

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

A meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Thursday, April 24, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:**

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

**Also in Attendance:**

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory - Legislative District No. 15  
George Nolan - Counsel to the Suffolk County Legislature  
Tim Laube - Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
John Ortiz - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Bill Shilling - Aide to Legislator Calarco  
Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory  
Mark Malizia - Aide to Legislator Spencer  
Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy  
Lisa Pinkard - Aide to Legislator Martinez  
Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn  
Tom Vaughn - County Executive's Office  
Amy Keyes - County Executive's Office  
Errol Toulon - County Executive's Office  
Vanessa Baird - County Executive's Office/Press Secretary  
Ed Heilig - District Attorney's Office  
Robert Braun - County Attorney's Office  
Mike Sharkey - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Robert Waring - Captain/Chief of Department's Office/SCPD  
Patrice Dlhopsky - Probation Director  
Tracy Pollak - Suffolk County Police Department  
Mike Postel - Suffolk County Police Department  
Linda Russo - Medical Examiner's Office  
Bob Holley - Director/Fire Academy  
Eddie Johnston - Chief/Fire Academy  
Mario Posillico - Village of Saltaire  
Christine Larkin - SCPOA/VP  
Suzanne McBride - AME Police Emergency Unit President  
John Jordan - Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County FRES  
Jay Egan - Suffolk County FRES Commission

Catherine Langevin - Humane Organization  
Kathleen Gallina - Humane Organization  
John Becker - SC Deputy Sheriff's PBA  
Thomas Bivona - SC Deputy Sheriff's PBA  
Lillian Lennon - RSVP Animal Welfare and Rescue  
Linda Klampfl  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

**Minutes Transcribed By:**

Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

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

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Good morning. Sorry for the delay. If everyone could please stand, we will start our Public Safety Committee meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Calarco.

***Salutation***

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

***Moment of Silence***

Thank you. Good morning. We do not have any correspondence. We have a couple of cards. We have three cards. First one is Christine Larkin.

**MS. LARKIN:**

Good morning. I am Christine Larkin, the Vice President of the Probation Officers Association. We would again like to thank the Legislator -- Legislature for providing funding in the budget for the hiring of Probation Officers. That was the first and very important step in obtaining new hires. The next crucial step is obtaining SCIN forms. To date, we have no approved SCIN forms to hire any Probation Officer trainers. If and when the SCIN forms are signed, it is about a three month process to hire a new class. The list has to be canvassed, followed by interviews, medical exams and psychological testing before securing candidates for a job. Time is of the essence in order to get this process underway. If we were even to begin this process today, we would not see these trainees at our doorstep until September. Once hired, they would begin their intensive job related training and may actually get a caseload in the new year. We are asking for your support in order to obtain these much needed SCIN forms to ensure continued community safety.

As I have mentioned in previous speeches, our Probation Officer staff is down 12% since 2008. We were at 246 officers down from 282 in 2008, a number that continues to be a detriment to the community. This number puts fewer officers on the street on a day to day basis. The number of Probation Officers continues to drop every year due to retirements, but the criminals are not retiring and their numbers continue to rise.

This unfortunately means that Probation Officers caseloads are higher in number, the average caseload being between 80 and 100 people. These numbers amount to less time the officers can visit each probationer in their community, and less time that can be spent evaluating each case to determine what can be done to help them better themselves in the community and ultimately lowering recidivism.

The mission of probation is the protection of the community. Public safety is a top priority, but becomes more difficult as caseloads grow. New hires are crucial to make caseloads manageable. We need your help to establish a Probation Officer trainee class for this year. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you, Christine, as always for coming. And actually I was at something last night and there was discussion about some kind of new DWI Court. And, again, the issue of probation came up and these people are going to be on probation. So we have so many speciality courts and now we're going to have -- we have the Human Trafficking Court and now we're going to have these new DWI Courts. I know the Administration is here and maybe they can come back to us with an answer as to when we're going to have more Probation Officers, because I know the County Executive talks a lot about recidivism. Can't happen without you guys. So we appreciate what you do. Thank you.

**MS. LARKIN:**

Thank you.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Madam Chair, can I ask just one question? Recently we've heard some statistics about the astronomical uptick in opiate offenses that are over in the courts. I believe Judge Hinrichs talked about 1100% increase in adolescent opiate offenses over the last two to three years. You folks are integral to the sentencing recommendations when you have anybody in front of a judge, but particularly there. How is that in particular going when you're talking about Drug Court, sentencing recommendations, the treatment alternatives, all those types of things.

**MS. LARKIN:**

I would actually have to get back to you on that because I would have to ask somebody specifically that's in the Drug Court Section. I don't know per se how they're sentencing's are going and whether they're getting what they're requesting.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, we have a number of options and alternatives before us that we're exploring, particularly when it comes to treatment area and things like that. And I was just -- I was amazed when I heard Judge Hinrichs talk about that spike, although all you have to do is read it and we see it's all over the place.

**MS. LARKIN:**

It's all over the place. That's correct.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So since sentencing and treatment is such a key element to this, I know you folks are critical to that function. I would like to hear how that's going in particular with you folks in Drug Court.

**MS. LARKIN:**

Okay. I will get back to you on that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you, Christine.

**MS. LARKIN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

The next speaker is I believe Linda Klampfl. I hope I said your name right. And then Lillian Lennon will be after that.

**MS. KLAMPFL:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Good morning.

**MS. KLAMPFL:**

My name is Linda Klampfl. I'm with Almost Home Animal Rescue. We're a community outreach program that provides assistance to families that can't afford to care for their animals. One of the

big things we see is dogs that are chained up in people's backyards. Currently it's not illegal to chain your dog 24/7 in your backyard. They suffer from frostbite, they freeze to death, they starve to death because they're forgotten about. In the heat they suffer heatstroke, fly strike, which are flies actually eat their ears.

So there's a bill that's going to be proposed regarding anti-tethering. And while it's wonderful that the bill was written, you know, our group, and a lot of the groups feel that it's inadequate in that there's a two hour limit on this bill. The SPCA cannot enforce a two hour limit. They would have to stand outside the house and watch the dog for two full hours in those 12 hour period, which is, you know, not possible to be done.

The other is the chain. It says that you can put a 25 pound chain on a 100 pound dog. I would like one of you to take a chain that's 25 pounds, put it around your neck and stand there for a little while and see how it feels. You know, these laws have to be stricter and stronger.

There's a town in North Carolina that passed an anti-tethering. You cannot tether your dog outside for any length of time. You either leash walk the dog or the dog's in a pen or something that's feasible. This is not a way an animal should live for the rest of its life, and currently that's what the law is. And although this bill is a step in the right direction, it's not strong enough. We have to change these laws to protect these -- they have nobody to speak for them. I mean, we come across dogs with these big, heavy chains. They are outside 24/7. They get tangled, they can't get to their doghouse and they freeze to death. We have found dogs frozen to death in the snow and that has to stop. This is the way to do it, is to pass a law that makes it illegal. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you. And the sponsor of the bill isn't here today, and it actually has to be tabled for a public hearing. The public hearing is next Tuesday. It starts at 2:30.

**MS. KLAMPFL:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You're more than welcome to come next Tuesday and speak on the bill. The Legislator, Legislator D'Amaro, is not here on this committee, but I'm sure he would be happy to hear from you.

**MS. KLAMPFL:**

Okay, great. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

The next speaker is Linda Lennon. Lillian Lennon, sorry.

**MS. LENNON:**

Good morning. I would like to follow-up what Linda said. My name is Lillian Lennon, I'm a retired teacher from the William Floyd School District and I'm a volunteer for RSVP Inc. Animal Welfare and Rescue. I reside in East Moriches. I would like to begin by thanking Legislator D'Amaro and Legislator Hahn for their tireless efforts to revise the current tethering law introduced by Brookhaven Town Supervisor, Ed Romaine, passed into law in September of 2011. This long overdue piece of legislation is instrumental in creating the change necessary to eliminate the inhumane practice of tethering animals, specifically dogs, for long periods of time, throughout harsh weather conditions, with less than adequate shelter, among very unsanitary, undesirable surroundings, often fastened with heavy chains attached to the collars that often embed themselves in the neck of its "contents". I put that in quote. That content is a living, breathing sentient being that requires connection with other living things to thrive.

This revised amended version of the original law clarifies the acceptable time allowed by law to tether a dog as well as provide a more clear definition of tethering devices that are considerably more humane. We realize this amendment permits animals to be tethered for no more than two hours in a 12 hour period, and although this is a vast improvement over unlimited tethering that we currently have, we also know that this is a tall order to enforce. Therefore, I share with you a law recently passed on April 1st in a small town called Weldon, North Carolina.

They have enacted a no tethering law, which may seem a bit radical, but much easier to enforce as long as proper assistance is provided to the residents in their transition from tethering to semi-indoor living or more humane outdoor living. PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, has partnered with this town of Weldon to ease this transition with a proactive, palatable, non-judgmental approach. It is a learning curve for them and we will be watching this closely as they assist their residents to comply with the law.

Could this be done in Suffolk County? Maybe not tomorrow, but it is something we could aspire to in the very short future through educationally creating a climate of respect for our fellow living beings, in this case ironically man's best friend. We believe that with your support a paradigm shift in consciousness will be on the horizon so this inhumane practice of tethering these innocent souls will eventually be obsolete in Suffolk County. We believe that Weldon, North Carolina -- that like Weldon, North Carolina each Suffolk County town can set a higher standard of how we treat our beloved animals. Today's legislation begins that change. We realize it takes time, but our animals cannot endure another winter chained to an inadequate shelter. This should not be legal in Suffolk County, plain and simple. We implore the intercession of the Suffolk County Legislature to support this revision for the tethering law while continuing to work toward a no tether County over time. Are Weldon's animals the only ones deserving of this law? I think not. Let's make Suffolk County the most humane County in the state, in the country. We can do better. Thank you. And I also have here a copy of the article from Weldon. I don't know who I can give it to.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You can give it to Laura here at the end.

**MS. LENNON:**

Okay. It explains what they're doing down there. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

We appreciate it. Thank you. With that, there are no more cards. Is there anyone else in the room who would like to speak? No one else in the room who would like to speak? Okay, thank you. So we will move on. I guess we don't have any presentation, but I see Mike Sharkey is here from the Sheriff's Office. Is there anything you would like to --

**CHIEF SHARKEY:**

(Shook head no.)

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Probation, Patrice. Do you have anything you need to report?

**MS. DLHOPOLSKY:**

No, I do not.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. And we have FRES, I don't know if Joe is here. John, is there anything to report from FRES?

**MR. JORDAN:**

(Shook head no.)

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Nothing? Wow. We're having a good day. I hate to say this but -- I believe VEEB is still in negotiations. I don't know that -- is there anything you'd like to say or not at this time?

**MR. HOLLEY:**

No, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. A couple of members are asking, but we certainly would like, when you guys are ready, to come and give us a report and let us know. I think things are moving. That's all we can say. Okay.

I know that there was a couple of issues -- the Administration and also with the Police Department there was some issues that came up with regards to cars. I did send a letter to the -- or an e-mail to the Commissioner. I learned that there are some precincts that have received new cars. I don't know if anyone would like to report on that. Captain Waring is here I believe. I believe I cc'd you on that.

**CAPTAIN WARING:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I don't know if you want to have a seat. And, you know, I did receive some calls that I believe the 6th Precinct got it, about six cars. I think the 5th Precinct got some new cars. If we could just get an update on how many cars so far and how many more are yet to come.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

So actually, Legislator Browning, I think that we have some what I deem to be pretty outstanding news. So when the Police Commissioner was here last week -- I'm sorry, at the last meeting, he went over the status of the new vehicles. And basically the bottom line was that of the 64 newest vehicles ordered, they were not expected to be on-line until mid-August was what he reported to you. The really great news is that those vehicles are now online. All 64 are now online and have been delivered to the precincts. So there were four vehicles that went to the First; there were 11 that went to the Second; five that went to the Fifth; nine that went to the Fourth; four that went to the Fifth; 14 that went to the Sixth; ten that went to the Seventh; and seven that went to Highway.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

There we go. Okay. Well, that is really good news, because I can tell you I've -- you know, I regularly hear from the Police Officers on the street and some of them are very excited that they're finally getting cars.

**LEG. HAHN:**

What are we still due?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think he gave us the entire number of everything, right? How many do you have to go?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Legislator, there were essentially three orders of police vehicles. There was an order of 40, there was an order of 24, so that 64 has now been taken care of in its entirety. And then the last order is the order of 23, and they are -- they're in the process of being outfitted now.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

What about the unmarked cars, I mean, that have been in the shop and have been sitting in the

shop for quite some time. Do we have any status on them as far as getting them moving and back out on the road?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Can't we just bask in the glow of the good news today?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Oh, come on.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Let's just talk about the good news. We had a project that was going to go til August. April is not even completed and we bang them out. Let's focus on that today.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Well, we certainly appreciate it, but you do know --

**LEG. HAHN:**

You know how we are.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

-- obviously the importance of making sure that our undercover and our unmarked cars are out there also and being protected, and to top it off, the Probation Officers. So, come on.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

Well, we see that you're working on it. We appreciate that.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Great.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

The other issue is obviously Probation staffing. Do we have any updates or new information? You know, the Legislature did move some money in the last budget to help with the staffing of new Probation Officers. And the other one was Arson, we have a couple of retirees coming up. I think maybe one is already retired, maybe another one. It's at the FRES Commission, and I apologize, Jay. I was not able to be at the FRES Commission last night, but I know it's been an issue with the FRES Commission to make sure that Arson is adequately staffed. And especially when we have these wildfires and whatnot. We certainly need to make sure we have an adequate staff. So do we have any news on that?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Can't we just bask in the glow of the --

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

No.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I'm sorry. I'm not trying to be flip. I don't have an update on those two things.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

You don't. Well, we would appreciate it if you could give us an update. You know, with recidivism and actually the event I was at last night, Judge Dunn was talking about DWI and the -- how they're

going to be handling the DWI Court. I guess it's what you would call it. And, you know, clearly I think that what's going to be happening is we're going to maybe see a lot more probation with the -- with that court. So I just want to make sure that we are making sure that we have enough Probation Officers. We can't overload them. They need to be able to oversee their probationers appropriately. And again, I know that staffing levels are definitely -- their caseload is definitely high. So when we keep loading more probationers on them it's just going to make it more and more difficult, and I don't want to see something happen when they can't respond and visit their probationers as often as they need to. So we would appreciate very much that we could see a class. It's going to take a while, too, for them to actually get back -- get out on the street with the training and everything, so. I know that -- Kara, did you have a question?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yeah. So glow, bask in the glow, grateful, yes. Okay.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

That was new cars. We also had a large number of cars that were just in the shop getting fixed, right? Did we talk about those?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Correct. I don't have an update for you on the status of the vehicles that are in the shop.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Okay. So --

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I know that DPW has brought on -- they had brought on some additional mechanics semi-recently I believe, but we will -- we will get an update for you on that for the next meeting. We will be back in two weeks so we can provide you with an update.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Thank you. I also had a community meeting last night. Well, it wasn't my community meeting. I attended a civics meeting, and there was some real concern over the drug issue in their community, you know, two-pronged, the kids that are addicted and then the neighborhoods that are ravaged by the drug deals that go down on their blocks. So I guess I want to ask just a little bit about crime control units, narcotics units. How is our staffing working with all of this and how -- how can I work with you to get a handle on, you know, the numbers in my community.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Well, Legislator, I would -- I think that this is -- while I certainly understand your concerns, I definitely would like to start with understanding the specifics of those concerns in greater detail, then maybe -- then maybe we could get into or would want to get into at this moment in time. I would like to get a handle on that before I kind of try and provide any response, because that's not something that warrants a joke so --

**LEG. HAHN:**

Yes, I would appreciate that.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Let's have a serious conversation about the specifics and the specific nature of the concerns and then let's try and go from there.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I would like to have John Ortiz from our Budget Review Office there with us, because I want to be

talking about numbers and staffing and these sections that are critically important to this epidemic. So thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

John?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. Tom, if I can go in reverse order similar to what Legislator Hahn just spoke about. I would like to also echo a specific concern about a specific detail out of the 4th Precinct, and actually I believe they operate out of all seven precincts. And NESOT has always been something that's been a priority for me, and I'm going to leave it at that. But in a different venue I want to have a very specific conversation about that unit as it exists out of this precinct right now.

And then let's go back to the cars and kudos to you. When you do a good job you should get noted for it.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

That's very kind of you, but let's be clear. Tom Vaughn didn't install anything.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I figured you were swinging a wrench.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I would like to, you know, because I'm very handy that way. I didn't know if you knew that, but there is people who deserve to be thanked for that. Tom Melito and Dennis Cohen both were really instrumental in this. Mike Postel, who is sitting right next me today, and Commissioner Weber all really -- and I'm sorry, Commissioner Anderson as well really were the ones who --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

They all rolled up their sleeves and got busy. What happens is, you know, when a bright light gets shined on an issue, yes, we kind of bring the forces to bear. I'll walk you back in time a little bit, and Legislator Hahn and I first had this conversation last November about some of the stories that we were having about issues associated with cars and in time moved on, and we had, you know, some additional things that arose. We heard the story about SCINS that were submitted from the PD and from Public Works, and here we are today in the end of April and we have what I guess we could deem a success story because we don't have those 40 new vehicles sitting on the North Complex parking lot anymore.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Sixty-four.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Well, the ones that I would go past each day, I would count them, as a matter of fact, and usually I was counting somewhere between 35 and 36. So they may have been in other places, I'll take your number, 64.

So here's my question to you. There was a decision, a policy decision made, I believe, to elect not to fill the Communication Tech's positions, but instead to solicit outside vendors to do that specific task or that specific function. And I'm asking that as a question, yes or no?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No, I don't think those two things are mutually exclusive. There was a desire to get this work done quickly, and in the desire to get this work done quickly there was a decision in this case to go to an outside vendor to do the install. The outside vendor that we used to do the install is actually the

outside vendor that does the install for I think just about every other police force.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I had been told that by Purchasing that, in fact, because I had some concerns that we were going to be doing, you know, Acme stereo installations or something. But, in fact, they handle MTA, they handle Park Police, they handle a variety of others.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Correct.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So they must have -- hopefully whatever the representations are that their staff is, you know, bona fide, we don't have any felons on staff or anything like that. But I guess -- so my question to you is, is, you know, we just got the Capital Budget submitted from the Exec and we are looking at another four million, five million -- five million in borrowing for vehicles going forward. And my broader question goes to how are we going to avoid this type of reoccurring, ongoing impediment or issue to taking delivery on vehicles and having them be at the level that an officer can get in them and use them, because clearly what's gone on in our recent past is not working.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

So, Legislator Kennedy, I think that there are a number of components to that question, and I would -- the thing that I would start with is I think that we shared some of your same concerns about making sure that -- making sure that we were using the proper vendor if we were going to go that route, and I think that it was those concerns that actually led to our hesitancy to initially go that route.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Sure.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

And I think that that certainly may have contributed somewhat to the delay before the ultimate resolution of this. I am -- this is to the best of my knowledge, and Mike, you can maybe correct me if I am wrong, to the best of my knowledge this is the first time that we've gone and used a vendor to do this type of installation.

**MR. POSTEL:**

(Nodded head yes).

**MR. VAUGHN:**

So I think that we want to make sure that things worked as well as we believed that they've worked. And so I don't think that -- I don't think that we've come to a final conclusion as to going forward is it best to hire additional communication staff and do this work in-house as we traditionally had done it, or is more efficient to have the installer who does this work for, as we've said, virtually everybody else, do this work going forward for us. I don't think that we have a -- we have a -- we had a problem that we dealt with that I think has been dealt with in what appears to be a very expeditious and a really good manner. As I said before, when we were talking a month ago we were looking at the first 40 weren't supposed to be done until mid-May and the next 24 weren't supposed to be done until mid-August. We're at April 24, my anniversary with Janine if you care, Legislator Browning, and here we are, all those vehicles are done and have been delivered to the precincts.

This is positive. We're excited about this, but I don't know that we've made a final decision on how we're going to handle this going forward, and that will certainly be one of the questions that we have to address. Yes, we -- there were vehicles that got to a state because there were a lot of vehicles that weren't purchased for a long time, and we're dealing with that now and we're going forward

with that now and we're trying to make sure that the Police Department and the other departments in the County have the tools, and that's essentially what a police vehicle is, it's a tool, that they have the tools that they need to be able to do the work that they need to do.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Amazingly, we're both in agreement here. Let the record reflect.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

So not only is it my anniversary with Janine today, but you and I are in agreement and it's my mom's birthday today. So April 24th is really, I mean it's like --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

A special day. Good for you. And it's not snowing out. So let's go one step further with this then if we can, because I think what I'm trying to get at is, is I believe that there -- we are going to need a policy determination on this regarding how we're going to go forward with new vehicles, what we're going to do as far as maintenance of our existing vehicles, and then finally, the last thing that I'll leave you with or ask you with is, you know, Public Works has a requirement to go ahead and furnish us with an annual inventory of all vehicles. I used to get them, I don't get them anymore. We used to have vehicles that date back to the 70's. Why they were never decommed I don't know. But clearly we are looking at, as you said, a tool that is necessary for at any given time probably five, 600 people I guess that are out there, you know, associated with deploying officers or Police Officers for the various sectors and all of the other speciality functions. So, you know, when you look at it from a macro perspective that's the task on any given day or hour, that's the need as far as the tool goes, that's the sustaining responsibility for the maintenance and then the question becomes how are we going to go ahead and meet that objective. And in doing that, that's what I want to see before we consider another \$5 million borrowing. I'm not bought into the Capital Budget piece, and we'll have many more time to go ahead and discuss that, but to the broader issue of how we are going to avoid future repetitive impediments, that's what I'm hoping that we're going to be able to see come forward.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I certainly -- I don't think that you and I disagree and I think that, you know, as I said, our Chief Deputy, Dennis Cohen, has been really -- he and Tom Melito have spent a lot of time talking with both the Police Department and Public Works on this situation and having this go, and I think that an important part of this -- whenever you have a project, I think an important part is to evaluate that project. Maybe the best way to think about this is as almost like a pilot program since we like that term a lot, but if we do consider this a pilot program then the next important step of that is to see how well it worked and to allow the results of that to then inform a policy. And I think that -- I hear what you're saying, I understand the concern. I would not want to see -- I would not want to see me not being able to tell you today what a policy is as a reason to make any type of change to I know our submitted Capital Budget on the \$5 million in cars, because I certainly believe that there is always -- especially with the Capital Program, there is always a second bite at the apple and there's always another opportunity.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Right.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

We understand that what you're looking for may be a broader policy decision on how we're going to handle this going forward. I understand that. I'd be happy to bring that back. I know that we are looking at what -- we are seriously looking at what is the best way to handle this going forward, and I think that a larger conversation on what is the policy would be better had the next time we bring you the next piece of legislation for another purchase of Capital vehicles.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Which would be fine, too, but the other piece then, that I'll ask you to add to that or contemplate or bring back to the Executive, is that I guess Public Works and PD really need to look at the big process or the bid specs, if you will, because that's how the vehicles wind up coming to us, and I believe that's uniform across all municipalities throughout the State of New York. We buy off the OGS list I would imagine. So maybe there's something that we're needing to do to, as you said, create a pilot for Suffolk County that allows us, even if the vehicle price is going to be a couple of grand more, but we get something that rolls off the car carrier that an officer can get in and drive, it would probably be well worth it for us to avoid some of the contracting out and, quite frankly, the opportunity cost. When you look at all of the issues that we've all talked about here for probably the last, you know, six months or a year, those are some of the elements that I think probably during this time period prior to when we get that, you know, reso to appropriate, you know, would be good time spent. For what it's worth. Come on, it's a good day, Tom.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**MR. VAUGHN:**

No, it certainly is. No, it certainly is. I think I -- I think I understand what you're saying, but I'm not quite positive that I do and wouldn't mind having an additional conversation a little bit later on.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Sure. If you want to do it off-line, sure.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yeah. I'm not positive that -- I'm not positive I fully understand where you're going with that, but I would like to try and understand where you are going with that.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

2015 Ford Tauruses, police or law enforcement Tauruses, probably are uniform from Buffalo all the way out to East Hampton. And if that's the way the State of New York procures them or set up the procurement from Ford, perhaps Suffolk County can have an opportunity to get them as they are, but in addition, maybe with some equipment installed from the manufacturer or an intermediary, whatever the dealer is that fends them, whomever, so that we don't get them delivered here still not with what they need to get in to do sector patrol.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

The one -- and I do hear that and the one thing that I would say is I think that this is part of the reason why we want to find out what is -- we want to take a look at the success, I think, right now. So -- because I don't believe that there -- if this was able to get done and this was able to get, as I said, we were expecting to have some done in May, some done in August and now it's April and we're done and I think that that's positive.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Fourth time, good job.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Right. No -- but my point is that if -- that if this is in place I don't know that there's any -- as I said, we have to look at it because I'm not positive that there's any reason that we couldn't accept the vehicles as we're currently accepting them and then be able to stripe them and get them taken care of.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

It's all down to time and money.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

And as always we have to look at how we can use both the best way.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Good. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Anyone else have any questions? No? Okay, we'll leave you alone, but we certainly do appreciate, and like I said, hearing from the precincts myself and from some of the Police Officers who have had so many issues with their cars are ecstatic that they actually have new cars. In fact, one said I never owned a new car in my life and I finally -- I got a police car to be my first brand new car. So he's pretty thrilled. So anyway, I know Jay Egan from FRES, I know you had some comments you'd like to make.

**MR. EGAN:**

Good morning. I'll be brief and quick. I wasn't on the agenda and I didn't fill a card out. Last night was our meeting. I am going to try to give you guys an update of where we stand at some of the things we do at our meeting. It was brought out that Capital monies are at the highest this year of actually for projects and we greatly appreciate that, as do most of the fire service and EMS response services.

The other issue that you did bring up and it did come out was the Arson Detectives. We also understand the Lieutenant has left that group now, so now they're down a Lieutenant as well as we know two more Sergeants that are going to be retiring. That's going to bring them down to just about nothing as far as personnel. I know the comment was made last month that they really want Detectives before they have firemen. For years and years and years that group, which has been a great interactive -- interaction with the fire service as far as investigations and I believe prosecutions as well on both sides, were able to do that because they had a strong firefighter background prior to even being considered to be a Detective in that unit.

I'm not getting involved in police politics, I don't want to get involved in the way they hire their people, but we believe in the fire service that having a good, strong firematic background will actually help them in doing their job. I don't know what it is to become a Detective, I'm sure it's a lot of work, a lot of studying, a lot of understanding of what the job is, but we also know there is a lot to do. I can't -- they can't teach a fireman to be a cop, but we can teach them maybe to be a fireman a little bit. We hope that works.

The last thing -- last two things. Capital projects. It's been on FRES Commission's issues for a while is the next helicopter. I bring it up, I've been a recipient of flying in the helicopter. I know that the twin-engine was able to get my large frame up with no problem when I needed to. That's on a Capital Project since 2011. It keeps getting moved back and moved back and moved back. We just want to make sure that stays in the forefront and we don't lose sight of the fact that they have an aging helicopter of the single-engine variety that you'll get your most dollar value for on a trade-in within the next couple of years. So long as that doesn't get forgotten about we appreciate that.

And the last thing is, Doc Spencer is not here, a lot of the fire districts in conjunction with the school districts are doing community compression only CPR class to the point -- I think Connetquot School District, Three Village School District, have trained in excess of 2,000 students, all right, in community compression only CPR. We're making a big push on the fire service side to continue that effort and talk to the local school districts. Obviously everybody on this board has contact with school districts and we would ask that you actually bring that to them so they keep the idea alive and we can keep this community CPR issue going, because it will also help with the PulsePoint app that was put out there as well as our effort to try to minimize response time and save lives in this

County.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you. I mean, I know that my son goes to William Floyd, and from middle school they take CPR class and they get certified every year. I don't know if they're -- I believe they're still doing it, so I wasn't aware that the school districts weren't doing it. I thought every school district did.

**MR. EGAN:**

Some of them are doing the CPR and it becomes an elective and it becomes through their Health class. They're actually pushing -- the school districts are now actually pushing trying to get this community compression based CPR only, which at least thing to happen, if it's another student, to get someone right away, you know?

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yeah. I know he was certified and I think in his senior year he had to recertify.

**MR. EGAN:**

True.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And plus through Boy Scouts they did it. But again, I wasn't aware every school district wasn't doing it, but we should.

**MR. EGAN:**

It's a great program. Joe has been involved in it in getting it and keeping it moving. I think however we collectively can sign on to this to keep it moving would be great. I don't think there is a dollar value either.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

It's something that REMSCO has been pushing as well and we were recognizing the departments that are out there doing these efforts. I know the Medford Volunteer Ambulance just did it in the Pat-Med School District and I think trained over 2,000 kids.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Well, we'll follow-up. I mean, if you could provide us, you know, information through the local fire departments and see how many of them are actually doing it and what school districts, and if anybody knows of a school district that's not we'd certainly like to help encourage that.

**MR. EGAN:**

Through my district we actually started a joint EMS group that actually works on problems collectively which is, you know, Selden, Centereach, Farmingville, Setauket, Holbrook's now signed on, Ronkonkoma has signed on. So we're actually trying to work on issues collectively in a small region, and that's one of the things that came up and we are just kind of expanding it and expanding it and we hope for the best to getting it out there all over the place.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you.

**MR. EGAN:**

Thanks for your time.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I think there are no more questions. Again, if we could get some answers on the arson issue, if there's a Lieutenant that has retired and -- you don't know that or you do know that.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

The Lieutenant has not retired yet.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yet. Okay.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

And there is a -- the only thing that I'll say is that there is a replacement plan in process but we're not going to talk about that publicly.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay, that's great. No problem. If you could unpublicly kind of keep us in the loop I'd appreciate it.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**MR. VAUGHN:**

(Thumbs up).

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you, okay. Rob just mentioned any new information on the ME? You're getting your exercise this morning.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes, as a matter of fact, Dr. Toulon would like to come up and present the new information on the ME.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay.

*(\*Laughter\*)*

Pass it on.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Put him on the spot.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. Dr. Toulon, have a seat, if you want. Whatever makes yourself comfortable. Good morning.

**MR. TOULON:**

Good morning. Dr. Michael Caplan from South Carolina has accepted the position of Medical Examiner. His effective -- he believes he'll be able to start -- his tentative start date will be July 1st. In conjunction with Dr. Caplan, we also have hired two pathologists, one from Philadelphia, Dr. Aaron Rosen, and one from Indiana, Dr. Paul Mellen, whose tentative start dates are the middle of June.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Very good.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Okay. I think everybody is very happy. Good news today.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

It is a good day, as I said before.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Yes. And congratulations on your anniversary.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Thank you. So we will start with the agenda.

**Tabled Resolutions**

We have tabled resolutions. ***1027-14 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, 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.)***. It has to be tabled. Motion to table.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. ***(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Spencer)***

***1045-14 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Charter Law to provide for fair and equitable distribution of public safety sales and compensating use tax revenues (Schneiderman)***.

I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Second.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Hahn did I hear? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Tabled. ***(Vote: 6-0-0-0)***

**Introductory Resolutions**

***1276-14 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Local Law to further strengthen the County's regulation on the outdoor restraint of pets (D'Amaro)***. I make a motion to table for public hearing.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled for public hearing. ***(Vote: 6-0-0-0)***

**1296-14 - Authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Village of Saltaire for provision of police services (Co. Exec.).**

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Motion -- who said? Legislator Calarco. Second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Is that Fire Island? Do you have problems there normally?

*(\*Laughter\*)*

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Saltaire is located over in the Islip portion of Fire Island. I think we already provide some services in that realm and Marine Bureau will be able to cover it. I believe Saltaire used to contract with a neighboring borrowing community for their police coverage and they're looking to use our resources instead this year.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

I thought we did that quite some time ago, a couple of years ago, but that's okay. But I believe we had a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**

**1297-14 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal funds awarded by the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration to the Suffolk County District Attorney and authorizing the Suffolk County Executive to execute related agreements (Co. Exec.).** Motion to approve, Legislator Hahn.

**LEG. HAHN:**

Consent calendar.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

And place on the consent calendar.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**

**1307-14 - Appropriating funds for the Forensic Sciences Medical and Legal Investigative Consolidated Laboratory (CP 1109)(Co. Exec.).** I'll make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**

**1308-14 - Appropriating funds for the purchase of equipment for Medical, Legal Investigations and Forensic Sciences and to approve the purchase of one (1) replacement SUV and one (1) replacement mortuary vehicle in accordance with Section (B)(6) of the Suffolk County Code and in accordance with the County Vehicle Standard Law (CP 1132)(Co. Exec.).** Motion to approve.

**LEG. CALARCO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:**

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**

***1309-14 - Appropriating funds in connection with the acquisition and implementation of a District Attorney Case Management System (CP 1136)(Co. Exec.).***

I'll make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**

***1316-14 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$861,000 in Federal pass-through and New York State Funding from the New York State Department of Transportation for the Long Island Expressway High Occupancy Vehicle Lane Enforcement Program in Suffolk County with 100% support (Co. Exec).***

Motion to approve by Legislator Hahn and place on the consent calendar. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**

***1317-14 - Accepting grant funds from the New York State Department of Transportation for provision of dedicated traffic enforcement in the vicinity of certain highway construction projects with 100% support (Co. Exec.).***

Same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**

With that, we have no more on the agenda. I'll make a motion to adjourn. Second, Legislator Calarco. We are adjourned.

***(\*The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. \*)***