?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Yes.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So they'll get a check. And then of the 24, they can't be living in two or three at the same spot; that would automatically be a red flag that you would raise?

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Correct.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. I think that's it for now, but thank you for all that you're doing, both of you -- all of you, thank you very much. You know, I know our -- this is something that our residents are -- get worried about, and this is really, you know, something that it's an incredible improvement over what we were doing in the past, and it's a great public/private partnership. And our Suffolk County Police Officers, our Detectives, our -- everyone involved and all of your staff members that work so hard going up to the doors, and all the work on the computers, and I know how much they care about protecting our children and our families and our communities, so thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Good? Yes? Okay. Anymore questions? Anybody else? No? Oh, wow. Great. So, again, thank you for all the work you do. Thank you, Laura, because I think this is a perfect partnership that has been extremely effective. And, you know, I've seen the difference, that's all I can say, because I know that it's working and it's working well. And we will get back with our DSS Commissioner. Again, the issue with using the DSS center as a location when somebody's registering, whether they get out -- you know, when they get out of jail or get out of prison, that's a concern of mine. I think there has been some -- I just received some correspondence that there is an issue with sometimes parolees getting out and being allowed to use that as an address, which I think you had mentioned, Chief Madigan. So we will follow up on that. And I guess, you know, it should be a red flag address, that when our Sex Offender Unit gets that notice, that there's one moved into Suffolk County with that address, it should be an automatic red flag, sorry, it's not acceptable. So -- and I don't know -- I know we do have Mike Sharkey here from the Sheriff's Office. I mean, I believe you have the same policy when somebody -- when somebody is being released out of jail.

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

I don't have that information.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You don't have any information at this time?

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

(Shook head no).

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Well, we'll follow up with you. Thank you. With that, with no more questions on the Community Protection Act, I know that there's a list of questions that we were holding off for this meeting, and I don't know where to start. There was a couple of questions, and we neglected to ask, was one on Probation, not for you guys, Probation and SCINs that were being signed. I don't know if Tom Vaughn is here or -- nope?

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Thank you, guys.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Oh, well -- oh, there you are. Gees, I'm sorry, Tom. Thank you.

**MS. AHEARN:**

Thank you.

**CHIEF MADIGAN:**

Thank you.

*(\*Applause\*)*

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I was hiding in the front row.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you. There -- I believe there were some SCIN forms for a Probation class; am I correct?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Legislator Browning, I'm sorry. I was up to date on the SCIN forms that were signed for the Sheriff's Office. I don't have an update for you on the SCINs -- on any SCINs regarding the Probation Officers.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. We were aware of the -- thank you for responding on the SCIN forms for the Sheriff's Department --

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Well, I would just like to say --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

-- promotions.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Pardon me. I would just like to say that was a nice collaboration between the County Executive, Presiding Officer and the Sheriff on that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yes, it was. And thank you to our Presiding Officer. So, with that, I guess Commissioner, and Chief White, and Dr. Coyne, if you would like to all come up. I know that there was a number of questions, and where to start? Is -- Phil Berdolt is still here, because I know that there was the issue with the cars. You're welcome to come up and join us. Kara, that was your question with the cars, too, or was that -- Legislator Kennedy, was that your question on the cars? Whose question?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

What was it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

With regards to the cars, I believe both of you. I think all of us.

**LEG. HAHN:**

We're all asking.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

However, if you could give us an update. I did receive this. I really didn't get to look at it.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Well, I would like to start. First, thank you very much for inviting us here.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

And sorry it took so long to get us here. As always, I would like to recognize the men and women of the Police Department, both sworn and civilian, for all the hard work they're doing, the dedication of duty. Our crime statistics reflect this hard work. As I mentioned on prior occasions, between '11 and '12, the crime's down 9.6%, between '12 and 2013, it's down an additional 8%, and year to date, it's down 7.5%, so we're doing very good on that front.

You had asked previously an update on the DOJ as we moved along. The only notification we officially made to date was the identification of our Compliance Officer, who was a Sergeant in our Legal Bureau. And we're currently working on a plan for the creation of the Community Liaison Group and the Community Support Group. So that's where we are with the DOJ.

As you alluded to, Madam Chair, over the last couple of weeks, there have been numerous questions posed to the Police Department, and we thought we'd create a handout, which hopefully everyone has, in response to those, in addition to which I have brought along the individuals who were in charge of specific areas of which you have questions. You mentioned Dr. Coyne with our Narcan, he's first up. So, if you have any particular questions of him or you'd like something addressed --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think what I'd like you -- you've got the questions, and I think -- I think it would be appropriate to go ahead, and since you have the first on your list here was Dr. Coyne, go ahead, and if you'd like to give us some information on Narcan, how it's working.

**DR. COYNE:**

Sure. Briefly, two years ago, I believe it was this committee initiated legislation, a resolution to introduce Narcan to the Police Department, Nasal Narcan. We did that and the program was a pilot program of the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, and you had to be an EMT to dispense the medication.

We are experiencing an unprecedented number of opiate overdoses in the County, throughout the State and throughout the country. It's really very troubling. The numbers are markedly rising every year. We have a tremendous number of mortality from this. Based on that, we trained -- initially, we rolled the program out as a pilot. We signed up with the State. We were one of four agencies in the State to sign up, four municipalities. And we rolled the program out in the Fourth, the Sixth, and the Seventh Precincts and the Marine Bureau, and we just had -- we trained about 400 officers initially. They were certified to administer Nasal Narcan. We trained out dispatchers, who did a remarkable job, in coordinating the response to these calls. We had -- by the first five months, we had about 40 documented saves by police officers. Twenty EMS agencies in the County had also signed up, so we worked -- we certainly partnered with them. Based on the success that we were experiencing, we rolled it out to all the precincts in January of 2013 and our Emergency Service Bureau.

To date, we have 176 documented saves, and I review all of these. These are documented saves of people who were about to die from an opiate overdose. We have given the medication 186 times,

the Nasal Narcan, and we have 176 saves. So in 10, it wasn't successful because the patient went into cardiac arrest, or they had symptoms that mimicked an opiate overdose. One was a brain stem stroke, which looked like an overdose.

So, based on the success of Suffolk County, New York State prematurely terminated the pilot program, and in October, about five months ago, they now -- it is now standard protocol for all EMTs to be trained in the State who can now administer Nasal NARCAN, and it was really on -- it was on the experience of Suffolk County. So I think I would like to thank the Legislature for -- this committee for introducing the resolution, and for all the great work that our police officers and EMS people do every day to bring the success and this number of -- this dramatic number of saves.

I have received calls from police departments around the country, and recently, last week, I received a call from the Commissioner of Homeland Security of New York State, who was in conference with the Governor, and they were remarking about the model program that Suffolk County has established in this -- in this Nasal NARCAN program. So they do want to roll it out and they want to use us a model, so that's where we are.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Kara, I guess you can start.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I just had a couple of questions about supply. Are we okay with the supply of the Narcan?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

We have about a year's inventory.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Excellent.

**DR. COYNE:**

We just got a big supply. As they're closing down the pilot program, we took advantage of getting a supply, so we're ready. And we can easily replenish that, it's not that expensive.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Good. And training, do we -- how far -- do we still have more to train and --

**DR. COYNE:**

We currently have trained 1,075. It's actually somewhat more than you have in your document. We are training our recruits currently, so we've trained almost 1100 officers in -- and who are now certified to administer Nasal NARCAN.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Excellent. And did we work out all the kinks about the referral for treatment with the Health Department? I think we're -- I've heard we had some good success so far in referrals to treatment, and so if there's anything you want to say about that, you know.

**DR. COYNE:**

We continue to try to get as much information about these victims and share that with the Department of Health, who then does the follow-up to try to get them into therapy.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

John.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yes. Thank you, Doctor. And I agree with you, it's remarkable results. As a matter of fact, Senator Hannon, I think, has sponsored the bill now in the Senate to go ahead and actually pilot into the schools, so that, you know, hopefully, we get similar types of rates of success. And it was a pleasure to go ahead and work on this. It's one of the better things, I think, that we've done -- you've done.

But we're training, so let's talk a little bit about one of my other -- I don't know if you want to call it pet peeves or areas of interest, EMTs and currency of the EMT certification for our about 1500 officers at this point, Commissioner; is that what it is?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

On the street?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yes.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. Your Department made a committed effort to ramp and get them retrained. How are we doing? Frame the big picture for me, if you could.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Right now we're -- about 600 people expired. We have changed our training a little bit in that if you take -- if you're expired, you have to go through the full EMT refresher course, which is nine days, plus an additional day for the test. If we get you before you expire, we can do the CME, Continuing Medical Education, which is seven days without a test.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

So we have instituted that program, and we stretched out, that no one will -- anyone who will expire by July of this year or August of this year is now covered. We have a base of about 600 people who are not trained at the moment who are expired. We do about 18 a session, because they're now requiring the nine. We are looking forward to appreciably reducing that number of untrained based upon availability of the staff and availability of the training staff, because there is a requirement of one to six, one instructor to six students. So it limits the amount of people that we can have in any given training session.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

When you train the officers, are you doing it over here in Brentwood at the Academy, or do you actually come into the precincts?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

No. We bring them out to the Central Islip location, because it's a -- it's a very detailed nine-day course.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Absolutely. Okay. But it sounds like we have more patrol officers that are current than aren't, which is -- that's a good thing. We're moving in the right direction.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Yes. We have an effort to reduce that number as best as possible.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And, Doctor, what about -- thank you, Commissioner. You have a very specialized team of officers trained in medical areas that go up to like the paramedic level? What do we call them? I forget, I'm sorry.

**DR. COYNE:**

Yes, we have a specialized team called MEDCAT, Medical Crisis Action Team. Currently, we have 18 officers, but we are going to be expanding that to 24 within the next month. We have a number of applicants to join the team and they're -- we interviewed all of them. They really are remarkable. They are very motivated, highly trained, and we are extremely happy to have them. So we're going to be -- and this, again, is a model program. These officers day to day perform their police duties, but also give advanced life support at all different types of calls, whether it's a motor vehicle accident, a heart attack, or whatever. But when something happens of dramatic consequence, we can mobilize a team, we'll take on duty.

We had several mobilizations in the last year for a hurricane. We went to a multiple casualty on the Expressway when those 30 cars piled up. And recently we had a -- we did a response to the carbon monoxide call at the Walt Whitman Shopping Center at the Legal Seafood Restaurant.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, that's excellent, Doctor. And I'm glad to hear that we have increased interest. And, as you reminded me, this group is doing first instance or primary medical care out on some of our barrier beach locations, I believe.

**DR. COYNE:**

Yes. We have currently four officers in the MEDCAT Team in the Marine Bureau, and they're on the boats or on the beach, or both.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. All right. Thank you again. Thank you. Madam Chair, I wanted to talk to the Commissioner about one other item. I don't know if it's in his recitation to us, so maybe we should go through those items, or however you want to do it.

**(\*The following testimony was taken & transcribed by  
Alison Mahoney - Court Reporter\*)**

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, I was trying to -- let's take care of Dr. Coyne, and then the next issue was our vehicles. I'm trying to go by this list that they gave us. Doc Spencer had a question, I don't know what his was; my assumption was it was for Dr. Coyne. But if there's no more questions with regards to Narcan/EMT's, I'd like to move on to the next step. Legislator Trotta, did you have a question for Dr. Coyne?

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I have a question on the Narcan saves.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

You know, I know a little bit about this and a lot of the heroin comes from the city, and about a year and a half ago you pulled the people out of the DEA, you had four Detectives assigned there. And as everyone in this room knows, the heroin comes from the city, and the people that were in the DEA were the lifeline between the Police Department, the New York City Police Department, the Nassau County Police Department and the DEA. So, you know, I know firsthand that you've lost that strategic advantage to knowing what's going on between agencies and the ability to make big arrests in the city. So, you know, I don't -- I don't think there's a -- I think there's a direct relationship here that the heroin is getting out here and it's not being properly watched and the enforcement action is cause -- the lack of enforcement action is causing this. Do you have any reason why they're not there?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

I can tell you that there are many investigations and wires, as you may know from your prior experience, that we are definitely still stemming the tide of the heroin movement out here. It's a matter of direction on our part as to how we'll do that, and we are, in fact, reducing the number as best we can with the flow of heroin from the city, which you're right, there's a big portion coming out to Suffolk County.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I'd like to step in a little bit because, you know, when it comes to staffing issues, and I don't want to cut you off, I just want to make sure that we don't get into any kind of information, confidential information on how the Police Department's operating. I understand what you're saying, I just want to -- I don't want us to get to a point where they're going to have to say, "*Well, we can't explain that*". If we need to have any discussion off the record and in executive session with regards to how the Police Department's operating and what they're doing, I'd be happy to let us do that.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

It was in the newspaper that they were taken out, so.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right, right. It's just I don't want to have them get to a position where they may have to go into an executive session to talk about how they're doing their job these days. And obviously, I'm equally concerned that, you know, if we weren't doing the right thing, then we have to make sure that we're expressing our opinion, too.

I appreciate that.

Is there -- Doc Spencer is back, the Doctor has a question for the doctor?

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Certainly. I -- first of all, just a brief comment. You know, I appreciate your recognizing this committee, but I particularly wanted to, you know, thank my colleague, Legislator Hahn, for introducing this resolution. And to see that it's gone so far, I think that she's done something that's been transformative and saved a lot of lives and you should really be very proud of that.

Dr. Coyne, if there were -- for a while there, when we were looking at Narcan, there was an issue with regards to whether or not there was an EMT or a First Responder and what level of treatment, and then what their -- I guess, their protocol or what they were authorized to do. And for some reason, there was based on their scope of practice that certain groups were not able to do it and other groups were, but yet they were still training civilians to administer Narcan. Has that been resolved? Can EMT's/First Responders, or is there still a scope of practice issue?

**DR. COYNE:**

As I mentioned, the pilot program has been terminated. The State Department of Health has now expanded the scope of care for all EMT's to administer Nasal Narcan. We had some sporadic issues where a Police Officer who is certified to give Narcan was at the scene and then an ambulance pulled up who was not -- they they didn't have certification because it's a pilot program, so the officer had to maintain the level of care and ride the ambulance to the hospital; he had to continue care to the hospital.

I think your question also talks about the public access to Narcan.

So there are certain categories of the public who can receive training to give Nasal Narcan who are not EMT's. They traditionally have been people who have a family member who is an addict, an Opiate addict or significant other, and they would be trained to administer Nasal Narcan should there be an emergency in their home with their family, with their member.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

So I --

**DR. COYNE:**

That's being expanded, by the way.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

So until you said it just now, I heard you say that the fact that the pilot had ended, but I didn't realize that the pilot program was the scope of practice issue. So that makes a lot of sense to me. So now that -- and the other thing that we're looking to do in some villages, I have five villages in Huntington, is they want to get their officers trained. And, you know, I'm just definitely -- has that -- how can that be facilitated? Are villages allowed to train their police forces now through State law, they're able to do that? And are we working with our villages to provide them with the training?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Legislator Spencer, they have the ability to attend our academy. That's where they get the basic training to begin with and they can get any additional training they would need at any time.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Well, one last question. I understand that, you know, Narcan is a short-acting, I guess, reversal, narcotic reversing agent or antagonist. There have been some discussions and a lot of drug companies have approached me with regards to some of the longer acting products that are on the market that will actually block those receptors for up to 30-days. And in our treatment settings, is

there any role, are you aware of these products, is there any role in that as we get these people into treatment to have the longer acting Naloxone available?

**DR. COYNE:**

For our purposes, for EMS and the emergency purposes, Narcan is the agent of choice, because it has a half life of about 45 minutes and by that time the patient will be at the hospital.

As far as therapeutic, and I think you're talking about therapeutic regimen, that would not really be an issue that the Police Department would be involved in. That would be more in the different services that provide, you know, addiction therapy.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

I agree. I think that someone had asked the question, you know, would it be appropriate for the Police to consider the long-acting, and I didn't think so but I thought I would take the opportunity to ask you the question. Thank you. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Rob, you have a question?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Just a quick question for you, Dr. Coyne. I know you mentioned there were a couple of instances where an individual was having a cardiac arrest who was administered the Narcan. Does the Narcan itself have a negative effect in that situation, or is it zero effect or is it something that in the medical field we feel is worth the chance, I guess?

**DR. COYNE:**

Narcan, Nasal Narcan doesn't have any effect in a victim who is in cardiac arrest, it doesn't work.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

I guess my question was more along the lines does it have a negative effect in times of the cardiac arrest?

**DR. COYNE:**

No, there's no adverse -- no adverse treatment effects from Narcan in a cardiac arrest. There's now downside to giving it. And the victims that actually -- the officers are taught, they do not administer it to a patient in cardiac arrest. At times they get to the scene and while they're administering the patient goes into cardiac arrest. It does no harm to the patient, but it does not have any beneficial effect at that point, so they have to begin CPR and, you know, advanced life support.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**DR. COYNE:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Tom?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Thanks, Doctor. Certainly no one would argue the benefits of this program. I think they've been tremendous and I commend everybody involved in implementing it.

I do have a question with regard to potential negative impact. I'm wondering if you see this or if you anticipate this at all. If I'm a drug user, a heroin user or whatever, Opiate user, and I've

experienced the benefit, let's say, of being revived as a result of Narcan, it may make me less apprehensive from -- you know, to use again knowing that, you know, the save is that easy. Have you seen that, experienced that, is that a concern?

**DR. COYNE:**

That concern that you raise has been raised in a speculative way about the addict's propensity to overdose knowing there might be a safety line nearby.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right.

**DR. COYNE:**

I haven't -- we haven't seen that. In fact, the victims -- some of the victims that we have resuscitated have gotten into therapeutic programs following that, through the Department of Health. I guess it would really be very individual, you know? And if they want to take that chance, there may not be a lifeline the next time.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right.

**DR. COYNE:**

There's a chain, you know, there's a chain of communication and response and it may not work the next time if nobody knows about it.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Sure. Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You're done? Okay. Well, thank you, Dr. Coyne.

**DR. COYNE:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And I guess next on the agenda is new vehicle status, so.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

If I may, Madam Chair, I'd just like to respond to Legislator Spencer's question early on about the reimbursement rate?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

While I can't address that particular grant, I can tell you that there's a direct relationship. There are certain employee benefits that grants don't reimburse for, so depending upon the amount of personal services, if it was all equipment it would be 100%; if it was 50% personal services, it may be 20%. It's all formula-driven, but that would be the reason. I'd have to look at that particular grant to tell you why, but that would be it.

**LEG. SPENCER:**

Congratulations on the grants. But thank you, that makes a lot of sense. What you said, that answers my question. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And, you know, if there's no more questions for Dr. Coyne, I'm sure you might have plenty of other things you want to do. So I don't want to hold you up, don't feel like you have to stay.

**DR. COYNE:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You're welcome to, though.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So, new vehicles.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

There are three sets of new vehicles we purchased. We purchased the 40 and which we received in September of last year. We purchased 24, which we received December 27th of '13, and we just had another 23 which we just received 16 of the 23. With that, I'll turn it over to Chief White to address the vehicle status.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Thank you, Commissioner. Good morning, Chairwoman Browning, Presiding Officer Gregory and Legislators. Thank you for having us today, and I'll give you a little bit of a brief on where we stand on the new vehicles.

I know this is one of Legislator Kennedy's pet peeves, or as he better put it, "*areas of concerns*," so I'll try --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Come on, he's got a lot of pet peeves (*laughter*).

**CHIEF WHITE:**

-- to address --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'm just full of them, Chief.

**(\*Laughter\*)**

**CHIEF WHITE:**

-- his prior statements about the vehicles and where we go. And it's a pretty complex area, unfortunately. I wish it was like when I bought a new car.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Your mic's not on.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Sorry, I let go. I wish it was like when I bought a new vehicle a few years ago where I actually walked into a car dealership, purchased a car within a few hours and drove out two hours later, but unfortunately there's some complexities with getting police vehicles on the road that add a lot to that process. And before I actually go into what you see on your sheet, I'll just give you an idea

what happens after DPW processes vehicles and they go to a vendor for the lighting package and striping and they get to the Police Department.

So they'll get to us and we still have numerous tasks that have to be performed by our communications mechanics at the radio shop and our IT civilian personnel out at Headquarters, and that takes a full two-and-a-half days to do. So in the best case scenario, at the current conditions we are in, we can get two vehicles out per week finalized after they come back from the vendors. And I'll just give you a little idea of some of the things that happened at the radio shop, and that's we put in a center console, a computer monitor and modem, a docking station, mobile and portable radio chargers; the mobile radio is the one that's fixed in the vehicle, the portable is the one there was a charger for and the officer takes out as he goes out to a scene. Antennas, we now supply flashlights in the car so the flashlight and charger go in, the center console modifications and all the wiring and connecting the lighting; the lighting comes over installed, we connect the lighting. And then for the information technology piece, it takes about a half day. They actually put the actual CPU, the computer guts, the computer installation in, they do programming and testing which takes a half day. So there's two-and-a-half days of processing for each vehicle once they're ready to go, so that brings us now to getting out about two vehicles a week.

As the Commissioner mentioned, we got 40 marked vehicles. They actually ended up coming to the Police Department in November of '13, after all the preprocessing, and 22 of those are fleeted and placed in service and 18 of those are remaining ready for us, ready for the vehicles. And as I explained to you, they will be coming out two per week, as they have been.

Based on current staffing, based on the fact that we have both of our Communications Technicians working, we did have a period that delayed us somewhat in this first order where one of our Communications Technicians got ill and was out on long-term sick leave, so I only had one person doing it. We tried to bring some other people in on overtime to keep things moving through, but it did stop the process a bit. So the projected date of completion for these 18 is some time in May.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

If I may, Mark. There was an additional problem, and I mentioned it in previous meetings, that the new configuration of the car, it's so small that we had to redo the wiring, which we were unprepared for, the monitor has to be a smaller size so we had -- there was a delay in finding out that there was a need and then ordering and receiving that equipment. So there was a delay early on before we could even start the work to put this stuff together.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Being those cars -- just real quick. Being that, you know, they're much smaller compared to the Crown Vics and getting everything in, I was at something recently and one of the pipe band members is extremely tall, I think you know who he is. How does he fit in one of those cars? (*Laughter*). Just out of curiosity, because --

**CHIEF WHITE:**

The officers are managing to fit.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

He has to be like 6'6" or more.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

They're managing to fit. And believe it or not, the interior square footage is almost equivalent to the Crown Victoria. It's different, I think it's from a height perspective, from a width perspective, and there is more -- there is less room, seat room, there's more installation inside, but they're not too far apart, shockingly enough, which really surprised us. But we're making some accommodations for the double cars, where it's kind of tight, where we're using the Crown Victorias for now until we may at some point explore SUV's for those where there's going to be two officers in.

But with our new -- that's the great part about having County employees, County civilian employees working on this project, because that -- in the beginning, when we first got these cars, we had a computer configuration that was really contributing to the problem and taking up a lot of room. We had a center console configuration that was a problem. So the two Communications Technicians at the radio shop actually, on their own, redesigned a few different models of center consoles and computer configurations for the monitor -- we don't get involved in the actual computer piece itself -- and we road tested them and came up with one that was working unbelievably well. Officers who were otherwise complaining about being -- sitting in a car are saying now it's fine, where we now only have the monitor in the car, not the actual computer unit; the computer unit's in the rear. So we've made some improvements in that area.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you. Go ahead and continue.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

So next up is an order of 24 more cars that were delivered, they're at the vendor getting the lighting packages, they'll get the striping packages. We should have those returned very, very soon to us, in the next few weeks. And once again, we'll be immediately working with our Communications Mechanics to get those out quickly.

The Communications Mechanics, although they're doing installations now, they also have other roles. They have to fix all the equipment, radio equipment, even lighting equipment when it comes in, if it's not a DPW mechanic issue, and all these other components of the cars, internal cars, wiring for the systems and lighting systems while this is all going on. So unfortunately, sometimes they have to take a quick break from the cars to do that.

So with conditions now, we think they'll be out a little bit earlier than August, end of August of '14, but we're not sure how things will go over the summer with vacations and time off and unanticipated leave. So we're estimating at least a completion of August of '14 on that.

And then there's a pending order of 23 marked vehicles which went in. They've just gotten delivered, DPW is going to process them. They put on the gas ring, they do administrative tasks with the vehicle and processing, and then they get them to us. We're not ready to do anything with them yet anyway, so that's not a crisis situation where they have to get them out right away. They go to Mobile Fleet first, the vendor. Once those are completed by Mobile Fleet, the vendor for installing the lights and the striping, we will get those out and we'll hope to have those done by the end of November of this year.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And let's go to the out of service vehicles. You know, one of the concerns that I know we all share is it came up with the Probation Officers, you know, the unmarked vehicles that are sitting in the shop and making sure that we have enough of them for the people who need to use the unmarked vehicles. Phil, do you want to clue us in on the out-of-service vehicles, how we're doing? And, I mean, I see the list here in front of us, but if you want to kind of --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Madam Chair, I do want to go back to the Chief's description with where things are going to go with the vehicles.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I mean, Phil, my question's going to be real simple, if I can. Eighty-seven vehicles in total, we're talking about 22 of which you've already completed, so that would mean 65 we have to go ahead

and run through to get them up and operational. The Communications Tech, I know that we talked about that the last time. I believe that you gentlemen did get a SCIN signed for an additional Communications Tech, or maybe I'm confused.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

No, actually --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

How many --

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

What we're looking for is mechanics to do the installation and we have some SCIN requests in and the County Executive's Office is considering them as we speak.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. Well, as everybody talks about these days, these are data-driven kinds of decisions. So you gentlemen have done a very good job in quantifying the amount of time it takes to go ahead and achieve getting the vehicle from when it rolls off, you know, the transport to the point where we can put officers in it. So today how many Communications Techs do we have that work on this function?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Actually, mechanics, we have three over in -- over here that's actually doing the installation, one is a Supervisor and two are the installation -- they actually do the installing.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

But, Commissioner, there's only three mechanics up there. And as a matter of fact --

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

No, this is not in the -- it's not DPW who does it, it's our Tech Services do it.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

These are Police Officers.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Oh, your people do it.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

It's separate, our people do it.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Oh, okay.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

These are Police personnel, civilian Police personnel.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay, then I misunderstood. So from your perspective, based on what you see now, you have a sufficient number of personnel to hit these targets that you've put in?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

The targets that are there. But as I mentioned, we did request two additional mechanics to assist us to speed up the process.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. And when did you request those SCINS?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Some time in January.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay, and we're here in March. All right, so that's a different question, I guess, or a question for Mr. Vaughn.

Let's go to the actual specific equipment itself. One of the things I recall hearing a couple of months ago was we elected to change the product that we were using in the car, and I think it was wise. My recollection is you were going to a more current laptop, Tough Books, whatever the newest version is?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

It was more a size restriction driven decision.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Yes, it's much smaller and there's --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

You know, listen, if it's a smaller tool and it gives you same yield, why not?

Okay, so now my next question is do we have 65 of these now preferred laptops to install in those cars that you've identified will be ready to roll by August?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

I can tell you that the 18, for the 40 and the 24, definitively we have it. I'd have to check on the latest 23 which we just got; I'm not sure whether we have the sufficient equipment for that one. But if not, it would be on order.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And who does that? You gentlemen do that ordering?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

We do, the Police Department does.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. And so what's your turn-around time from the vendor; 10 weeks, 12 weeks, something like that?

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Not that much time.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Not even.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

The last time took about two weeks.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So we should have no issue with receiving the equipment to actually put it in, and we've got three folks that are working on this and we have a request to the Exec for two more to help make this process complete.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

That's correct.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. All right, that sounds like something I guess I can wrap my head around. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So, Phil, now we're going to go back, because I'm looking at some of these numbers and the number of vehicles that are out in excess of three months. Now, is this just Suffolk County PD or is this PD and Probation vehicles that we're going to be talking about here?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

I believe it's both.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

No, these are ours.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

Oh, these are just yours?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

The ones you have in front of you are Police Department vehicles and it's broken down marked, unmarked and undercover.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

And I have to caution you, it's a snapshot -- yes, that one. It's a snapshot in any given day, we can either have more or less depending upon how many cars are fixed.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right. I mean, just at first glance looking at the marked units, unmarked, undercover that are out in excess of 90-days, I mean, and some 150 days. Just curious, what could possibly be wrong with the vehicle? Is it out so long that maybe it's not worth even fixing anymore, or what could be wrong with it?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

Some, yes, are getting close to the end of their useful life. Also, you know, we are way behind, obviously, coming off one of the harshest winters we've had in a while.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

Besides Police vehicles, we do have our own other vehicles that we are attending to trying to keep our own fleet up and running. We're just doing the best we can with what we have.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, okay. Can I get a number from you as to how many mechanics you currently have working on all of these vehicles?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

I'm going to defer to Mike, Mike James, he's head of Fleet Maintenance

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Sure. I know you have the mechanics that work on the cars. Do they have other job functions, especially after the storm, besides fixing cars?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

Correct, yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

What's their other job functions?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

They could be working on trucks, they could be changing tires, welding, snow plows.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right. So they're -- and especially with this past winter, they've probably been consumed a lot.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Which takes them away from having to work on Police cars. So, Mike James, if you want to give us some information on your staffing levels?

**MR. JAMES:**

Can you hear me?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Sure we do.

**MR. JAMES:**

Okay. All right. As far as mechanics, we have 13 mechanics that actually do the work on the vehicles; this excludes Supervisors, parts personnel. Thirteen plus one, which we do have a foreman that actually works on the vehicles also; 13 plus one on the truck side, we have ten plus two on the car side.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. You said you have 13 mechanics, so when you say 13 plus one, is that your 13 plus the foreman?

**MR. JAMES:**

It's a foreman that does double duty.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So you have 13 mechanics, you have one foreman.

**MR. JAMES:**

One foreman that actually does -- I do have foremen that I cannot afford -- that there's too much work that they're not on the floor doing work also.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And then truck mechanics, how many?

**MR. JAMES:**

Truck, we have -- that was on the truck side, the 13 plus one. On the car side, it's ten plus two foremen that do go out on the floor as needed.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**MR. JAMES:**

Actually, they're on the floor more than they're in the office doing paperwork.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

Also, two of the precincts out of the seven are manned.

**MR. JAMES:**

Right, that's included in the ten. It would be the first and the third.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So you have mechanics at two precincts?

**MR. JAMES:**

The 1st Precinct and the 3rd Precinct have a mechanic.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And what do you they do?

**MR. JAMES:**

They do anything that can be done at the precinct, it would be tires, brakes, lights, any driver that they can get them right back on the road.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**MR. JAMES:**

If it got into a major, you know, transmission, any other major overhauls either go to the garage or we vendor out.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I don't know, John. I think --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

The question's real simple.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Go ahead, John.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Mike, you're familiar -- you saw the sheet that's sitting here that the Deputy Commissioner -- I'm sorry, the Commissioner.

**MR. JAMES:**

No, I'm not familiar with that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

All right, the question's real simple. How many of these cars that are sitting there that are out of service for 150 days are sitting in our shop or are sitting in a vendor? We have garages that do work for us, right, privates out there? Radiator shops, body shops, transmission shops.

**MR. JAMES:**

Body shops I don't get involved with. We just do mechanical work, and vendors we send out for all mechanical work. As I checked this morning, we had 188 open repair orders. As far as how long they've been out, I didn't do that research this morning, but I had 188 PD repair orders open this morning.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. The only other thing I'll ask and then I'll yield -- I know Legislator Hahn was on the list -- when you go to a shop, I don't care what it is, transmission, front end, anything like that, the guy does the work, how long does it take for us before we go ahead and cut him a check? Because what I hear is is we're having a lot of problems with our vendors; they don't want to work for us because we're not paying them.

**MR. JAMES:**

It depends on what vendors we're sending to. If we have a normal contracted, County-contracted vendor, I would say that comes into play. We also use a State contract, ARI.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yeah, what is that?

**MR. JAMES:**

That is where we use an ARI supplied vendor, which there are many of, ARI is like the middleman. The vendor, if they choose, can be paid --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

You know what? I'll talk to you off-line. Let me yield.  
Legislator Hahn's been real patient with this. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Kara?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Hi. I guess this has, you know, become high on my priority list because I've been told that, you know, sector cars were doubling up because there weren't enough cars available. So when you say that 20% of the fleet is out and unavailable because of service issues, you know, I just don't know how you operate and function. You know, out of a five-day work week, that would mean I wouldn't have a car one day a week, if I had 20% of my time was without a car, you know. So 20% -- if 20% of the fleet is down, what -- I mean, granted, some of it's short, but 30 days is a long time. If my car went to the shop, it wouldn't take 30-days to get it back, I'd have it back same day or next day. So what's happening? We have that many vehicles, 195 extra vehicles so that we can deal with out of service stuff, or what's happening?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

No. You know, I can't say whether they double up, you know, whether the PD doubles up or not, but yeah, you're right.

**LEG. HAHN:**

The question wasn't really for you (*laughter*).

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

But, you know, it is, it's a tough situation we're in. We do have -- we did bring on three new mechanics just recently, and we have an additional three SCINS waiting that they're being reviewed now and I think we've got a pretty good chance of getting a few more people. We had just a few people retire, which is just compounding this situation even more.

**LEG. HAHN:**

How long have you had SCINS waiting?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

They were put in at the end of December, early January I believe.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So to the Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

I'm sorry, I thought you were addressing the number of days out, not what we do with --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah. No, I was addressing --

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

It is true that there are times --

**LEG. HAHN:**

The little rant there was *(laughter)* --

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

It is true there are times that there's doubling up of supervisors and/or giving the supervisor's vehicle to a marked unit, to a sector that might be down in driving; the supervisor, an unmarked unit.

Those type of things do occur. It's a function of not having the vehicles to go out and do the job.

***(\*The following testimony was taken and transcribed by  
Lucia Braaten, Court Reporter\*)***

**LEG. HAHN:**

Right. So I think -- you know, I think we've heard enough about this that, I mean, if we need to act to make something happen, we need to -- we may need to. I mean, I don't understand why we would wait on hiring when this is such a severe issue. And, Tom, I guess this is to you, where this is an issue where it's been going on for I'd say at least six months or more; more. And so, you know, it's pretty serious when you're doubling up, when 20% of your fleet is down and you've got, you know, SCINs that need to be signed for maintenance to get these cars back on the road. Has Performance Management been over there to look into what their -- what's going on?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

They were here yesterday.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

We'll be getting a plan soon.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

We're at a standstill?

**LEG. HAHN:**

I wanted just to hear from Tom Vaughn, if that's okay, through the Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay, Tom, it's all yours.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I love the Public Safety Committee.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

You're welcome. There are three SCINs, as Mr. Berdolt said, that they are currently being reviewed. I do know that Dennis Cohen is having a conversation with Tom Melito. I do believe that they've also had a conversation with Commissioner Anderson. I don't have too much more to add to that, other than we understand that the -- that we need to turn around the vehicles and get them back out onto the road, and, you know, it's being looked at.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Does that work for you, Kara?

**LEG. HAHN:**

No (Laughter). Well, I just -- I just want you to go back and convey the urgency with which I feel, and I'm sure the rest of this committee is beginning to feel, about this issue, and how I think it's just unacceptable that we're waiting multiple months on SCINs. This issue has come up over and over again in this committee. And I'm not trying to shoot the messenger here, but I'm asking you to bring that message back, that we'd really like to see action on this today.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I was so close to a yes answer, so close.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

I would be happy to convey the sense of urgency. I'm not going to promise you that we're going to get SCINs signed today.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

That's all we could ask, but --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

There's three and three.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Three and three? Okay.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yes, Madam Chair, there's -- Tom, there's three that Deputy Commissioner Berdolt talked about, but also remember Commissioner Webber talked about three out of the P.D. as well.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yeah, absolutely, sir. I am aware that --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Right. So, in actuality, we're looking at six personnel to address what is a multi-pronged issue here, an aging fleet that breaks down and we can't get back on the road, a new fleet that we can't get fitted and on the road, and vendors that we don't pay who won't repair our vehicles. So, quite frankly, you know, getting the SCINs signed is just the tip of the iceberg, to be honest with you. So I would ask that you would convey in both those departments the need.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And what I said earlier was what was the other job functions of your mechanics. We've had a couple of years now of severe storms, and God knows what else could happen. We have an aging DPW fleet. I mean, let's -- we could even go there, but that's a Public Works Committee issue. So, you know, we're using these mechanics, and I don't know. Maybe we should be looking at having -- I know the Sheriff's Department has a mechanic shop where they do the work. I know you guys get to use the prisoners a little bit, don't you? But, at the same time, I think that when you're cobbling everything into one department, the guys that work there, they're doing the best they can, but if -- you know, when was the last time we had a Police Department mechanics shop?

**MR. JAMES:**

'97.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

'97.

**MR. JAMES:**

1997.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So I think that's something that we should explore, is to work on bringing back a shop just for the law enforcement vehicles.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Can BRO weigh in on that, maybe if we ask them to look into it?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I don't know if I want to put the pressure on them to come up with an answer today.

**LEG. HAHN:**

No, no, no.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think it's something that we should look at, is what would it take to create a shop for -- just for the law enforcement. I mean, Probation is waiting for vehicles, you know, the Police Department.

**MR. JAMES:**

Probation would still be under --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

They're under DPW, too.

**MR. JAMES:**

They would be under DPW.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right. But it would be nice maybe to consider having a shop for just law enforcement.

**MR. LIPP:**

Right. We could talk of that -- back in the day there used to be and that was changed. So we could speak at least to, you know, what their rhyme or reason was for that.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, back in the day, let's go to 1997, how many mechanics did you have?

**MR. JAMES:**

More than we have today.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Three times as many, at least?

**MR. JAMES:**

I would say at least.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

There you go. So you had a Police Department shop, you had a DPW shop, and the numbers have dwindled, so it just -- I don't have to explain anything to anybody. So thank you, Mike.

And anybody else have questions about cars? Okay. And I guess staffing levels, there was a couple of issues. I know Public Safety Dispatchers -- and that's another question when you're talking about doubling up cars, and precincts are busy. And, you know, I keep hearing the comment "crime is down 20%." Then why are so many banks being robbed these days? I certainly would like to know what the bank robbery statistics were over the past couple of years. But I'm not -- I don't want to go all over the place, because I think when I hear that we're short cars -- thank you, Phil.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I appreciate you coming and spending so much time with us today.

And -- but, again, you know, we have 911 Dispatchers get a 911 call to respond, and they have to send it out to a police car. Police car might have to double up because they're short. And I know in my district it's been really busy with, you know, home break-ins. There were three attempted break-ins on my block. So I know that there's some questions that you probably can't answer right now, that it would require an Executive Session. But with regards to response times and prioritizing, how do we prioritize calls. But where are we today, let's say just start with staffing levels, with the 911 Center?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

If you refer to the list in front of you, there's no page numbers on here, but it talks about the Public Safety Dispatchers IIIs, IIs and I. You'll see that we have full complement of the Public IIIs, which are the supervisors, IIs are also supervisors, that we're down two of those. We're down six dispatcher positions. We're down 11 Emergency Complaint Operators. However, four are being hired on March 24th, so that we're down to 60. We have the number at 60. We were down from 11 to seven.

I can tell you that we hired 29 PSDs and ECOs over the -- from '13 and the beginning of '14; unfortunately, we lost 12. So as fast as we hire them, people leave, so it's kind of a catch-up

game. And there is a three to four month training cycle that goes along with these people as they -- these employees as they leave employ. So there's a training on our side when we hire them, they're not immediately useful. But we're doing much better than we were in the past. We will have the same number on March 24th as we did in 19 -- in 2012.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So it's looking like -- I'm trying to remember when that was that we had all that conversation about hiring, the 11 SCIN --

**LEG. CALARCO:**

2012.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

2012? Is it that long ago that we had all those -- SCINs were filled, and it's like we're no different. We're pretty flat on our numbers; it's not changing. And I see that you say you have four SCINs that will begin in April with four months of training. So by the summertime they'll be ready to get back on the job. But just curious how many -- you know, when you look at the numbers, how many are going to leave once those four are trained up? You know, how many people might we potentially lose by August?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

I don't know that number. There's no one that's put in to retire, so I don't -- that I'm aware of, so I can't tell you what those numbers will be.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I know that we had talked about automatic backfills and looking at considering automatic backfills, and I think that is something that we really probably should be considering.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Madam Chair, if --

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

I'm sorry.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Commissioner, so you said 29 were brought on, but 12 elected to leave?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Not of the 29 we hired, 12 of the existing staff. We have 150 --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. So that's what I'm trying to get at. Are we looking at a work group that as a majority are, you know, my age or past my age, eligible to retire and we're going to continue to see this, or is this people coming in and they're just unhappy with the work conditions and go?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

A combination of both. It could be either the people are aging out --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So I guess it's like Madam Chair just said, if you project for the next 12 months, how many do you have in the retirement-eligible age category that may or may not go? I mean, you know, you can never sit here today and say eight are going to leave, some may just want to work until they're 70. But that helps you to at least kind of like gauge what's my potential exposure going to be. You know that or no?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

No, I don't know that, but I have the inspector, the tall individual that was alluded to earlier today. John, would you come up?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

He's a great musician.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

He's also very tall.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yes, he is. And, actually, he's not the tall -- he is another one of the tall ones in the pipe band. I mean, I think the other one's probably taller than you, right?

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

I thought you were referring to Matthew also.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

Good morning.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Good morning, or good afternoon.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

Good afternoon. Deputy Inspector Hanley from the Communications Section.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So do you have any sense, Inspector, where things are going with the complement of the workforce here, you know, over the next 12 months? I mean, have folks come to you and said, "You know, I'm just doing my 90 days and hasta la vista," or --

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

I can answer that from two viewpoints. One is that I was a Sergeant in Communications back in the early '90s as a Duty Officer and when the civilianization of the Dispatchers began. And so quite a few of those people are getting to the third quarter or fourth quarter of their careers, perhaps, in a sports analogy there. As far as individuals who have discussed rather openly their retirement, one midnight, now an operator, who was actually now an operator with Communications in Hauppauge, has discussed retiring and that's pretty reasonable. Two of our POAs in our Teletype Section have also articulated that they have intention to retire probably in 2014.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. So that's a normal rate of separation, that's not inordinate. You know, I imagine in a work group like that, 60, 70, 80 people, you're going to have just a normal retirement cycle of, you know, a handful each year. Okay. All right. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay, Rob. Rob has a question.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Just a couple of quick questions for you on this particular issue, because I'm thinking back to all of the debate we had in through 2012 and into 2013 regarding this issue. And I'm looking at the numbers here and I remember -- recall, I guess, two things. First, how many of the 148 that we

currently have on the job right now are actually on the job, and how many of them are anybody -- is anybody on disability? Is anybody not working right now, maternity leave, any of that kind of stuff?

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

Okay. Of the 148, we currently have two who have been on long-term leave, one for health reasons, and another for an injury. So two, a 911 Operator and a Dispatcher who have been on long-term leave. And as far as who are working, there are currently two dispatchers who should complete their training probably during the month of, if not March, certainly April, two dispatchers. And the reason that that has taken longer is we had two employees who were hired who didn't complete their training, I guess you could say they washed out of the program, and these were replacements for those. So they're coming along very well. We have every indication that they will be succeeding, but they're not fully certified as Dispatchers at the present time, that's real soon.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Is there any anticipation that the people who are out of -- out right now will be coming back, or is that kind of unknown?

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

I would say that's unknown. I know the one employee just got an extension of a leave of absence for a very serious health issue, and I couldn't prognosticate on when she'd be coming back. It's not my area to determine that.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Okay. So, right now, you actually have 146 people working in your unit, because two people are out on medical leave for one sort or the other.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

I think that would be accurate. And as the Commissioner mentioned, we have four ECOs who will be starting on the 24th. The training cycle for an Emergency Complaint Operator is a little more rapid than a Dispatcher, so they should be ready to go before the summer of 2014.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

So that will get you up to about 50 -- 59 for the summer.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

Sixty. And if that one employee is still out, it would be 59, yeah.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Okay.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

And the other point is that the previous list had expired, so the two employees that were -- are finishing up training were from the promotional list, and we had to wait for -- when the list came out for the orientation and for civil service process, then for our own applicant investigation. And as soon as we receive the list of names, the higher scorers on the test, I will add it. And we conducted our interviews without delay, because we also appreciate the sense of urgency. And March 24th was to enable them to give two weeks notice to their employer. And so we're confident that when they come in, I hope we have some really good blue chip candidates for our 911 system.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Good, great. I'm glad to hear that. The other question I had, and this goes back to I think some of the positions that were filled back in 2012, when we first talked about this, and I remember Suzanne coming and talking to us about it, and it looks like the numbers play out here, is that what we did at the time was we made, in essence, a lot of promotions. We had people become Dispatchers and, as a result, lost EOC operators, and it looks like that's continued to play out. And

those are the people, the EOC operators are the people who actually answer the 911 call, correct?

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

The Emergency Complaint Operator, ECO, is specifically a call-taker.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Correct.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

The PSD can do dispatching as well as call-taking duties.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

So when we made a lot of those positions at the time, we didn't actually increase. Obviously, we're still down by four from where we were in 2012, but we haven't actually increased our numbers within the Divisions. Even with all 29 SCINs that have been signed and 12 people left, we haven't increased our actual numbers of people that will be in the Division to do the 911 call-taking at the end of the day, so we're still at a zero-gain sum, right, we haven't actually gained anything?

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

I wouldn't say we haven't gained anything, but you're talking about a --

**LEG. CALARCO:**

We may have --

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

-- gross versus a net as a number. When we promote from within, we do add to the dispatch column, but we lose a 911 Operator; that is a valid point.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Yeah. So we may have gained flexibility of what an employee is capable of doing, but we haven't actually gained any extra people. So those 911 call-takers, they may be able to be displaced by a dispatcher who could do both jobs, but, nonetheless, there's not enough people, and so they're still in the same situation we were in 2012.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

I don't see that, I really don't. You know, we had 152 people in the beginning, early '12, and we ended coming down to 141 around November 12th, you spoke about, and January of '13. So that's a substantive difference. Eight of those 141 at the time were actually out on leave, so we have 133. So we're at critical mass. You know, that's why I've had people come to the Legislature and speaking about these things. And, you know, the County Executive's Office did listen to us and let us hire a substantial number of people during that period. So we're going to be back up closer to the early 2012 levels where we were getting by, rather than the --

**LEG. CALARCO:**

So we'll continue to get by.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Yeah, we'll continue to get by, but we won't continue to be in that crisis situation we were in, where we were having difficulty getting our --

**LEG. CALARCO:**

And so the 2012 numbers you're reflecting in what you've provided us here is prior to the lowest mark that we had in 2012?

**CHIEF WHITE:**

That's correct.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

You should have provided us those numbers, they would have looked better.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Yeah.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No. And actually -- thank you, Legislator Calarco.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Go ahead, Tom.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

That's actually a really good point, because these -- all of these numbers are basically as of January 1st of the year. And where the critical dip happened, as Chief White just said, was actually during that November to early 2013 drop. And that's why the numbers -- you look at the numbers, you go, "Well, we were talking about this in 2012 and all we're getting back to is the levels of 2012," but, unfortunately, all of 2012 was not created equal for the purposes of this discussion. The numbers had actually dropped precipitously in between 2012 and 2013, and actually returning to the earlier levels of 2012 was actually not such a bad thing. And number of people who were out on long-term disability I believe has also dropped pretty significantly.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

It has, yes.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And, you know, one of the biggest concerns is -- oh, Kara. You know, we had a period where people would call 911 and they would get a recording. And I don't think at any time when somebody calls 911, whether it be for 10 seconds, 30 seconds, that anybody should ever have to be put on hold at any point in time.

And I know one of the issues that we brought up was the 852-COPS, pulling that away. Or maybe not so much separating it, but making sure that that's not interfering with a 911 call.

And I'm trying to think. Another thing is 852-6000, they're answering that. Have we -- have we done anything to fix that? Because I know that that's something that we've talked about a long time.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

852-COPS is the non-emergency call to the Police Headquarters.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

That does on the cue go down to lower than any other calls coming in.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

However, sometimes people call 852-COPS and it really is a 911 call.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So -- but, again, the 852-6000, that was a number that I said, you know, when you're calling police headquarters, they're the ones that are answering that call, correct?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And have we -- we haven't changed that or tried to resolve that issue?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

No, we have not addressed that at the moment.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I don't want to hear anybody's calling to speak to the Commissioner, or speak to the Chief and having a 911 Operator to answer that, I just think that's just absolutely wrong, they should not be answering those types of calls.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

The standards by APCO, that's the Association of Police Public Safety Officials, and NENA, which is National Emergency Number Association, is that you're supposed to answer 90% of your calls within 10 seconds. In '12, it was 91.63, and in '13, we were 92.49, so we're exceeding the people. We can never staff for the emergency. God forbid there's a major accident on the expressway, there will be people on hold.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, granted, because you're going to get a bunch of calls.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Normal time, we do answer the calls on a very rapid basis.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Well, Kara.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So a couple of ways to measure, and complaints that we had received. Are they getting bathroom breaks? Are they allowed to take lunch and dinner? You know, I mean, we literally were hearing stories about not being allowed to leave their desk. Does that continue?

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

I heard that story also. I don't know that we've ever had anybody have an accident at the work station.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

However, I can also say that whereas a 911 Operator can leave their console, because, you know, with the ability to go to the lunchroom briefly or to the restroom, a dispatcher actually has to have a relief person. We will not leave a dispatch console unattended, we can't. So, therefore, there has to be a relief person to take over for that. If somebody articulated that they needed a bathroom break, or a cigarette break, or any other need, to call the school nurse or something like that, somebody has to sit down for them. And there might be a period of time where there is no radio

relief on the floor. The radio reliefs were doing the Second Precinct and the Fourth Precinct, so there's no radio relief on the floor. "Can you wait 15 minutes?" "No, I really got to go." We could take other measures, such as a PSD II could take over the console. Or, the worst case scenario, we could double up a console, which we really don't like to do. I don't know that anybody ever had to have an accident at their work --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah, but I don't think an accident itself is a measure of whether or not things are working well. I think, you know, the fact that you have to have enough staffing so people can eat lunch and take a lunch break, and use the bathroom if they need to. And how much mandated overtime? I mean, there were stories about, you know, people being mandated to work the next shift, or whatever it is. So what's going on with that?

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

Just back to the -- back to the reliefs, on a daily basis on the radio side, there are three radio reliefs on the 8-to-4s and 4-to-12s, and two radio reliefs on the midnight shift, on the overnight shift. It's required for bathroom, bathroom breaks, and we actually allow specified break times and meal times for the employees. Likewise, on the 911 Operator side, like I said, the 911 Operator, if we have 14 working and two of them are on the meal for that hour, we're down to 12 911 Operators. A Dispatcher has to have a replacement at their station for the Fifth Precinct, or Command Band or for the Second Precinct. We don't leave the console unattended. You need a radio relief person, if anybody had a need, an urgent need, we would accommodate that. I did hear it described as people couldn't go to the bathroom and that's why I respond in that way, but I think we've always been able to accommodate that request.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And I think it's especially desperate, you know, of course, during storms, etcetera, but there has to be, you know, this humane treatment of our employees, even in extraordinary circumstances. The pressure that is on these individuals is incredible, the kinds of things they deal with day to day, life and death situations. And knowing that we have compassionate employers who recognize what are human needs of individuals is critically important.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

I am 100% in agreement with your sentiments there. And I will say that we do pay missed meal periods during a situation where we are getting slammed with 911 calls, calls are in cue, that means people are waiting for an available 911 Operator, and we will cancel the 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. meal periods. We will pay each of those operators a missed meal period for that. And we'll cancel all the breaks, by the way. The breaks are not really on the books, but no breaks unless you really have to go to the bathroom, or something like that, or we'll pay missed meal periods. That's what we do when we're getting hammered with incoming calls.

**LEG. HAHN:**

And does that ever happen? I mean, how often does that happen? And is it because of truly extreme circumstances, or is it now becoming something that's like regular because we don't properly staff?

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

I don't know if I could put a number on it to quantify it for you, but certainly during a snowstorm or major incident like that, for that period of -- for that eight-hour shift, we might cancel quite a few meal periods in order to meet the demand for incoming calls. That's one of the ways we manage it. We will put our radio relief people over on the 911 side and pay the Dispatchers missed meal periods by putting our radio relief people over there. We manage our assets as best we can to meet the demand for service.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Can you talk about the mandated overtime, or whatever it's called, mandated next shift? Mandated overtime, yeah.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

Okay. If it's going to get really detailed, I have one of my Communication Supervisors here, PSD III Hubner, but I can say that we have a volunteer list for overtime, and then if we're unable to meet our needs by the volunteer list, then we go over to the mandate. And it's -- in the past, I will say in 2012 or 2013, the burden was tremendous on them. They can describe it in so many ways, but it was a heavy burden. I would say some relief has come because it's not summer, and by the addition of more staffing, so some relief has come. It will not be a nonoccurrence in the summer of 2014, but, hopefully, it will be less of a burden.

**LEG. HAHN:**

So, if there is a way to quantify that, that would be either today, now, if you have someone who can speak to it, or, you know, in writing later to the committee. I think it's important to -- for us to understand the burden of the mandated overtime on this division. Suzanne also was raising her hand.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Did you have a comment, Tom him? And don't forget, there's a couple of more issues.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Tom's coming up. If you could talk about TERT, I'm really happy that you reached out to them as well.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, we have issues with regard to Arson Squad staffing. We have -- there are still some 911 questions. So, hopefully, we'll be out of here before 1:30.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yeah, I have another question, too, for the Commissioner that's not on the work sheet here.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Not on this. Okay. We'll save that one 'til the end. Tom, did you have a comment? And, Suzanne, did you have a comment? You have to come up and put it on the record. You have to speak on the -- in the mic.

**MS. MC BRIDE:**

Just I'd like to address the issue of the mandated overtime that you were speaking of. I can speak for my members when I say the number of mandated overtime spots has decreased. Also, the Department has recently, or not even recently, I guess back in June changed the way that we do the mandated overtime, so it has offered some relief to our members. We still have a little ways to go. There's still some issues of evening off squads, where the mandates are a little lopsided. We still need to put some people on the midnight shifts. But I can speak on behalf of the members that the mandated numbers have decreased, but they will always be there. Thank you.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Wait. Legislator Browning, may I just --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Oh, sorry, Tom.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No worries. I just wanted to just add three quick points. One, while we have not gone to an automatic backfill with the 911 operators, what we have done is gone to an automatic SCIN, which means that some of the SCINs, if, for example, somebody washes out during training, that SCIN -- that SCIN remains open. They're allowed to -- they're allowed to hire another person immediately. I think that that has -- that that has provided some improvement.

To the issues of some of the humane issues, if we want to group them as that, we have had -- I had a meeting personally with Dan Farrell and Jen McNamara probably last August. I have pretty routine telephone conversations with Mike Finland of AME to address some of those issues, and my understanding is that some of those things have gotten -- have certainly gotten better. Mr. Finland's quote to me the last time I talked to him, which was approximately two weeks ago, was that we were certainly making a lot of progress, so I was happy about that.

And then, finally, regarding TERT, Scott Mastellon and I did have a telephone conversation with the Deputy Director of TERT. I can only at this point in time report that it was a conversation. I found it to be very enlightening. I don't have anything else to kind of report on that at this moment in time, it's a little too early, but it was a very -- it was a very interesting conversation about the resources that are available through New York State.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

What is that?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. That's -- they use them in FRES, the Dispatchers. They have these --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

It's got to be an acronym. What is it?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

We're not saying turd, are we?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No, we're not. It's T-E-R-T, and I have -- Teamed Emergency Response Team? I have no idea.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

John, do you know? Do you know what it stands for?

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

(Shook head no).

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

We're not going to put anybody on the spot.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. I'm just curious. I'm not familiar with it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

They're basically brought in to help in emergency situations.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So it's some type of a group that analyzes this type of function?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No, sir.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No, no, no.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

What they are -- that part I can answer. What they are is that they are a group of people who go through a training to provide backup and emergency 911 relief during times of crises throughout New York State. So they are -- they are 911 operators who are -- who go through a separate training to provide relief during natural disasters or times of emergency, so -- and they were utilized by FRES during Sandy, and that is --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

They're volunteers, Tom, civilian volunteers?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No. I believe that they're actually paid through New York State Disaster --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Like when you get an emergency declared, but they are all 911 operators by trade.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

So these are paid professionals.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

But, generally, they're just used in FRES.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

In the past, we've used them as -- in FRES. At Legislator Hahn's request, we -- Scott Mastellon and I did make a phone call to find out about other availabilities, and beyond that, you know, I'd rather not go too much into more detail at this time on that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

John, do you have a final comment?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

Legislator Kennedy, I just want to clarify, those TERT people, T-E-R-T, are down at the EOC, down the street from Police Headquarters, and our 911 Operators have a one button that they can transfer over there. It's for somebody who wants their street plowed. Perhaps it's a homeless or a heating oil request, something that came into our system and -- or, "Are there arraignments today," "is the bus running from the Smith Haven Mall out to the Riverhead County Center," questions like that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

It gives you an overflow, but, nevertheless, folks that are familiar and conversant, and can kind of handle it, and keeps your people --

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

Or at the EOC, the person is there who they can get the answer from down at the EOC. It's not really something one of my Emergency Complaint Operators would know the answer to.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

It came into us, but we can forward it by a one-button transfer right down to the EOC.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Good. Okay. Thank you.

**LEG. HAHN:**

One quick thing. We stopped -- we stopped putting out the 852-COPS number in those like blizzard type situations for those questions that they don't know the answer to?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

As a catchall, yeah. I actually noticed that during one of our last blizzards that the 852-COPS number was not being pushed out as frequently as it had in the past.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay, good. And nobody's telling them to call for potholes, like in other states, right?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No, nobody's directing anybody to call 852-COPS for potholes.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Good.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Next on this list was Arson Squad, because I am familiar with --

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

While John's here, he can address --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Oh, okay.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

-- the prioritization of 911 calls, because that's Communications also. We'll just skip this

momentarily.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Which one, the priority?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

This is related to communications and it will be consistent with the subject of the conversation.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Prioritizing 911 calls.

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR HANLEY:**

Okay. In our Communications Section, incoming calls, be it 911 or 852-COPS, and sometimes 852-6000, they come into the call-taking side of the floor. And, by the way, 911, what comes in as a 911 call, all other calls, the call-taker knows it's administrative, not emergency. There is a differentiation for them. In any case, they answer the call, and through a series of questions, which we call it the five and one, and the primary, the most imperative thing for us is location, "Where are you?" If we knew nothing else, that's the most important thing is your location, and there are several other questions.

And with our new system, which has been online since June of 2011, I believe, the Intergraph CAD System, the 911 Operator navigates through several drop-down options and gets to a certain point, and maybe puts something in the remark section, and they transfer it over to the dispatch side. Through the process, the CAD System, that's Computer Aided Dispatch System, has given a particular call the priority which was set up as part of the process there, and also it knows to send a Lindenhurst call to the First Precinct Dispatch, to send a Smith Haven Mall call to the Fourth Precinct Dispatch, to send a Coram call goes to the Sixth Precinct, it automatically goes to the appropriate dispatcher for dispatching.

And when we refer to the priorities, by the way, that's not really a priority that the patrol officers are responding on. The priority is for the Communications Section, how a call is triaged for its urgency or its importance, or the fact that it is somewhat of a non-emergency call for service, and can be held for the nearest available sector, or another call that can be handled first, and when you're done with that, he can get on to the next one.

So we have a series of priorities. There are eight of them, zero through seven, more or less, that we use. Zero is infrequently used. It's the absolute emergency situation for a Police Officer. But the other ones, depending on the nature of the call, they are pretty much categorized as -- one through six are the ones that are most commonly in use.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And I -- again, that's where I want to be careful about how I ask, because you have priority one through six. And, like I said, I've had the break-ins on my block. And when a call comes in and my neighbor says to me, "We heard somebody in our yard, somebody was jiggling on the door handle," and it took much longer than they expected for a car to show up, of course I'm starting to call to ask, "Why did it take that long?" And cut me off whenever you need, but, again, it's -- the call goes to the 911 Center, that 911 Operator obviously is looking to see what the sector cars doing in that area at that point in time. They dispatch the work, but, you know, how do they prioritize -- I know I'm going to get cut off. It's how do you prioritize whether it's a one through a six?

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Legislator, we have spoken about this in the past, and we just want to be a little bit careful about giving adversaries --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

-- to much information in a public session. We could certainly speak in Executive Session about anything you want on this issue. But a lot of it comes down to in the instance you talked about, is how the call's articulated to the Emergency Complaint Operator and how it's interpreted by the Emergency Complaint Operator. If that jiggling of the door is articulated as someone is potentially breaking into my house and that is the impression that the Emergency Complaint Operator got, that is going to get one of those top three priorities that will result in an absolute immediate response. There are lots of different types of called we get, hundreds and hundreds of types of calls and hundreds of sub-types of calls. All of those get an initial priority. They can be overturned as more information comes, if the remark section says something that's in there. But if you want to talk about exactly how they're dispatched, the methodology, the timing, that we would have to do in an Executive Session.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right. And, again, not -- you know, I know -- I know we need more -- more patrols, and that's the people in my community. I went to the Seventh Precinct. We have had a number of home break-ins and attempted break-ins, and some of them, and I think a lot of them, are mostly during the day, they're not even at night. And, you know, it's -- this is my concern, is that when you're hearing that, okay, it was dispatched to a car, and that car thinks he's going to be able to do it, but, obviously, he's on a call, and now that call's taking longer, so now it winds up going to -- I believe, the 911 Operator will now say, "Okay, well, maybe another car needs to take it." So I'm assuming that's the process, and, you know, my concern is time. And is it also because -- I look at the Narcan saves just in the Seventh Precinct. I mean, it's -- there's quite a few. And so I know the Seventh Precinct is a busy district. Geographically it's definitely larger than most other precincts, so they have a lot more area to cover. So should they have more officers, more patrol cars because of the geographic size rather than population?

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Just based on your conversation with us recently, you know, we have had Inspector Hanley and an Inspector from the Chief of Patrol's Office actually looking into and reexamining, as we do on a regular basis anyway, whether or not any adjustments need to be made in the prioritization in those type of assignments. So we actually do have something in progress for you on that end.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And I'd like -- you know, I'd like to -- I know, again, we can't talk about it here, and if there's anybody else who wants to share it, I'm willing to have that conversation with you on my own, if anybody else has any questions with regards to 911. And, again, to be cautious that we're not saying something that we shouldn't be saying that we need to say in an executive. No?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So you're lucky on that one. Arson. We had -- you know, the FRES Commission brought up the issue with the Arson Squad Detectives, and we know that there's a couple of retirements this year. Now, I believe the latest information or the most recent information I got was there is about 344 Detectives at this time, and I think not too long ago there was about 385. I know we had some

promotions at one point, but, again, people retire. We're losing Arson Squad Detectives. What is the plan? Because now you're going to take from the Detectives, you're going to move them into -- I would hope we're going to get some new Arson Squad Detectives.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And what's the plan?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

We had one individual retire the other day. In the Police Department we have what is called a posting, that's a vacant position is opening up, put your applications in, and we had two individuals, seasoned Detectives, which is a little -- historically, it was if you were a fireman first, that was more important, and you could be a Detective later. We've changed that, because it's much more difficult, much more time consuming to be a good Detective than it is an Arson Investigator. So we had a posting, two individuals have been put forward, and we will backfill this individual in the very near future, as soon as the interview process takes place.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. But what has your numbers been? Let me see. Do you have it listed here how many Arson Squad Detectives you've had over the past years?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

I don't have that information. I didn't record that information. I can tell you, it did go down slightly, because in 2013 we went from a three squad to a -- three-team to a two-team system, Monday through Friday two-tour versus the work week, seven-day-a-week coverage two-tour, so we reduced it. And that was the best use of our resources. We decided that would be a better way to do it on overtime. If they're needed on the weekends, call in, that type of stuff.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Because I know why -- I think there's a few of us who have had a couple of fires in our districts. Recently in Huntington there was a serious one.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Mine.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You had one, yeah. And I've had, you know, an entire family. So, obviously, you know, the concern is, is to make sure that there's an adequate number of Detectives to do the investigation that they need to do, because, obviously, you know, I know that sometimes the home is closed off and nobody has access to it until they gather the information and can do what they need to do.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

So, again, you know, I'll be at the next FRES Commission meeting, and that's -- that is a serious concern, that they are actually seeing a reduction in Arson Squad Detectives that they feel it needs to be adequately staffed.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

We'll be keeping the staff. The Legislator has a commitment, we'll maintain the current staffing levels.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And when we're talking about staffing levels, somebody moves up, you know, if you're going to move people into Arson, now you're losing other Detectives that are going to move into Arson,

which now reduces the number of Detectives. And now you're going to move some Police Officers into the -- maybe promote them up to Detective, we do hope.

Police class: I know that there's talk about this whole Parks thing and, you know, moving them in, but that's only 39. You know how many retirements you have a year. So, out of curiosity, have you had any discussions with the County Executive about the next police class?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

We're looking at a class tentatively in September. The number is yet to be determined.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

The number is yet to be determined. And I believe, didn't we budget for 60? Didn't we --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I think so, yes, we put in a class of 60.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You don't have that number?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

No, I don't have it.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Budget Review testified on this.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So we do have -- we put in our budget a class of 60. However, that's what we did last year, for last year's class, and we only got 40. So I would like to think that we will continue -- that we will not only have the 39 that will possibly move in from, you know, Parks, that that could be a possibility. I don't want to see that as a replacement for the 60, or part of the 60, because we know that we're severely understaffed. And I want to make sure that we are having adequate response times.

Does anybody else have any questions? I mean, we're talking about doubling up on cars, and, I mean, it's --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

My question, Madam Chair, if I can -- and, Commissioner, thank you, and, Chief, thank you for being here. I mean, you've given us a tremendous amount of your time and I know you have very significant demands.

My off-chart question, if you will, is, is the County Executive has introduced a Home Rule Message to go ahead and seek authorization at a State level to allow for the merger of our Parks Police, I believe it's 32, that's the number that I was told by Civil Service yesterday, and presumably absorb them into the Department, have them become by legal merger now Suffolk County Police Officers. Do you have an opinion on that?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

We've been talking to the County Executive's Office on that, and, yes, we would absorb -- we would take them in and utilize them as police officers.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. That's the way the function would go, I guess, if a number of steps occurred, meaning, first of all, next Tuesday there would be a majority on the Home Rule Message, and then subsequently, the Assembly, the Senate and the Governor signed the legislation, and I'd say that there's a myriad

of legal issues and other items. I guess the question I'm posing to you is, is, you know, you're uniquely situated, Commissioner, 43, 44 years as a Suffolk County Police Officer.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Forty-two.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Forty-two years as a Suffolk County Police Officer. So you pretty much know this function and have seen it, how it's evolved over the course of the years. And now, as a civilian, you're charged with implementing and directing one of the largest suburban police departments in the United States of America. And you constantly speak about the outstanding standards for the Police Department, and I could not concur and agree with you more. Having said that, I'll go back to you one more time and ask you -- if you have an opinion, you do; if you don't, you don't, but do you have an opinion as to the merits, or the validity, or the wisdom of taking our current component of Park Police Officers and now absorbing them into the Suffolk County Police Department?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

I would willingly accept them into the Police Department, yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. All right.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

They're trained police officers, most of which who have gone through our academy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

We dispatch them, give them their clothing. It would not be a big lift to incorporate them into our current workforce.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you very much. I appreciate your opinion. Thank you. Okay, Madam Chairwoman, I'll yield.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, and to top it off, I mean, there was a number of questions that I posed to the Deputy County Executive that I haven't received answers to, but -- and, again, when we say it's a million dollar savings, I don't know if it's a union issue if we do move Parks Police Officers over to the Suffolk P.D. Where do they fall in seniority? Is it a blended seniority? Do they come in at the bottom?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

I would suggest that Labor Relations would be the person to address that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Tom, do you have an answer?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

The seniority issue will be an issue that will be worked out with Labor Relations and the unions, yeah, yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, okay. So then that's my question, is because dependent on where they come in, if they come in -- I'm a 10-year Parks Police Officer and I come in in a blended seniority, where that 10 years is

now counted as part of my retirement, and I know they're in a different retirement system, and I decided -- so now I only might have 10 years to go to retire? I think if you come in at the bottom like you're brand new, or if you come in blended, it's going to make a difference on our budget.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yeah. No, I don't disagree with that. That issue is actually pretty complicated. We did talk about it yesterday, and there were actual responses given on that yesterday, but I would not like to try and articulate them at this moment of time. We will have Labor Relations, and the Police Union, I also believe, will be at the General Meeting to address some of these concerns.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

What about Civil Service?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, they're Civil Service questions, so I would hope that Alan Schneider would come.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes, and we heard the -- we heard the request also for Mr. Schneider for Tuesday.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay, because we're -- you know, we're being asked to approve a Home Rule Message for -- and, obviously, it comes back to us. But if we approve a Home Rule Message and if it gets approved in the State, we need to know -- we keep hearing that, "Oh, we're saving a million dollars," but are we really saving a million dollars? Because dependent on the Labor Relations issue, it could wind up costing us money.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Again, Legislator Browning, we understand the issue on the savings, we understand the, for lack of a better term, burden of proof on the savings. We will have a -- I believe that we're working up a chart to detail the savings for the General Meeting. But, yes, we understand. I -- we talked about the savings yesterday. I do believe that there will -- there will be a savings on this. I do think that it's advantageous for us. We believe that part of the savings will certainly be a reduction of Park Police overtime. We also think that you have an advantage here in terms of bringing in officers who have gone through training and who are coming in trained without -- with needing to only go through a four-week refresher course, or a four to eight-week refresher course, pardon me, instead of the entire training process, because they've already been through it.

So, yes, we understand that there is -- that there are questions on Civil Service, we understand that there are questions on the seniority, we understand there are questions on budget. We look forward to a lengthy and healthy debate on it on Tuesday, and we think that we'll provide enough reasons for people to allow this to go forward.

And, as you said before, I think it's also important to remember that this is just yet another step. So the first step I would say was that this was approved in the budget as part of our budget process last year. The next step would be that -- would be this Home Rule Message, and then, finally, we would have to -- finally, we would have to go forward with this later in the year after the Home Rule Message.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I don't know if you can answer the question or if our Counsel will answer the question. If we pass a Home Rule Message and it gets approved in the State, what comes back to the Legislature; does somebody have an answer?

**MR. NOLAN:**

I'm not sure what's coming back to the Legislature. I forget exactly what we did in the budget this year. So I'd be interested to hear if there is anything that would have to come back to us if we approved the Home Rule Message, if the County Executive's Office thinks there's something that has to come back to us.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

We actually think that with everything, our relationship with the Legislature is a partnership, and that there will be a Home Rule Message adopted, and that later on in the year there will be a -- there will be a resolution that will be brought back over on this issue. You have my commitment at this moment in time that there will be a resolution, or a Local Law, or whatever the appropriate mechanism is will be brought back after the hopeful adoption of HR 4.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And I hate to go back on the whole million dollar savings that's in the budget, but that million dollar savings may not be a savings when all the details are worked out with the merge with the two departments. That -- again, it's -- we're being asked to approve something when we don't have all of the information. And, after the Labor Relations discussions, it could wind up costing us two million dollars, and so now we're in the hole. So to say we're going to save a million dollars, how can you say you're going to save a million dollars when the Labor Relations issue hasn't been resolved?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Legislator Browning, I'm not quoting you a number right now at all.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, no, you said we were going to save a million.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No, we did -- I am confident that we will be able to demonstrate a savings. I'm certainly not the person who's going to sit here and tell you a number right at this moment without any sort of reference materials in front of me. We understand that there's a burden to produce some information that will demonstrate and show a savings. I think that that -- I think that we did a good job of covering these issues yesterday during the Government Operations Committee, and I think that we will -- that there's additional information that you're asking for right now that will be brought up and addressed then as well.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Right. And the public safety issue, too, is, okay, we talk about Park Rangers with peace officer status. And what's their arresting capabilities? Can Park Rangers with peace officer status arrest? Because I can tell you down at Smith Point Beach, you have four to five Parks Police Officers when there's concerts and there's thousands of people there. There's drug dealing goes on, there's all kinds of stuff goes on that, you know, I don't want some Parks guy. I mean, I have William Floyd Estate where the guy goes around and takes people on tours and does environmental stuff, you know, and talks about the history of the house. Smith Point Beach is totally different, you know. I'm sorry, I don't want Smokey the Bear coming around and, you know, watching out for the people in Smith Point Beach. We need cops in Smith Point Beach, we don't need, you know, a Park Ranger. And that's another question, is where are the Park Rangers? I mean, you have to get -- create a new Civil Service title, or do we have one already?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I do believe that we'd have to come back with the creation of a Park Ranger Civil Service title. It is my understanding that they will also be peace officers.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And we don't need State approval?

**MR. NOLAN:**

The State might have to sign off.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I don't believe that we need -- my understanding is not that we need State approval on a Park Rangers title.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Well, like I said, it just seems to me -- obviously, I don't think the State is going to approve any of this with the Park Rangers until after they're done with their budget, so you're probably talking May or June before the State -- unless you've got some other information you can give us. But, again, it's -- I'm looking out for -- while Smith Point is not my district, it's Legislator Calarco's, but it's at the end of my district. And I want to know this summer that I am going to have enough public safety law enforcement on Smith Point Beach when the concerts exist. If you've ever been down there, you will see why it's necessary. And if we're not going to have an adequate staffing of Park Rangers come the summertime, I hate to say, I'm going to be asking for the Seventh Precinct now to send Police Officers down for every concert and every event that occurs down there. So I can tell you right now, the Seventh Precinct doesn't have the people.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

So, Legislator Browning, I would just add that, first of all, I'm a very proud born and bred Eastern Long Island resident, so I've been to Smith Point Park and I understand the --

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I know.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I understand the different level of activities that go on down there. And I'm proud to also say that I've only participated in legal activities that have gone on down there, very proud to say that.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

We actually -- we certainly believe, and I think that there will be plenty -- there will be adequate time for this on Tuesday, but we certainly believe that this will actually provide an enhanced security at both the parks and public safety in general. And we think that this is a positive step in the right direction, and I think that we are confident that we'll be able to convince the majority of the Legislature of that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Kate.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, I just -- somehow, I'm curious to see how quickly we're going to get all those answers. But Legislator Calarco's got a question.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Well, I guess a couple of questions, some that have been bandied around a few times that I think the Commissioner might be able to answer better. But in regards to Smith Point Beach and our police presence or need of police presence down there, I've actually had this issue come up to me last year regarding our concessionaire and their ability to sell alcohol at a place, and the fact that it's turned into a nighttime venue for people to go and as if it's a bar on the beach. And I've actually got concerns and questions of whether our park should be a bar venue for people to go down and

get inebriated, and, you know, not be a family atmosphere that our parks are supposed to be. But I don't know if that's necessarily a discussion for this point in time.

Commissioner, just two quick questions on the mechanics of bringing the Park Police Officers into the -- into the P.D., into your Department. The Park Police Officers, right now, they go through the same academy as your Police Officers and they participate fully through the entire process?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Yes, they do. And, yes, they currently -- we dispatch them, as I mentioned, we dispatch the clothes, and arrest process system, they make an arrest, they bring them to our precincts, so they're familiar with our -- all our forms and technology.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

And there's not a portion of the academy training process that your officers go through that they don't go through?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

They graduate with the full Police Officer status.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Okay. The other question that I have, and only because it came up yesterday, I believe, and vetted around a few times, is would the Park Police Officers who are there now -- it's my understanding that there might be a couple of individuals there who were on the list to become Police Officers and join the force and had failed to make it through the screening process. If that is the case, and I'm not saying it is, I'm just saying it's been told to me that it might be the case, would that be an issue that you would have a concern with? Would you look at maybe not bringing those individuals on, or is it something that you would deal with in a different fashion?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

That would be one of the questions. It would have to be worked out with Civil Service and the Law Department exactly the status of those individuals, if there are any.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

So, potentially, those individuals may be precluded from being able to be transferred?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

I can't respond to that. I'd have to seek legal opinion.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Okay. I appreciate that.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Legislator, the Applicant Investigation Section works for me, and as far back as I can remember, the Park Police go -- since they've become Police Officers, the Park Police go through the same applicant investigation process as us, conducted by us, so they would have to pass our investigation process to be hired as Park Police Officers. So I find it doubtful, if they went through the Police Officer screening process, that that's the case.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Well, I guess the question is, is that they are Park Police Officers, managed to make it through the first screening process to become a Park Police Officer, but apparently they were on the list to become a Police Officer through the Suffolk County Police Department and failed to make it through the screening process at that point in time, and so they were not brought over in one of the more recent classes.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Okay. I misunderstood. You're saying they were training to come into there?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

So yeah. So say they were supposed to be hired last Fall, or were on the list for last Fall's class and failed to make it through the screening process at that --

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Well, it will depend on what "failed" means. Some people voluntarily drop out of the process on their own, but that would be something we would obviously want to look at.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Okay. Just thinking that you should keep an eye on that as the process moves forward. Thank you.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Kate.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

John, this is the last one?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yeah, this is it, and then there's two areas. And, Chief, let me go to you first, particularly with the applicant screening process, you know, and it's important to get some of the history down here.

Our Parks Police Officers achieved the status of Police Officer or Park Police Officer, I believe, in 2002. Prior to that, they were a Park Ranger and I believe a Peace Officer. Now I remember that there's a difference between a Peace Officer and a Police Officer. So, while we're talking about a group of 32 individuals as homogenous, in fact, I don't think they are, and some of them who have been there for quite some time, perhaps they went through the academy. You know, I'm not sure. But I know there's at least some of them that came on and commenced service with us or employment as a Peace Officer, not a Police Officer. I don't know if that necessarily makes a difference when you look at, you know, how you absorb them, but to Legislator Calarco's questions, again, I'll just say, without speaking about any specific individual, this is a homogenous group. And, you know, there are certain things -- I think my biggest difficulty with this is, is I find it hard to be able to reconcile this process with the 30,000 people who took the test, actually my son being one of them. He's gone on and he's now a prosecutor, as I've said. But, you know, we held out to the world that we were looking to create a list, and now, lo and behold, by this whole process that heretofore has never occurred, 32 or 33 people are going to make this jump. It's maybe what the Commissioner's articulated, maybe that's for Legal to square up, but I find it very concerning, if you will.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Well, that's not unprecedented in New York State. This has occurred in other agencies where people started as Peace Officers, the legislation that makes them Police Officers, they take additional training and then they start to develop the skills of Police Officers through field training and their experience and they are Police Officers. So this is not --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, that's kind of key right there. The academy being what the academy is, I guess it's been a standard curriculum, hopefully it's expanded some over time if you added components, but pretty standard. Now your cadets, we have -- what do we have, 35 that are going to come out soon, April or May?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Thirty-eight.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

How many?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Thirty-eight.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Oh, 38, good. Okay. So we held most of them, then. And when they come out of the academy, they're going to go through field training, I believe, right?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

That's correct.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. How long does that field training go on?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Twelve weeks now, right?

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Twelve.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Twelve weeks now.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

About 12 weeks.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

It's been expanded.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. And did the Park Police, did they do that same thing?

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Since they've become Police Officers they do. Did they, once it came over, do it after the fact? I really would not know anything about how that process worked. But the process to become Police Officers without having to do that additional training was Legislative in nature, so they can legislate that, if they'd like.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. Just one other brief question, and, Commissioner, you touched on it when you talked about dispatch. So the Suffolk County P.D. dispatches the Park Police Officers as well?

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

That's correct.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. So if there is a trouble call out in the Big Duck, or Meschutt, or out in, you know, the North Fork someplace, Indian Island, we're dispatching them out to those East End Town areas?

**CHIEF WHITE:**

Yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, I don't know, that's why I'm asking the Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Yes. Yes, sir. I know for sure within the district, but I'm not sure about the outside district.

**CHIEF WHITE:**

We dispatch outside the district.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Okay. Outside the district also.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

We do.

**COMMISSIONER WEBBER:**

Yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So we're dispatching all over the -- so that's something that will change, because now these people will no longer be patrolling the five East End Towns.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Legislator Kennedy, may I jump in here for a moment, please, sir?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

You're going to talk to me about dispatch?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes, actually.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay, go for it.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

We actually had this discussion -- this discussion. While we may put the call in or do the dispatch, because I'm not positive exactly what that means, the officers who respond to the East End parks are the local P.D. So, for example, it would be Southampton Police who would respond to the Big Duck, it would be Riverhead P.D. who would respond to a park in Indian Island. We had this discussion yesterday and it is the local P.D. who is responding to that. We have one -- we have two officers during the summer and one officer during the winter who -- park officers who are out there. But, typically, it is the -- it is the local P.D. that are responding to emergency situations in the parks.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, I appreciate that, sharing that with me, Tom. I would want to check with Commissioner Dawson on that, and I would want to check with a couple of other folks.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Commissioner Dawson verified that yesterday for us, as well as the members of the Park Police.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Look, all I'm trying to do is get some of the basic information. And then you do know that we have

a requirement in the Administrative Code to have a particular number of Parks Officers relational to our 40,000 acres of park property? I know the experience I have with them right here in Blydenburgh, but I wanted to kind of make sure that I understood that from the dispatch piece. And, Chief, thank you for the education piece.

All right. Madam Chair, I'll yield. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. So I think we have like lost everybody. With that, I don't believe there's anything else on the agenda. We do have a quorum, don't we, or do we?

**LEG. CALARCO:**

It doesn't matter, I guess.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I don't know, to adjourn?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Let's wrap this nightmare up.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

As long as we've got four. We've got four. There's four of us.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Is there four of us?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

There's four of us.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. With that, I guess I'll make a motion to adjourn.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? We are adjourned.

*(\*The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m. \*)*