

DATE

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, May 29, 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 - District No. 15
Lora Gellerstein - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Craig Freas - Budget Review Office
Bill Shilling - Aide to Legislator Calarco
Mark Malizia - Aide to Legislator Spencer
Liz Alexander - Aide to Legislator Spencer
Lisa Pinkard - Aide to Legislator Martinez
Tom Vaughn - County Executive Assistant
Amy Keyes - County Executive Assistant
Robert Waring - Captain/Chief of Dept's Office/SCPD
Scott Mastellon - Asst. Deputy Commissioner/SCPD
Mike James - Fleet Manager/Suffolk County Police Department
Adina Beedenbender - Aide to Suffolk County Police Commissioner
Tracy Pollak - Suffolk County Police Department/Headquarters
Charlier Leser - Sergeant/Suffolk County Police Department
Joe Busweiler - Lieutenant/Suffolk County Police Department
Rob Braun - County Attorney
Patrice Dlhopsky - Director of Probation/SC Probation Department
Philip Berdolt - Deputy Commissioner/SC Department of Public Works
Lou Tuttone - VP/PBA
Jay Egan - Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services
Anthony LaFerrera - Suffolk County FRES Commission
Noel DiGerolamo - PBA
Russ McCormick - Suffolk County Detective's Association
Jim Rodden - SOA
Ronald Banz - VEEB
Father Frank Pizzarelli - Hope House Ministries

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Michael Jijon - Timothy Hill Ranch
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer
Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

Minutes Transcribed By:

Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

*(*The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.*)*

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good morning. I think we have all Legislators to the horseshoe. We have a quorum? We have a quorum, right? Four?

LEG. SPENCER:

Call the roll, please.

*(*Laughter*)*

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I believe we do have a quorum. So if everyone could please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator Spencer.

*(*Salutation*)*

And if we could please stand for a moment of silence for those who protect us at home and abroad, and also the recent incident in California. There is a serious lack of respect and care for the need for mental health, and because of that, we've lost six young people.

*(*Moment of Silence*)*

Thank you. Okay. I don't believe we have any cards. Is there anyone who would like to speak in the audience? No? Definitely no cards? Okay. So with that, we have two presentations, and we will start with someone who I have a lot of respect and admiration for, Father Frank Pizzarelli from Hope House, if you'd like to come up. Father, you're going to speak to us about re-entry and alternatives to incarceration, I know something that's near and dear to your heart.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So whenever you're ready, if you want to go ahead.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

I think I'd like to really speak to two issues. The re-entry issue, obviously, is critical I think for all of us, because if we believe the statistics that we've read in the papers recently, 60% of our inmates in Riverhead are there because of substance abuse and addictive related behaviors that have caused them to break the law. And unfortunately, because of cutbacks and what have you, we are fortunate to have a Sheriff that is making great efforts with almost no money to provide some support for the young people in prison that are open to some kind of treatment, so that at least when they return home, they're not immediately going back to using.

Unfortunately, the statistics that I've seen are not good. The recidivism rate for the young people being released and the older people being released from jail, very candidly, are horrible. And they're horrible, I think, for a number of reasons. First of all, there are no treatment services in jail. We could have the debate on whether or not they should be in jail in the first place, and that will be my second comment relative to alternative to incarceration.

But one of the concerns that I have is that we really have little or nothing for especially the 19 to 25 year old being released from prison, who has alienated himself from his family, who does not have any other support resources. Where does a young person who leaves jail go? For the most part, if

they can get a token to take a bus, they'll take a bus further west and attempt to get at least temporary housing in a shelter. I run a hospitality center so I see it firsthand, and have for more than 20 years, of what the young people coming out of prison are faced with. They have no housing, they have no insurance, they have no material resources. And so we then are faced, when they come to our shelter, is how can we help these young men? Our arrangement with the Department of Social Services is that all we're supposed to do is just give them a bed, a shower and a meal and send them to the local health center and then they will pick up the ball and move with that. And very candidly, one of the great frustrations is there's nothing to move with.

Our emergency housing resources, first of all, are slim to none, and I would encourage you if you have not, depending on your district, go and look at what we're putting the homeless in. Look at the places that our tax dollars are funding. They are a disgrace, and that's a mild term as much as it sounds harsh, that you would not want anyone, never mind a person who has issues, to live with. Many of the homeless that come to our area of the Island are placed in environments that are drug infested and our taxes are paying for these emergency houses that are drug infested. So instead of empowering them to stand the track of doing the right thing, they're immediately going back to using again.

And again, this is not a new problem. I've been involved, as some of you know, for 30 years. When I started this I had brown hair, now I have blond hair. And it is frustrating because I know finances are tough, and I raise a lot of money to address this issue. But we're wasting money and we're wasting the limited resources that we have and it's hard to coordinate all of the different entities. I think the Sheriff's Department has been heroic, but they're running into roadblocks every which way. And I know someone from the department is going to address that. They've made some efforts in-house to prepare these young men as they take leave, but the bottom line is, once they leave the grounds of Yaphank or Riverhead, those young men are on their own, and we don't have much to offer them.

I think there are a couple of agencies that are attempting to put something together to provide at least something that's more stable, and somewhat therapeutic, but again, it comes down to where the resource is going to come from to support that, and that becomes a concern. And then what neighborhoods are willing to be open to that. NIMBY-ism is once again out of control. It's not polite to not want to be helpful, but unfortunately lots of neighborhoods who feel they've already been overburdened with all kinds of special needs don't want persons with identified problems living in their neighborhood. I think we need to be much more aggressive in saying that we're going to use certain resources to help those who are willing to move in that direction.

But I think the deeper problem is the issue of the young person who's in jail because of drug addiction. Some of the things that we've been reading in the papers most recently have been most troubling, and if we look at some of the issues that are underlying, some of the violent behavior, it can be traced back to two issues: Addiction and mental health. And again, one could say, and I'm a licensed clinical social worker who specialize in addiction, and the question we're battling regularly is which came first, the mental health problem or the addiction problem, and it's really sometimes hard to delineate which did come first.

But they're serious and they're out of control, and the thing that I think you who lead us need to be aware of is that I'm seeing more and more of our veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan coming to our shelters who are suffering from addiction, who are petrified to deal with the Veterans Administration, who are wonderful, but in a free country you cannot make people do what they don't want to do. And unfortunately, the way many of these young men have been conditioned before they get to me, is that they're not to talk about that. They're not to own that they have a problem, because that's a sign of weakness. And if you're a military person, you can't be weak. But that's also further making the problem more complicated, because those numbers have escalated beyond description.

And are also being responsible for some of the crimes because they need to survive.

And so I have lobbied for a long time that we have an alternative to incarceration providing people who are before the courts with an opportunity to get treatment, rather than you spending \$122,000 to incarcerate them, when maybe for a year, if they have an opiate problem, which is the real issue for many of our incarcerated, they're heroine and opiate addicts, that if they could get some treatment, good treatment, that they would at least have the skills that recovery -- and if they completed treatment, then they could be sentenced and put on probation to further encourage them to stay the course. But we would not be just filling our jails with acting out addicts, who really aren't going to get better, if anything, they get worse. Unfortunately, they get access to drugs in the prison system and it doesn't help.

The concern, of course, is that we don't have enough treatment beds. And I know that's controversial, but as someone who provides treatment and has 25 people on a waiting list, a program that should have 30 beds but I have 47 people and 25 on my waiting list, half of the 40 that I have are court referrals because the District Attorney and the judges have been open to alternatives to incarceration for non-violent drug addicts, but it's getting worse, it's not getting better. We don't have enough resources and until we begin to address that I think we're going to continue to bury kids senselessly. Families are going to continue to be wounded unnecessarily. And my hope, and I know Legislator Browning has really stepped up, along with a number of other people, like Kara Hahn as well, to really address this concern and the need for beds and the need for alternative treatment to incarceration.

It's not a simple fix, I know that. I've been doing this for a long time. But it's one that we really have to move on. I mean, one of the great tragedies is St. Charles Hospital just opened ten more medical beds for detox, and were criticized in a number of circles because they don't make money. They lose money on that, but we don't have a place. If someone needs a detox bed, to send a Suffolk County resident to Nassau County Medical Center in my book is scandalous because we can't get a bed in Suffolk. And when they're homeless young adults, how do you get them from point A to point B. No one wants to pay for them. You know, delivery of services through the Department of Social Services, which is already overburdened and underfunded, is a whole other burden.

So I would like to truly advocate that this body would definitely support initiatives that would provide alternatives to incarceration. You know, we've talked about the use of the Foley center as something that the jail, as well as an agency like ours, could partner up, and even provide some treatment for guys that are incarcerated instead of just spending millions of dollars that we don't have on another building, when there's a building there that you spent \$40 million that's sitting there empty that could be immediately utilized.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I think you're speaking to the choir, at least I know on this end you are. Does anyone have any questions? Kara?

P.O. GREGORY:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Presiding Officer Gregory.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Father Frank, for coming here today. I agree with you 100%, but I would like to advocate, and as much as I can I've been advocating a different form of alternatives to incarceration, and that would be supporting the communities that need the services, so that we

don't leave -- so that we give more options, as opposed to limiting options.

I was just looking at a report where, as an African-American, as a minority, traditional quote/unquote minority in this country, minorities will be the majority of this country by 2035, adult age. Minors will be the majority in this country within five years. Most minorities come from communities that are 80 to 90% minority, and within those communities, 70% of those communities have underperforming school districts. So, if you have the majority of our country coming from majority/minority communities, where the majority of those communities are getting -- not getting properly educated, you're limiting their future options for employment, for positive things to do in the -- not only for their local community, but for our country. And, you know, I am a veteran, but even if I wasn't a veteran, I believe that we have the greatest country in the world. We're a superpower. We cannot sustain our status in the world when the majority of our population, future population, will come from schools or communities where they're being undereducated.

So we have a national crisis, and if we address that -- we have to address that now, because we can't plan for it in 2035, because that's when it will be upon us. So we have to provide -- you know, improve our schools, provide whatever services there are.

You know, there are studies I have seen, too, as well, low income communities. There was a study I think University of Chicago did, I read in New York Times over the summer, where just coming from a poor family your cognitive skills are affected. Your IQ drops six points because of the stress and all the -- I can't describe all of it, but I was really amazed that just by your financial circumstances it affects your learning capacity and how you learn. People who come from poor communities react differently to similar circumstances because of the conditions that they're in. This is a problem and we have to address it. And we can't say -- we can't afford to say, you know, "Those people just want handouts." You know, this is our country and we have to try to -- you know, what's the saying? "*A rising tide lifts all boats.*" We have to take that approach, because if not, you know, what's our future? And when you look at the majority of our jails that are populated, predominantly minority populations, we can't sustain -- we can't sustain that.

So, I think, yes, right now, we have to come up to alternatives for incarceration, but I think the true alternative to incarceration is providing a solid educational foundation, because when I go through these communities, and I grew up in a, you know -- it was, you know, a low middle class community, Central Islip. Everyone just -- they just -- they want the same thing. Whether you make \$50,000 a year or \$200,000 a year, you want your kids to be educated, you want safe communities. You know, everyone wants the same thing. So, you know, however we can provide that, I think we should be able to do that. Certainly, certain communities face different challenges, and we may have to provide more resources to address those challenges, but it's for everyone's benefit, it's not just that particular individual.

So I thank you for coming here today and supporting what I think needs to be done. And whatever I can do, I certainly will support that.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Mr. Gregory, I just want to affirm your point, because my background, before I came to Suffolk County more than 30 years ago, I was a principal of an inner city school in Washington, and I saw what education could do in terms of transform a school that was left by white flight, that the African-American community -- it was a Catholic school, but we were committed to that community, and people were committed to education, even though their own education as adults was limited. But the transformation that took place and what those young people are doing today bespeaks the very point that you're mentioning.

And my frustration right now in Suffolk, one of the programs we run is Montfort Therapeutic Residence. And what's unique about the program is we do six months of intensive therapeutic care residentially, but then we send social workers to their neighborhoods to make sure they're connecting up with services. And for our children of color, the neighborhoods for many of them are poor neighborhoods. The lack of resource in one of the richest counties in the State of New York is a disgrace, and that we are basically begging people to see these young people so all of the hard work that they put in isn't undone, because, you know, the waiting list for what limited resources might exist in a poor neighborhood is six months. You can't wait six months. No one should have to wait six months for mental health services. And that's something else, you know, and Ms. Browning made mention. Our mental health services are another disaster, but I know we're talking about housing and alternatives, but I hear you and I agree with you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Well, that's a -- you know, to piggyback on your comments, there was just a report released last week that New York State is the most segregated -- has the most segregated educational system in America. In America. New York. I've lived -- I went to school in North Carolina, I've lived in Texas. You know, I remember going to -- going to basic training. My wife and I were driving the U-Haul truck going to Louisiana. My wife at the time, my first wife, was Caucasian, Caucasian and Puerto Rican; going into a hotel, you know, there was a vacancy sign, and the guy who was in the parking lot. He was smoking, but by the time I got out of the van, he was in the building behind the counter. And I said, you know, I wanted to get a room. We had been driving 18 hours, or whatever it was at that point. He didn't say a word to me; went from behind the counter to the parking lot, looked in the van, came back and he said, "We don't have any vacancies." I said, "What do you mean you don't have any vacancies?" "We don't have any vacancies." All right, whatever. So I went back out and my wife said, "That guy is a creep, like he came out here and he looked at me," and I guess to see who -- to verify what he thought, you know, here's a black man with a white woman in Louisiana.

And, you know, there's pervasive racism. And you think you see that in the Deep South, but when you hear reports that New York has the most segregated educational system in America, that just -- it alarms me. And then within those communities, we're not even providing the resources necessary for our segregated educational system. It's amazing.

And I understand it, I understand the sociological aspect. I don't mean to get on a soapbox, but I understand that, you know, people want to live within communities of people that are similar to them, that they're comfortable with. I mean, okay, I'm okay with that. But we should at least have -- ensure that every community has a decent educational system, because it's not just for those individuals, it's for all of us.

And the mental health aspect of it, one of the things that's come out in the statistics, too, that low income communities have -- don't have proper access to health care, so they're not getting the diagnosis of mental health disease, or even diabetes and other things. So it's a lot -- it's more than just education, it goes into health, it goes into a lot of different things. So that's why I feel so passionately about it, and it's something that we have to do. I don't know what will be done, but certainly something should be done. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I don't know if we could follow-up on that one.

P.O. GREGORY:

Sorry.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Doc?

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you for, again, that very enlightening presentation. And when we look at the discrepancy in terms of providing safe housing and resources for those that are mentally ill, it literally translates into a death sentence a lot of times, and we're just seeing a huge discrepancy in terms of mortality rates, because it translates into everything with regards to ability to get health care, eating appropriately, substance abuse.

What are some of the things -- I know housing is a major part of it, and I understand the need for us as Legislators to make sure that we try to direct as many resources even during difficult economic times. But in your opinion, what would be the most effective way that we can make a difference? Is it a dollar figure? If we had unlimited dollars would that solve the problem? Just what have you learned in your experience.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Mr. Spencer, my experience right now, because, again, because of what I've done with all of the different things that I've done in terms of social welfare in our County for 30 years, we waste so much hard earned money that could be better spent and better serve a greater number of people. For example, the money we give to absentee landlords for emergency housing, although on paper doesn't seem like a lot, it is so poorly utilized and the people who are sent to these places are so victimized. And when I call and complain, now I'm talking about my region, which is Brookhaven Town, "We don't have the personnel to go in and inspect these places", which are rat holes, and I'm being polite. But that's a waste of money. I can't believe that there aren't people in the not-for-profit sector, because we're trained to make that dollar go two dollars, that could better -- and not that I want another job, I'd rather be in partnership and look at how we could better utilize that money to serve a greater number of people.

I know that, for example, in all of the townships represented in the Legislature, how many things that the towns themselves own that are sitting vacant, and I've spent a lot of energy transforming buildings for almost nothing, tapping people in the trades, and making them affordable and livable for the poor and the needy.

LEG. SPENCER:

I'm glad that you said that you -- that was one of the things that I had in my mind, is that when we drive through our neighborhoods and we see just the number of abandoned structures that would take very little rehabilitation to get them up and running, and there are groups that are out there that will actually come in and get those --

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Absolutely.

LEG. SPENCER:

One of the things I'm hoping that maybe you can do with either my office or with the Legislators that are here, if there are areas where -- that we are funding that were not -- that we're wasting those dollars, and if we can figure out a way to make the government work more efficiently, and you have those ideas and things that maybe we're not able to see because we're looking at a lot of different things, but you just gave a perfect example, the absentee landlord. Is that through the town, though?

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

That's -- excuse me.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go ahead, Father. You finish what you have to say.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

I can only speak for the township that I'm in, and it's the Town of Brookhaven. And again, it's in poor minority neighborhoods, but they're making, these absentee landlords -- there was an article that Newsday did that I was shocked that government didn't pick up. They are making millions of dollars and getting away with that. You know, I'm grateful that they're willing to give the poor a chance to live, but there was also a contract of what the poor are supposed to get, and they're not. And when you send a 19-year-old to one of those drug infested places and the little that he has is stolen, and he goes back and says I don't want to stay there and then he is denied housing, that's reprehensible, because he won't stay in that place and be victimized.

LEG. SPENCER:

You are exactly correct and I agree with what you're saying. One of the issues that I see in Huntington where I live, where the reason that there's a lot of segregation, too, is that you will literally see in a half mile distance the price of real estate go from being \$100,000 an acre to over a million dollars an acre, just really almost crossing the street, and that's some of the ways that -- and same thing with taxes. And we have some -- the most expensive real estate in the world, and a lot of these homes need a workforce to be able to maintain them, but within that workforce there's a lot of other members of the family because -- even in the areas where they're able to live where the real estate is less, the cost of living is so high that you still have a lot of people that are unemployed and also not able to get the mental health services and things that they need. And it's -- I think my Legislative District shows a very extreme dichotomy of that.

So that -- so it's, I guess, kind of a de facto segregation what we're -- and I don't know if there are ways to be able to address that, too, because it's not necessarily lack of resources based on any sort of I feel necessarily racial policy, but it's almost like, it's almost like a pay to play. Pay for resources sort of thing, and we need to be able to focus on really more of what I think that is part of our role, our protective functioning in government, to be able to try to address those inequities.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Doc, you got me started.

*(*Laughter*)*

I was going to say this is something I've been battling for I can't tell you what, since I've been in office. And you can be very glad that you have Liz working for you now, because she can certainly educate you on this stuff. And just as an FYI, the RFQ that the County is putting out for qualified sober home beds, or I should say recovery home beds, I don't like using the word sober home, has been advertised. And when you talk about the money, just as a little bit of information, the money that is being spent is Safety Net. It used to be a 50-50 share with the State. It has been reduced to a 21% share from the State. I believe last count, and I could be a little off on a couple of numbers, but the County has spent, I believe, about \$64 million a year on Safety Net.

So, again, when we talk about spending money wisely, this money, it's like a revolving door with the clients. And as we speak, I can tell you, when you talk about homes and absentee landlords, as we

speak, I know that the Town of Brookhaven and Social Services Code Enforcement also, and the Police Department are visiting a home in my district that just received a crack house notice. We find out that, believe it or not, the Town of Brookhaven Code Enforcement let me know that one of the residents who's on parole said, "I don't want to go back to prison. I'm in this house and the drug use is out of control", and he can't even sleep at night because of what's going on. And he called to let Code Enforcement know that there's a problem in this home and that they knew DSS was coming to visit, which I have another issue with, is why would they get an advance noticed, because he was told we have to get 11 of the -- 11 of you guys out of the house, pull out the mattresses, had them pulling out mattresses. We need to get 11 of you out of the house so we can only show there's eight people here. It's a three bedroom house, I think, maybe four.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

And that's the tip of the iceberg.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

We need recovery beds, as you know, Mrs. Browning, but the problem is the supervision and the oversight is nonexistent because it costs money. Volunteers are not going to do it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right. But again, this is the absentee landlord just out to make a buck on the taxpayers. And it's Suffolk County taxpayers are really carrying the biggest burden. And that's the problem, is I've not said that we shouldn't have good homes and we should, and that's why this RFQ is going out, but, you know, OASAS is the ones who have dropped the ball on this and refused to really address the fact that, you know, recovery is not an eight to four or nine to five thing. It's 24/7.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And housing is a component to recovery. And until they recognize the need to oversee housing and regulate the housing, and that's the hardest part, because I know when you talk about, you know, the Town of Brookhaven, they can go and knock on a door -- in fact, I went to that house with the Town of Brookhaven last night when we found out what was going on. We went to the home, the Code Enforcement guy knocked on the door, they won't let him in. He has no right. Under the law, they have a right to refuse. The same with DSS if they go knock on the door. But as they were talking, ten people were coming out of the house.

And so, you know, that's the hard part, is there's New York State Housing Code and Social Services, all the regulations are -- come from the State. Suffolk County has absolutely no say in how we pay out that money. And so it makes it very, very difficult when we're trying to do the right thing and making sure that these homes are safe and clean, it's very hard because the block is on the State side. And OASAS really needs to wake up --

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- and do something about it. And when you talk about alternatives to incarceration, one of the biggest things that I've said is, we have our Probation Director here, we do not have enough Probation Officers.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN BROWNING:

They cost less than the jail cell.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

They do.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

That's another -- and again, the dollars come from the County taxpayers. However, the bottom line is, in the long run we save. When supervision, all the programs are in place, but there's just been way too long, you know, the funding is being cut. Mental health funding is being cut. I do believe between mental health and substance abuse they're one and the same. They should always be together.

So I'm done with my soapbox, but I know, like I said, Liz has just now come to the County and I've worked with her when she worked in the councilwoman's office, and she knows about these issues going on, having represented the North Bellport community. But I shouldn't stay on the soapbox too long because I know Legislator Calarco has a question or a comment.

LEG. CALARCO:

Well, I guess it's more of a comment and a thank you to Father Frank, because these issues, when we're talking about these problem homes, I've, like my colleague Legislator Browning, I have quite a number of them in my district. Anybody who's seen the problems have probably heard of Bernie's house or 318 Bay Avenue where they're I think the two last legal boarding houses in the Town of Brookhaven, where regardless of what we try to do, we can't shut them down. They're just horrendous inside. I've gone in with Probation when they visited their people there, and it's just appalling.

But we had this problem also in Gordon Heights and it was pretty extensive of 30 people being packed into a house. And we've taken an approach that has actually worked. And I reject this notion that we can't do anything just because the laws makes it difficult to do something. We have to act in concert with each other and we bring together everybody sitting at the table. And Liz has sat in on those meetings when she worked with for the Councilwoman Keperter in the area.

When we bring the Town, the County, whether it is DSS, Suffolk County P.D., the fire department, who are intimately aware of these areas, because they often visit with their ambulance companies quite a bit, and we sit down and we target the houses and we pick one and we say we're going to go shut that house down. We show up with everybody en force, and when you do that, the residents let you in and you get to go in, you get to see what's going on. But the key to it is that you make the residents know that they are victims, that they're not -- they're not the root problem. That the landlord who's taking advantage of them is the root problem. And then you make sure you find them alternative places to go, so that you're not just showing up and shutting down a house and putting them out into the streets and just going down the road to the next problem house. That you have Social Services there to say, "Okay, we're going to get you into a good place". Or, Father Frank, you've had your folks there from Hope House and Michael and I can't remember his last name. I should. It's a good Italian last name.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

{ Inaudible }.

LEG. CALARCO:

That's it. He's there at every meeting and has been very helpful all the way through to make sure that if there's somebody in one of these homes that doesn't quite fall into DSS's categories, you know, is not one of our people, but they are equally going to have trouble finding a place, you've taken them in and made sure that they have a safe place to go. We've had folks from drug treatment facilities available as well that have made sure that they're there, so that if there's somebody there with a treatment issue they have a safe place to go. And that's how you actually have to deal with them. And it's the matter of not vilifying the residents, because they're not really the problem. They have problems they're trying to deal with themselves, but they are the victims to these landlords. And I thank you for your participation in that because it's been very helpful.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Kara?

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you, Father, for being here. And as a fellow social worker, I appreciate all that you've said. And it's frustrating. So one of the most frustrating things being a social worker, someone who wants to get things done, one of the most frustrating things is sometimes you do recognize that the State will have more control over something, K through 12 education the Presiding Officer mentioned before. You know, K through 12 education the State has, you know, real authority there. On some of these sober home issues it's like the State is the one with authority and we keep running into roadblocks on some things with the State and -- but, you know, we have the ability to make change. And this body is known to actually act and make change when we can and when we have the authority to do so.

And one of the areas that I'm really looking forward to seeing the change that we've been working towards is recently when you talk about how we're spending our money, recently we approved a bill that I sponsored and Kate -- excuse me, Legislator Browning and Legislator Calarco cosponsored, having the Sheriff authorize an RFP to study the effectiveness of our alternatives to incarceration programs, and hopefully that will get off the ground shortly.

But I think it's critically important that we're making sure that where we're spending our money is evidence based, that we're mandating standardized instruments. The State of Louisiana, other areas, municipalities around the country have really shifted to ensuring that they're getting results in the programs they're funding. And we need to be sure that when we're putting money out there into communities that they're, you know, utilizing -- and data proven programs that get results. You know, we have -- and we have to be -- our programs have to be monitoring. We need to be monitoring where we're spending the money and using actuarial tools that attract this, and that our conditional discharge, our supervised release programs, that we're all making sure that they're actually doing what they're telling us they're doing. And I don't -- I'm pretty sure we haven't been doing that over the years.

And so I'm really looking forward to this, you know, RFP that we're getting out there, and the results of that, and that we're on top of where we're spending our money. Because I think you're right, I think we spend far too much money in very, very low risk populations and there are better ways to do it. There's a better way to harness our resources around the folks who need it most. And I hope that we can effectuate change in this system on a really grand scale, because we do have the authority to do that with our money here and how we're spending it. And so I will look forward to your advice on this as we go forward, and thank you for everything that you do.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Anyone else? Any questions? No? Again, Father, thank you for all the work you do. I know sometimes it feels like you're spinning your wheels, but you're definitely an important part of

Suffolk County when it comes to mental health and substance abuse and, you know, I've become very cynical of how government works and how they spend money.

And, you know, I look at the -- this home in particular that they're going to be visiting today, and it's a very convenient home because it's next to the train station, and I've learned that a lot of parolees get sent there. And the one thing that aggravates me is we have so many people just here in Suffolk County that need help, and these landlords could care less where they come from, as long as they get that dollar. And we actually have one that has gone among the missing, cleaned out his bank account, but he's made a fortune on taxpayers' dollars and did absolutely nothing to help anybody but himself. And people have died in his home. There's been overdoses in his homes, homes, more than one. And he's abusive, verbally, physically, and like I said, he's taken all his money and emptied out his accounts and disappeared. And these people have been left with nothing. So -- and I know that Rob talks about, you know, the closing homes. You know, as we speak today, how many beds do you have available?

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

I have 25 people on a waiting list.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. That's the problem.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

And it's growing. Every day I'm getting letters.

CHAIRMAN BROWNING:

Right.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Mothers begging me.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right. And that's the issue is, is we have so many bad homes that are being packed in. And again, you know, I've talked to people. A resident in Gordon Heights was telling me how she seen a lady walking up the street at night, pulled over and said, you know, "Where are you going? You really shouldn't be walking in the street at night by yourself" and she got sent here from Nassau County. Nassau County Social Services says, "Well, why don't you go to Suffolk? They'll find a bed for you." So they're coming from Queens, they're coming from all over, Upstate.

I've had so many experiences that, you know, I'm not saying we shouldn't try to help people, but we have so many right here in Suffolk and we're running -- we have no beds, but everybody else just wants to pawn them off on somebody else and I think that's outrageous. And again, we can't control that. Again, it's the State. So -- but thank you for all your work, and we will look forward. I know you're doing a great job with the Sheriff. Thank you.

FATHER PIZZARELLI:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So we have another presentation, and I think following-up with Father, this is something and someone you're going to be very impressed with. His name is Michael, and Michael if you'd like to come up, who is currently residing at the Timothy Hill Ranch. And he's going to do a presentation on the Right Path Program, which is something that he's in. And this is an initiative with the Sheriffs Youth Re-Entry program. So, Michael, welcome. And thank you for coming to talk to us.

So if you want to go ahead and do your presentation.

MR. JIJON:

Well, thank you for having me here today to speak to you guys. I'm from Holbrook and I'm 18 years old. When I was living at home I didn't have much supervision or anything. My mom was always at work, and it was hard for my mom to watch me, because she was blind, she had a disability. And so I guess I kind of took advantage of that and I would always be out. I'd always be causing trouble around my town and stuff. I was using drugs. I was using Xanax, Klonopin, painkillers, and other drugs. I always got in trouble with the law ever since I was younger, like I always got in trouble in school, and I never really had much motivation to do anything.

And I got arrested January sixth of last year in the afternoon around four o'clock for burglarizing a home. I was high at the time on Xanax, and I just wasn't thinking much about anything. I didn't really care about anything. I didn't care what would happen. And I went to court the next day in Central Islip and I was in the bullpen, and people were telling me that I was going to go up to the floor and that I'm going to have to be fighting for my food and stuff.

And so I started like thinking more about what I just did and where I just got myself, and so I went up to the floor. And it's basically what people described it like. People were fighting over like the littlest things. People were -- some people weren't even eating because the people would just take their trays and they -- they just -- it wasn't a good place to be. There wasn't really anything to do there.

So I started worrying and my court dates just kept on getting pushed back further and further, and I started like losing hope, and I just started like thinking that nothing's working out for me, and I'm just going to end up in prison.

Then I got called down to the Rehab Department in the County Jail, and they offered me the Minor Program. I think it's called the Youth Tier now. And so when I heard that, I immediately jumped on it. And when I went down to the Youth Tier things started looking up. I started getting the help I needed. The Correction Officers would talk to me, mentor me, tell me like, you know, just try to like help me with the problems, the correct ways instead of the ways that I was used to doing them.

I was staying busy, which I needed to do, so I had structure when I went there. They kept me busy by giving me a bunch of things, putting me in GED classes, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, AA meetings, male mentoring, and just a bunch of programs that was just giving me a bunch of help and support. And it helped me transition to like when I left well, when I left the County, because since I was doing good in that program, the -- Thaddeus Hill came in, and he's from Timothy Hill, and he talked to me. He talked to me about the program, the Right Path Program that I'm in right now, and he gave me the packet.

And my attorney didn't even know if I would be able to get in there or not, so I just gave him the packet and just to see -- I just asked him if he could see if I could get into it or not. And I had Judge Toomey and he allowed me to get into the program.

So I got released from Riverhead County Jail March 20th of last year, and at first it was hard. He like -- kind of like waking up in the morning because they'd make us like work out in the morning at like 5:45, so I wasn't too thrilled about that, but like --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Or me.

MR. JIJON:

-- I was happy because I wasn't in jail anymore. Like I had like all this like free, like, land just like all around here. It was just like green everywhere. There was horses and stuff. I've never even been around a house since I've been there, well, since I've been here at the ranch.

Since I've been at the ranch, I've been like a year and like three months clean. I got a car. I got my license. Last year when I came into the ranch, I only had five-and-a-half credits in high school, and now I have -- well, now I'm about to graduate after I finish my science labs. And I have an opportunity to go to Harding University in Arkansas, I have a scholarship there if I decide to take it. But I think I'm working more towards the route of being a plumber and I'm working with a plumber right now doing plumbing, air-conditioning and heating.

The Youth Tier also helped me get my OSHA card and my plumbing certificate while I was incarcerated. And I've been working at Polo in Tanger since October. I'm still working there currently. So I have two jobs and school. Saving up money so when I leave -- I already have an apartment lined up because my boss offered me an apartment. And yeah, everything's looking better for me now, and he gave me a second chance. The second chance I needed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Michael, congratulations.

*(*Applause*)*

LEG. SPENCER:

Kate, I have some questions.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And I know that there is a program through Social Services that has been helping with this, and this is when we talk about Social Services helping, this is exactly what it should be doing. And so this is money extremely well spent to help you out and get your life together. And I can tell you something, I had a program in my school district, I got them to bring the building trades into the school for career day, and the guidance Counselor was shocked to hear how much money they make. So plumbers make very good money. My brother-in-law is a plumber and believe me, he's not hurting.

LEG. CALARCO:

There's always work.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

There's always work. Everybody needs a plumber. There's a few questions. Doc Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

Your life and your testimony's a real inspiration, and I'm glad that you came here to share that with us. We need to, you know, let more young people be aware. You mentioned that your mother was blind?

MR. JIJON:

Yes, she's blind.

LEG. SPENCER:

Do you have brothers and sisters?

MR. JIJON:

I have a brother and a sister.

LEG. SPENCER:

And are they -- where are they currently?

MR. JIJON:

Well, my sister left when she was younger, and she wasn't really too sure what she was going to do with her life, but now she's in the Air Force and she's doing pretty well. But my brother, he still lives at home. He's my older brother. He's currently still using. I tried talking to him sometimes, and I wish he can have like this type of program so he could get the type of help I got, but I don't know. He's not as fortunate as I am.

LEG. SPENCER:

And for you, you mentioned this program. What was it about the program that got to you? I mean, was it the support in terms of being able to have something in your life what -- I mean, as far as was it a role model? Is there someone that spoke to you? Is your father involved in your life at all? What was it that out of all of those things that had the biggest impact on you?

MR. JIJON:

Well, my father, he hasn't been in my life since -- well, I don't think he was ever a part of my life. What stuck out to me the most is no matter like how much -- well, I got in a little trouble here and there at the ranch, but they never gave up on me and they never like threatened me to send me back to jail. Then just helped me get through the troubled times. And they helped me take care of the tiny things that I was doing wrong, to work my way up to the big things that I was doing wrong. And they just helped me in general just become like -- well, being on time to things. I wasn't on time today, but that's because of traffic.

*(*Laughter*)*

But they told me if you're not five minutes early, you're late, so that helps me. And they told me be the last one to leave the worksite and be the first one there. They showed me like well, we work long hours. I had to do some community service to show them that I can work hard to get my job off campus. So they made me like learn how to appreciate the value of a dollar and everything that I make, like that there's value to it. And then that made me think back when I was stealing from other people, that they worked hard for those things, so I had no right to take from those people, because they worked hard for it.

LEG. SPENCER:

Is there a particular individual in the program that communicates directly to you when you're talking about stuff?

MR. JIJON:

Well, I have a Director, his name's Kyle. He's not here at the time, but I also have my social worker, Miss Cheryl. She's right over there, she's in the pink. She helps me with things. And I had a house parent, James Hill, and he would help coach me. He would give me advice about like interviews and stuff.

LEG. SPENCER:

What are you interested in doing as far as with your life moving forward? Are you interested in any particular area, any field? Do you want to be an engineer or in construction, be a lawyer? Do you have any plans for school, for college?

MR. JIJON:

Well, like I said, I have an opportunity to go to Arkansas for Harding University, but I think I want to stay in New York and go to trade school for plumbing and HVAC, and just keep on working with this -- with my boss at ResCom and just keep on learning that trade, keep on learning plumbing, heating and cooling.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yeah, I did hear you say that during your testimony, and I wanted to see those opportunities were kind of like, were they part of your dreams. So that is -- so you like being a plumber? You enjoy that, that's something you're passionate about?

MR. JIJON:

Well, when I first came to the ranch I told them that I wanted to do plumbing, so like it kind of just fell into my lap. It kind of like all fell into place. A few months ago, like the house parent I was telling you about, James Hill, he met this guy, Nick, and he's from ResCom, and he talked to him about me and then he just offered me a spot -- well, a job on the spot. So like I was always definitely interested in plumbing, and when I was younger, I was part of the Monfort House, which is part of the house that you were just talking about in Port Jeff.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Hope House?

MR. JIJON:

Yes, the Hope House Ministries. So I -- this gentleman named Mr. Walsh, Gerard Walsh, he was a master plumber and he was telling me like all about it. He told me that they made a lot of money so it kind of interested -- it made me interested it. I don't mind working with my hands and getting dirty.

LEG. SPENCER:

Well, one of the biggest strengths that you have is your ability to be able to listen and take advantage of the opportunities that are given. And I think that you have a really bright, bright future ahead of you. And I know that I can comfortably speak for probably any of the Legislators here that, you know, I would encourage you to reach out to us, as far as if there's recommendations or helping you get through doors or open, you know, to get over hurdles. You know, we would love to be able to work and reach out on your behalf or anything that we're able to do. So I wish you much success. You've really touched me with your personal testimony. I thank you for that.

MR. JIJON:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Presiding Officer?

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you. Hello, Michael.

MR. JIJON:

Hello.

P.O. GREGORY:

Congratulations on your journey and good luck to you.

MR. JIJON:

Thanks.

P.O. GREGORY:

You've done tremendous things so far, and we're here to support you. Any time I speak to young people I encourage them to view themselves as -- almost in a sense of corporation, and to what I describe as, you know, build your Board of Directors. And that would be people that support you, your support network. You have a mission, whatever your mission is, is to be a plumber, to get a doctorate in philosophy, or whatever the case may be, you certainly want people on your Board of Directors or your support network that support that. If you want to be a teacher, you don't want people that are anti-education on your Board of Directors. So you want people to support you. And unfortunately sometimes, you know, it should be our family, but unfortunately circumstances our family is not our biggest advocate, but whoever that may be. Maybe your best friend's parents, maybe your best friend, maybe a cousin, maybe a neighbor, whoever. Just look for that support network to support you, to encourage you to keep moving forward and you will make that success. You have the determination. You've gone so far. You may not even realize how far you've come, just by the -- you've changed your decision making process, and that's a world of a difference for you to help you to reach where you want to go. So congratulations.

And I noticed, you know, with your brother, that's a little sensitive issue, obviously. You know, everyone has to do things in their own time, you know, just like you did. So he may not be ready today, but just your presence is planting a seed that may help him get to where he needs to be even sooner than he may naturally be ready. So continue to be a positive influence in his life, whether active or passive, just your presence, because he's struggling and he obviously knows the path that you've taken and where you are. You're -- you know, he's probably thinking, "Well, if my little brother can do it, I can do it", but he's just not ready to get there yet. So don't be discouraged, you know, he'll come around. Just be there for him when he's ready, okay?

MR. JIJON:

All right.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. Thank you.

MR. JIJON:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator Calarco.

LEG. CALARCO:

Michael, I just want to say congratulations, because I think if I remember correctly, we met when you were in the Youth Tier. Many of us had an opportunity to come to the jail to see what the Sheriff was doing there and we saw you there and the great progress you were making, and it's so good to see that you are continuing on that great path and just we wish you the best of luck.

MR. JIJON:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, Rob reminded me, because there was a number of us took a tour with the program, and he reminded me. You know, the jumpsuit makes a difference and the suit makes a difference from the jumpsuit, that I didn't recognize you. But, again, you know, your brother, how old is your brother?

MR. JIJON:

He's 20. He just turned 20.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

He's only 20. And this program is actually up to the age of 23. So, you know, with a bit of luck, he will realize that he's going to have to make some changes in his life. And obviously you'll be an encouragement to him. And tell your sister thank you for her service. We appreciate that.

And with that, I don't think there's any more questions. And it's great to see something positive, you know, out of, you know, the negative things that have occurred in your life. And, you know, I know your mom's probably -- it's been very difficult for her with her disability and as a single mom to do what she's had to do. So, you know, I have to say that, you know, we understand her difficulties and, you know, there are services available for her. So, you know, she's more than welcome to reach out to any one of us or any Legislator if there's anything that she needs.

And again, for your brother, don't hesitate to contact any of us if you need anything. I know your Legislator, I believe, is Legislator Lindsay from Holbrook, and I'm sure he'd be happy to help, too. But, again, congratulations. Good luck on your continued success, and like I said, being a plumber is a good job. Everybody needs one. And we'll also, Local 200, I don't know if Timothy Hill Ranch reached out them, the apprenticeship program through Local 200. If you're interested in that we can certainly help you with the contact information.

MR. JIJON:

All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good luck, Michael. Thank you.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you for sharing your story.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. It's always good to hear good stuff. Okay. With that, we have no more presentations. I would like to -- Lieutenant Busweiler and Sergeant Leser are both here today. Captain Waring is moving on, going to I believe the Marine Bureau. You're welcome to come up and say hello, introduce yourselves. Of course, the name Busweiler resonated. I've had many good meetings with your brother.

LIEUTENANT BUSWEILER:

Hopefully I can keep that family reputation going.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No pressure.

LIEUTENANT BUSWEILER:

Lieutenant Joseph Busweiler. I'm currently working for the Chief of Department's Office right now. I just transferred in there. And I understand my job here is to help you get the information you need, and that's what I'll be doing.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good. And Sergeant?

SERGEANT LESLER:

Hi. My name is Charles Leser. I'm a new Sergeant recently promoted. I'm working in the Chief's Office. I'm a little out of my realm. I have been out of uniform for 22 years. I was a detective for the last 12 years in homicide, but we'll help you out.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, we appreciate it, and I always say, you know, many times I will never expect that you'll have immediate information. You know, a lot of times things will come up here where you may not have the information immediately, but we do appreciate -- I have to say, Captain Waring, any time we ever asked for any information he was pretty quick on the ball to make sure he got back to me.

So I don't want to put the pressure on them to come up with the answers right now, but Legislator Hahn, she has a question on cars. And maybe Captain Waring, I don't know if you have the information -- oh, here comes Tom. So Captain Waring's getting to hang out in the back here.

MR. VAUGHN:

We actually have -- we were unclear based on today's agenda what it was that the committee would like. However, we do have Scott Mastellon and Phil Berdolt here who have a presentation, if you'd like to see it, on vehicles. Whatever is the will of the committee.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Are they available right now?

MR. VAUGHN:

Absolutely. We aim to deliver.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I did see Phil but I thought he left.

MR. VAUGHN:

Nope.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Would you like that?

LEG. HAHN:

Yes, please.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure. Thank you, Lieutenant and Sergeant. And like I said, you know, we'll be in touch. Generally, you know, if there's anything that we need to know before we get to the meeting, I generally try. My Aide Josh over here, we -- wave your hand so they know who you are.

MR. SLAUGHTER:

(Waved hand.)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You know, we'll try and reach out to you if there's anything that we're going to need to know before the committee meetings. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT BUSWEILER:

Thank you.

SERGEANT LESER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And congratulations on your promotion.

MR. FREAS:

They didn't set up for it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Say again?

MR. FREAS:

They didn't set up --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, they didn't set up the -- okay.

LEG. HAHN:

We can do that.

MR. FREAS:

Let me see if I can get Anthony.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

They have a PowerPoint for the screen.

LEG. CALARCO:

Do the agenda.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Do you want to see if Anthony can do that? Okay. If you want to just hang out and we'll go through the agenda while we're waiting. Okay.

Tabled Resolutions

1045 - 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).

LEG. CALARCO:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to table, Legislator Calarco. I'll second that.

LEG. SPENCER:

On the motion, please.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

On the motion.

LEG. SPENCER:

I know we go through this every year, and Legislator Schneiderman introduces it, and you know,

I've got four villages, Asharoken, Huntington Bay, Lloyd Harbor, Northport, and this isn't the same resolution that we tabled all throughout last year. And I don't want it to be an issue of Legislators that have villages versus Legislators that don't have villages. And I looked at the concerns with what we talk about with this legislation in the past, that there were actually services that we were paying for through our Police District that these villages had a chance to take advantage of, and that's why the legislation wasn't fair in the past.

But when you look at the new legislation that they're -- just been changing, when you see that you've got people that reside in these villages, that live in Suffolk County, that pay taxes into the district, and I can understand taking a certain percentage of those for services that we provide to everyone, but in a sense we're saying you pay the tax for public safety fund. You pay the same amount, but you're not going to get an equitable distribution of that. And I can understand, you know, we're talking about equitable. And I need -- I would like BRO, I don't know if they were aware of this, but when we talk about taking the idea of where you've got 100,000 people living in a village that's getting their tax bill, and they're paying their County taxes, they're paying into the Police District, and for certain services that they have the Village Police Officers and, you know, and I'm 100% behind the law enforcement community. They're -- and I don't think that this is an issue. I want them to have everything that they need and my record 100% supports that.

But for this to always be an issue of numbers on the committee and just keeping this in the background, I want the numbers to come out. We're talking about looking at the population, looking at taxes these people are paying, and saying you're going to get your fair share for services that other towns already get provided to them that you're paying for yourself, and I'm going to stand and make an issue about it, because I need an explanation as to why we're tabling something that is fair. Otherwise, I think there should be a resolution that these folks don't have to pay that portion for public safety that they have to pay for their Police Officers.

So I would like -- I would like to have a debate on that issue. And I don't know -- I'm just going to ask if BRO, what does this resolution do in just a nutshell? Isn't it just taking the percentage of population and saying, "Hey, we're going to divide that pot up." I've got four villages that come to me every year saying, "This isn't fair. You're our Legislator, you've got to make a bigger stand on this." What's wrong with being fair? So I'd like to hear from BRO if you have any sense of it, if not.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Can BRO respond? I mean, I have two villages in my district. However, Suffolk County Police Department represents the villages in my district. And, you know, I guess it's a choice that they made was to have their own Police Department and not to have -- you know, I can't speak for the west -- the East End, clearly, but in the West End, in the 10 western districts, you know, they had that choice not to have the Suffolk County Police Department is what I understand. But, Rob, do you want to jump in?

LEG. SPENCER:

But if they're paying taxes for a service and they're not getting that service, then they ought to be --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But the services, you know, they do get services. But, Rob, go ahead.

LEG. CALARCO:

I think it's -- you have to first look at what this resolution is looking at. It's not property taxes that we're talking about. This is the sales tax portion and the State allows us to apportion a percentage of sales tax, of 1% of our sales tax towards public safety purposes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Exactly.

LEG. CALARCO:

And that's what this is looking, to take the funds to do that, and I guess in a sense create some more fairness in how that money gets distributed. And part of this is a fluctuation because at times our Operating Budget takes more or less of that. And we've pretty much held steady at the amount that these towns and villages have gotten, so that they haven't been exposed to that fluctuation in terms of the amount of percentage that comes out of there, and sometimes that is to their benefit, and sometimes that's to their detriment.

But let me finish. We've gone through this many times over many years now and, in fact, the last administration took a pretty hard line tact on this after working out an agreement on the issue, to then have the Legislators representing some of these towns bring the issue back up to a point where the Police Department started looking to charge back for those services that are funded out of the general services of the Police Department that these villages and towns take advantage of, whether it be the MedEvac helicopter services in some of the villages, their Detectives for homicide and arson. There are a whole host of things that our Suffolk County Police Department provides as services to these different towns and villages, depending on what the towns and villages are looking for. Some take more, some take less, and so they looked at doing a charge back, and that created a whole host of issues that arose. So it is a much more complicated issue than just saying should these sales taxes be more fairly apportioned and are these towns and villages not getting what they're putting in.

So it's not to say it doesn't deserve or warrant a debate, and perhaps it's a conversation we should be having, but unfortunately, you're talking about what could be a substantial amount of dollars, and the County is pretty financially strapped as it is. So if we're going to have this conversation, we can't just do it generically with a single resolution in the middle of the year, and we need to take a better, harder look at this during the Operating Budget process so that when we do it we are planning for and prepared for it.

LEG. SPENCER:

Just -- I did look at it, and that's -- and there's -- and on the fluctuation, and the worst year of fluctuation, it has always been 100% to the detriment. My villages said charge us for the services that you're taking, but when you look at the dollars in terms of proportion to population, I did an in-depth analysis, my people aren't getting their fair share, and they're asking me to stand up for them. So, you know, in those fluctuations, in the worst possible year of fluctuations to their benefits, they still lose. They're still paying out more. I do want to have that, if we need to look at it in a more global sense.

And I would love anyone to, because, you know, I've looked at the numbers. They're losing money. And you can take the MedEvac services and every service and you take those out for the money that they're paying in, they're losing, you know -- so even if it was slightly more equitable, but I've got my villages that are coming to me and saying you're not representing us appropriately, we're getting killed on this. So I think that's my concern. But thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Just to -- and it's right, it's the sales tax and, Rob, you're right. I think -- I want to say it was like July Fourth weekend a few years ago where the former County Executive all of a sudden came up with this plan where they were going to charge per diem for homicide or Detectives, you know, and all these types of things. It created this whole chaotic situation. You know, cooler heads prevailed, but there's always been a discussion about the equity of the sales tax. And as I understand it, just off the recollection off the top of my head, there's been an increase in the sales tax, and instead of

applying the one-eighths or three-eighths or whatever the portion is that the village -- the towns and villages get, and I have Amityville, who has their own Police Department, so they're impacted by this. In the increase, the County has taken 100% of that increase. They haven't applied even the same mechanism for say, just to use a number, say \$10 million generated, you know, the towns and villages with their own police departments get one-eighth of that. And -- but now that it's 12 million, the County takes that two million completely and the villages and towns don't get any of that, and that's just unfair.

So at a minimum, if there's a formula that's applied, it should be applied to every cent of these monies, because it's for public safety purposes. And, you know, it's only -- it's only the fair thing to do. You're right, I do think it should be addressed in the Operating Budget, but we keep saying that and we don't do it, but we should do it. You know, our taxpayers contribute to sales tax just like everyone else. So it's a fair thing to do. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Actually, Counsel, I'd like --

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah, I just wanted to state this bill actually does two things, because under State Law we're authorized to use between -- we have a one cent additional sales tax, and the State Law authorizes us to use between one-eighths and three-eighths of that for public safety. This law would state that we'd have to use at least a quarter for public safety purposes. The Charter right now has a provision that requires the County to use some of the sales tax revenues and distribute it to the villages and the towns. Unfortunately, the language is not the best. It's kind of unclear. And as everyone knows, Legislator Schneiderman has introduced bills like this repeatedly over the last, seven, eight, ten years. At one time there was even a lawsuit pending to try to deal with this issue. So he's introduced this to try to just clarify, you know, the formula for what the villages and towns outside the Police District get, and it's a population based formula. So that's what the law does.

LEG. SPENCER:

I'm not going to let it go.

*(*Laughter*)*

But I know we have to move on for now.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, you know, where I come from, grew up, there's one Police Department, you know. So when I came here and I learned, you know well, it depends on where I am, if I was to get a ticket in Amityville I'm going to get it from an Amityville Police Officer. And again, I think it complicates things when you have -- you have the ten west towns and then you have the east -- I'm sorry the five west towns and the five east towns and they're different police departments. And I think it's very complicated that -- and then we have a Suffolk County Police Department. You know, I just think that, you know, no offense, but it's a choice that they make, is to have their own villages. So I know I'm probably going to create a stink, but, you know, again, especially on the east -- the west end, you know, we do have -- we have a County Police Department.

LEG. SPENCER:

Kate, Kate.

P.O. GREGORY:

That's a dead issue. The voters decided.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

There you go. They made a choice.

LEG. CALARCO:

They decided to pay for it themselves.

P.O. GREGORY:

That they wanted their own police force, but this fund, this particular monies weren't available, as I understand it, when the Police District was created. Then it was created so even -- so if you want to use that argument, okay, the Police Department created a Police District that they couldn't afford, so now they created this fund. So you can't apply that same logic to the towns and villages and not apply it to the Police District. This wasn't available when the Police District was created. It should be split equitably. However you do it I don't know, but the current system is not accurate or fair.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, we could certainly do a lot of conversation, but, clearly, when it comes to the funding, obviously that's a conversation that needs to happen with the County Executive's Office, and no pressure, Tom. But, you know, maybe bring in -- bring in your villages and your towns together to try and work out that equitable increase and -- but, really, I think we need to sit down and look at what services are being provided with the DA's Office, you know, with Aviation, Marine Bureau. You know, what do you get and what do those cost? I don't know, maybe if you add it up maybe it's not equal, but.

LEG. SPENCER:

Through the Chair, could I ask if we could look at this through BRO and try to -- I don't know if there's any overall summary, but historically and really -- there's got to be a dollar amount in services. I'm sorry.

MR. FREAS:

Legislator, I'm not sure I quite understand your question. There's a -- there's a fiscal impact statement that attaches to this. The result of this legislation would be a \$3.3 million increase in the Police District in 2015, the Police District property tax in 2015. Okay? And going on forward, five years times 3.3, you'd get 16.5 million over the five years. Now, that's just -- that's all other things being equal, the current \$90 million allocation, or the current \$90 million allocated but the allocation formula changed.

The other thing I think is population -- this bill reallocates the revenue according to population. Is that the way you would allocate police resources to be most equitable to the people living in various areas, which is a separate question. But, nonetheless, it's something that you have to think about with regards to this issue I think.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah. Well, I don't necessarily agree that population should be the issue, because, you know, in the five west towns where the Suffolk County P.D. is, obviously sometimes resources are more in one community than another based on crimes. So that's something that should be looked at. But I know we're not going to resolve this today. And, you know, it would be up to the Legislators who represent those communities to sit down with the County Executive's Office to try and organize or plan that equitable distribution, if that's how they want to call it. But anyway, we did have a motion to table, and I seconded it, I believe. So all in favor? Opposed?

LEG. SPENCER:

Opposed.

P.O. GREGORY:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Abstentions? Was that one opposed or two? Thank you, one man, one vote. So that one was tabled. *(Vote: 5-2-0-0 Opposed: Legislators Spencer and Gregory; Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote)*

1324 - Directing all County departments and agencies to update multi-line telephone systems to directly dial 911 (Trotta).

LEG. KENNEDY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to table.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And is this the one to do it like the hotels?

MR. NOLAN:

County stuff.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, this is the County one.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Because at the request of the Exec and the sponsors, they're still trying to get a price, I think out of Verizon, I believe.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, okay. I just read that in the paper.

MR. VAUGHN:

Legislator Kennedy has that exactly correct.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So there's a motion to table and a second. Did I hear a second?

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. *(Vote: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote)*

MR. VAUGHN:

Pardon me, Legislator Browning.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yup.

MR. VAUGHN:

Just to accurately reflect, Legislator Kennedy does have this exactly correct. As soon as this legislation was introduced we've begun working with Verizon. They are aware of our desire to get a price quote. Pat Connelly from the Department of IT has been in frequent conversation with them. There is a process that this has to go through with Verizon. That's where we're at right now. The holdup is not on the County's end.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you.

LEG. HAHN:

They should be providing -- I mean, we had testimony from, was it a father or someone? We had testimony from someone who said the companies should be doing this. We shouldn't be paying for them to do this. The companies should be doing this for us.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

This one is for the County phones, this one that we just tabled. The other one --

LEG. HAHN:

It's unconscionable if they're going to wind up charging us for this, but we can't wait too long.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

The next one is to do with the hotels and such. So ***1325 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Local Law to ensure access to emergency services via telephone (Trotta)***. And did we close that?

MR. NOLAN:

Recessed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

That was recessed. So I'll make a motion to table for public hearing.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Tabled for public hearing.
(Vote: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote)

1387 - Appointing Peter Gunther as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board (Spencer). Legislator Spencer?

LEG. SPENCER:

There's been a lot of discussion. I appreciate Legislator Calarco for bringing everyone to the table. There's some things that we're working on, and also at the request of the nominee, we're going to table it as we continue to work this out.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And I actually have had some conversations with some representatives also, and again, I will hope that this can very soon be resolved. So with that, I guess the motion to table. Second,

Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. **(Vote: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote)**

1390 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Local Law to amend the Administrative Code to expand the requirements for appointed officers of the Suffolk County Police Department (Trotta).

LEG. CALARCO:
Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
Motion to table.

LEG. HAHN:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
Was that closed?

MR. NOLAN:
That was recessed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
That was recessed, so table for public hearing.

LEG. HAHN:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled for public hearing. **(Vote: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote)**

1446 - Approving the appointment of Michael J. Caplan, M.D., as Chief Medical Examiner.
I guess we will be having a special meeting. I'll make that motion to table at this time. We have a special meeting on --

LEG. CALARCO:
Monday.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
Monday, yes. So we will get to meet Dr. Caplan. We're having a special meeting. We'll get to meet him on Monday at 3:30. I made the motion to table, second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Tabled. **(Vote: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote)**

Introductory Resolutions

1477 - Approving an increase in fleet for the Suffolk County Police Department in order to incorporate two 2007 Ford E-450 Mini Buses transferred from Suffolk County Department of Public Works (Co. Exec.).

LEG. SPENCER:
Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve. Can we get an explanation on what these are?

MR. VAUGHN:

They are buses that are being pulled out of service because they are no longer -- they're buses that DPW was planning on decommissioning. The Police Department has a need for them, so instead of selling them we are going to give them to the Police Department for transportation needs.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. We have had a, you know, there's always been discussion about increasing fleets, so this is a permanent increase to the fleet, right?

MR. VAUGHN:

I would not characterize it as a permanent increase to the fleet. I would say that we have two vehicles that DPW is not going to use anymore and we're going to let the Police Department use them for the rest of their usable life.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So, yeah. Okay.

LEG. HAHN:

Can we discharge it without recommendation?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, I think we're good. Counsel believes that because it is not -- it's transferring within the County, that it's not necessarily an increase. So, okay. With that, there was a motion, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**

1481 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$15,000 from the Department of Homeland Security, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the ICE Sponsored El Dorado Task Force with 77.55% support (Co. Exec.). Motion to approve, Legislator Calarco. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved. **(Vote: 6-0-0-0)**

1482 - Accepting a forfeited 2012 Honda Accord on behalf of the Suffolk County Police Department from the U.S. Marshal Service (Co. Exec.). I make a motion to approve.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. SPENCER:

Is that placed on the Consent Calendar?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No.

LEG. SPENCER:

It's only because it's 100%.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Can we put that on the consent?

MR. NOLAN:

If the committee wants to put it on the Consent Calendar, it may.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So then I'll do that. I'll change my motion to place it on the Consent Calendar. And that's a second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved and on the Consent Calendar. *(Vote: 6-0-0-0)*

1483 - Accepting and appropriating a grant providing 75% support, in the amount of \$512,364, from the United States Department of Homeland Security, and amending the 2014 Capital Budget and Program in connection with the purchase of marine and helicopter equipment (CP3513) (Co. Exec.).

LEG. CALARCO:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

There is a motion to approve. And second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. *(Vote: 6-0-0-0)*. And actually I should have said what are we buying. Does anybody know what this equipment is?

MR. VAUGHN:

It's too late, Legislator Browning. You already called the vote.

*(*Laughter*)*

No, I do know what we are buying. We are buying -- let's see. We are buying live feed video equipment for two helicopters, radar equipment for 11 Marine Bureau vehicles and five fixed license plate readers.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Excellent. So, good. Thank you. So there is no more on the agenda and now we'll go back to the car situation.

MR. VAUGHN:

Thank you very much, Legislator Browning. Okay. I have a note here that says I'm Errol Toulon, but I'm not. He's much more handsome than I am and better educated.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Oh.

MR. VAUGHN:

He's a doctor, I only have my MBA. I'm pleased to be here today, that's true. I'm not a member of the Perform Management Team, but I am here to provide you with an update at the request of Legislator Browning on our Auto Maintenance Program. The project represents a collaboration between both public safety and the Department of Public Works. With me today I have Scott Mastellon to my left, the Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Police Management Information Systems at the P.D., and Phil Berdolt, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Works. Both Scott and Phil are members of the Perform Management Team and have worked diligently with Rich Lanna, our Senior Industrial Engineer; John Kirshey, Fleet Services Manager for Transportation

in the P.D.; Mike James, Fleet Manager for DPW; Ed Kenny, Assistant Fleet Manager in DPW. And now Scott and Phil will provide you with a presentation and answer any questions that you may have in association with our public safety fleet needs.

MR. MASTELLON:

Thank you again. My name is Scott Mastellon, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of the Police Department. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to come up and give a brief update with regard to the fleet maintenance services and Performance Management's efforts over the past few months with regard to this particular topic.

So I think it's pretty understood with regard to how we've gotten to this position. Funding for replacement vehicles has decreased dramatically over the past five to ten years. The age of the fleet has increased significantly in the last five to ten years, and the introduction of new Police Interceptors necessitated the additional time and resources to effectively deploy these new vehicles. In fact, in the BRO report on the 2015/2017 Capital Program, it states the Countywide public safety fleet is declining due to age, mileage, a lack of sufficient funding in the Operating Budget over the past several years to replace decommissioned vehicles.

So in looking at these, the age and the mileage associated with vehicles at the time of retirement or decommission, you can obviously see there is an uptick over the past few years, and this particular, these two charts represent two views of vehicles. The red line, which I believe you can see, is the entire fleet, and the top chart is associated with the age of that particular -- the average age of the vehicle at retirement. And the bottom line is a subset of police vehicles that are classified as sedans. These are commonly referred to as the patrol undercover or unmarked cars and they are the Crown Vics, the police Interceptors, the Taurus's, Malibu's, Fusion's, Impala's etcetera.

So in looking at these two classes you'll see that, again, the age of these vehicles has significantly increased over the past few years as well as the mileage specifically at retirement. And I think many of us realize here that many police vehicles operate on a 24/7 fashion. The average lifespan of a police vehicle is typically much less than a personal vehicle due to the, you know, constant wear and tear. The police vehicles require much more maintenance than do an actual general use vehicle, and the aging vehicles require more costly maintenance.

So, you know, what we've tried to do with regard to addressing some of the immediate needs is to, as Tom alluded to, to work collaboratively as a group. DPW, Suffolk County Police Department, and the {inaudible} office with regard to performance management has collaborated and has accomplished a number of items since we first got introduced into the project in late March. We were able to prioritize and deploy 47 patrol cars, using both internal and external resources. We've deployed two Marine Bureau marked SUV's, again, with both internal and external resources. We've ordered 15 unmarked sedans, and furthermore, prioritized 18 pending vehicles for build and deployment. This includes six patrol cars, nine marked SUV's, two marked vans and one marked mobile carrier unit.

This effort, as I mentioned, was an extremely collaborative effort, and really there were a number of key players here that I'd simply like to take the time out to recognize. In the Police Department, John Kirshey, Mike Postel, who are significantly involved in this process, and obviously through the leadership of Commissioner Webber and Chief White and their support was tremendous in this effort to do this. In addition, Mike James, who's here with us today and Ed Kenney from the DPW were extremely critical to these types of efforts, and obviously the DPW mechanics and the SCPD communication mechanics worked extremely diligently over the last few months to accomplish these feats, and thanks to the support of the Deputy Commissioner Phil Berdolt and the Commissioner, Gil Anderson. We're very appreciative of their efforts and I think that we've made some significant accomplishments.

MR. VAUGHN:

Just one thing that I would like to point out just briefly of what was Scott was touching on is, you know, last year we had had the conversations about we had bought new vehicles and these vehicles hadn't been deployed yet. And I think that we are getting ready on June 17th to be bringing you guys back the next piece of legislation to buy the next round of vehicles, and then that will go through the due process and then be, I think, eligible for a vote in July. And by the time that bill is before you guys, by the time it is eligible for a vote, all of the vehicles that were purchased in the last rounds of vehicle purchase will be out and being used by our officers. And they're all -- that actually, and I think I'm shortchanging the work that both P.D. and DPW have done, because actually I believe, and Phil correct me if I'm wrong, that those vehicles will all be out the door by the end of June, and they're all practically out the door right now.

So they have done some really fantastic work. We talked about their accomplishments a couple of meetings ago. I believe we're down to the last six or seven vehicles that need to get striping or radio packages or whatever they are. And that, as I said, that will be wrapped up before the end of June.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Now, so if we approve that resolution for the new vehicles June, July, when do you think you'll physically have those vehicles?

MR. BERDOLT:

It all depends on how rapidly we get them from the Ford dealership, but we're hoping by the end of the year.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And I think that's the issue, is you know, when we're saying we're going to buy the vehicles it's the timeline that they wind up sitting collecting dust, and are we going to be able to make sure that if we have these new vehicles come in that they're not going to be sitting for a long period.

MR. VAUGHN:

So actually, you must have seen Scott's presentation already.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right, right.

MR. VAUGHN:

Because that is actually an issue that he addresses in the presentation is the fact that we actually -- we actually learned some very important lessons, and I hope that I'm not stealing anybody's thunder. But we actually did learn some pretty important lessons, I think, from the last purchase of vehicles, and I think one of the best ways to think about it is that when we purchased vehicles in the last round, we purchased vehicles in the way that we had been purchasing back from a time when we had a lot of vehicles and things were a little bit more flush than they are right now. And like anything else, we need to kind of learn and adopt. And I think that through the work that both DPW and Performance Management and the Police Department have done, I don't think that we will be running into similar problems this next round through. I think that we've made some vast improvements and Scott will continue to walk us through this presentation where I think this is going to be addressed more fully.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. MASTELLON:

Thank you, Tom. So moving forward, as Tom alluded to, there are some 2014 and 2015 funding priorities we're looking at. Number, we have the 2014 Capital Budget that has five million dollars, and right now we're working with all the various public safety entities to ensure that the vehicles that are required are prioritized appropriately and purchased and ordered appropriately.

In addition to that, we have an additional five million that's being requested as part of the 2015 capital project, and we are evaluating every type of opportunity with regard to securing additional vehicles, whether it be through grants, whether it be through transferring from other departments as you approved prior with regard to some buses. So anything and everything is on the table with regard to how do we acquire new vehicles and/or, you know, bring in other vehicles to support the overall fleet.

Now, there are some specific goals that we're looking to achieve relative to the Suffolk County Police Department fleet. And within the next couple of years and first and foremost is to improve the fleet strength through the increased funding and purchasing of new vehicles. And as we saw in the previous slides, the age and average miles out of retirement has significantly increased and it's going to be a goal of ours to reduce and stabilize those values at retirement and through, and obviously this occurs through the purchase of new vehicles and the aging out of some of these older vehicles.

And additionally, we're going to look to reduce and stabilize the overall maintenance operating costs for the County fleet. And obviously, as we know, the County DPW is responsible for maintaining the police vehicles, so this is a big part of what's currently being evaluated and looked at.

MR. BERDOLT:

And also that the new vehicles have a longer warranty on them, up to 120,000 miles, so it's a fairly substantial warranty. So that will help us significantly.

MR. MASTELLON:

That's a great segue into the next slide. No, thank you. What are we really doing right this minute? Because we have a couple of different issues we're trying to deal with at this point in time. We have an immediate need to address the aging fleet and to ensure the operations are continued and public safety needs are met. In addition to that, we have to look at the overall operation and make determinations as to what is the best path forward with regard to how we operate our overall operation. So in the immediate short-term to address some of these specific issues we're prioritizing public safety vehicle repairs, so when a P.D. vehicle comes in or a general public safety vehicles comes in, it gets a priority and is worked on as quickly as possible given the --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But -- it will get a priority, but what about when the winter comes around and God forbid there's snow and you have, you know, equipment that needs to be out there on the roads with DPW vehicles.

MR. BERDOLT:

It will still be a priority for the rest of the mechanics that are still there.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. MASTELLON:

But in the same respect that's an excellent point in the sense that we need to understand what that demand is with regard to our administering and maintaining this fleet and ensure that we have the

appropriate, you know, resources in place to meet all those demands and include spikes during various seasonal things. So it's something that absolutely has to be looked at and we plan on doing that type of analysis to ensure that we are -- we come up with the most appropriate, you know, recommendations moving forward.

So as Phil indicated, making adjustments to address the fleet needs we have -- we are looking at a new, more expansive three year warranty. That includes 125,000 miles on our new police Interceptors, and that covers major vehicle components, many of the major vehicle components. In the past we've gotten a five year, 100,000 mile powertrain warranty that has provided limited warranty services. This is a more expansive warranty coverage and should enable us the ability to allow us to do a little bit more with the people that we have in the shop itself.

In addition to that, we have -- DPW has hired three new auto mechanics, one of which I believe is starting tomorrow. And that will certainly help as it relates to addressing the backlog of open work orders.

MR. BERDOLT:

Correct, and if I just -- they are strictly for car shops, the three new hires. Two are in Hauppauge and the one will be in the Yaphank car garage over by headquarters.

MR. MASTELLON:

In addition, we also reached out to Ford and tried to understand from them what are some of their recommendations with regard to best practices for vehicle maintenance on the new Police Interceptors. They provided us a number of pieces of valuable information to help us in troubleshooting various, you know, issues associated with the new vehicles, as well as provide us with additional resources and information with regard to training on how we can properly train our people to effectively service these vehicles. Obviously it's a newer vehicle that we don't have a lot of hours on, and these types of resources are invaluable moving forward.

In addition to that, we've also evaluated similar size municipal fleet operations to understand how they're doing things and whether or not there are things that we can glean from them to help us improve our overall operation.

So we look at what we're doing now moving forward with regard to vehicle replenishments, so as we are purchasing and prioritizing new vehicles, again, prioritization of the new vehicles are strictly based on need, justification, proper justification, and, you know, we are working collaboratively amongst all the different public safety entities to ensure that this is occurring. We're learning from past experiences, as Tom alluded to. Going ahead and purchasing 50 vehicles and allowing them to sit for a period of time, you know, may have not necessarily been the best approach. We have learned from that and we will look to understand what is our capacity to roll those vehicles out and look to acquire those vehicles, you know, based on that demand. And in the same respect, look to supplement, you know, different ways of how we could increase that -- our ability to push out vehicles as quickly as possible.

We're continuing to identify appropriate funding needs going forward. Again, based on the fact that there are a number of new vehicles in the fleet, we need to understand how they operate over a number of years, and as we get more information with regard to those types of vehicles, we'll be in a better position to understand, you know, what the replacement needs will become for those types of vehicles. And really evaluating every possible option to get the most out of our vehicles. It's so important to ensure that there are not vehicles that are simply sitting in a lot somewhere. And if there's an opportunity to utilize those vehicles in an efficient fashion, in such a way that we could get something out of them, we're going to look at that. So more or less, you know, all these different options are being evaluated and we're simply supporting this process moving forward to

ensure vehicles are replenished appropriately.

So what are our next steps? So as I mentioned, we are actively working collaboratively to ensure that the critical nature of priorities are being met. So as new police vehicles are needed, we will work with whoever needs to be worked with to address those and deploy those vehicles. But on a parallel path, what we're trying to do is understand how it is best to, you know, kind of run the operation moving forward, and that's an overall plan that is under development at this point in time. And it has four major components as we're laying out right now, first of which is the staff development and training. So it's extremely critical to understand, you know, the necessary resources to support this overall fleet and understand how potential cross training could be implemented.

Succession planning. We have a number of mechanics that are -- have a significant number of years of service and potentially will retire in a short number of years, so how do we effectively replace those individuals and ensure that we don't lose any real knowledge. How do we attract and retain qualified personnel moving forward and how can we support overall management team building with regard to staff development.

The second major component of this overall plan is our operating procedures, and it's really a matter of standardizing the operation. Given the staffing levels as it is currently today, they're very much restricted as to what they can do, and they're forced to work on many, many critical and priority related items. And the idea here is to better understand the way that we could manage this particular operation through balance, flow, capacity to demands, managing the internal versus the external repairs, setting our inventory controls appropriately, updating our SOP's and improving our overall communications.

Thirdly, funding, which obviously is extremely important as well. And to determine what is the appropriate vehicle replacement associated with the different classes of vehicles that we have. Whether or not we should go Operating or Capital. Obviously we're moving in a Capital direction. BRO has recommended that considerations be given to go back to Operating moving forward. You know, these types of things are being evaluated at this point so that we can make the best determination moving forward. What types of equipment and tools for mechanics are required. And are there necessarily facility upgrades that are necessary to support this particular of operation.

And the fourth component is our technology. Currently right now the DPW Fleet Management is managed by one system. That system is somewhat underutilized, and what we're looking to do is to improve upon that system and working with the vendor to better understand what enhancements and/or extended capabilities we're not using that we can use to effectively help us with the overall operation. This includes inventory control, preventive maintenance, general fleet management, diagnostics and analysis. So, you know, this is something that, you know, we're going to try to attempt to improve our ability to gather information, analyze information, and be in a better position to make decisions based upon the information that's in the system.

So again, just to reiterate the fact that we are on two parallel tracks here addressing all critical issues with regard to the deployment and the issuing of new vehicles, public safety and non-public safety, and working on an overall plan that will enable us the ability to put forth appropriate recommendations on how the operation in itself should be defined and operated moving forward. That was the end of our short presentation here. Obviously if you have any questions.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Yeah, there are a few questions. And, you know, you were talking about retention and hiring of new people because of the -- we're going to have retirements. And I know that Suffolk Community College has an automotive program. Should we be doing a partnership with our

community college when it comes to hiring. Clearly, we've got young people going for the program and they're going to need jobs when they get out. It would be nice if they could move into the County.

Again, I've said it in the past, because I know that the number of maintenance mechanics is less than from when the DPW was separate from the P.D. shop. There used to be a shop just for the P.D., and the numbers now in DPW are much less than what they used to be. Is that a consideration -- I know we have a few guys at a couple of precincts, I believe, but is -- you know, has there been any discussion to now maybe create a new motor pool for the Police Department alone?

MR. MASTELLON:

At this point all options are on the table and we're evaluating all options. That is an option that needs to be considered.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And Legislator Kennedy, you have a question?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes, I do, Madam Chair. As a matter of fact, I have a few of them. Thank you very much. And thank you for that presentation. So as you were talking, I just tried to jot down a couple of different notes. The warranty that you spoke about, that you were exploring an enhanced warranty. The warranty these vehicles came to us with now is 100,000 mile? I'm sorry, that piece I didn't hear. What do we have now and what are you trying to get?

MR. BERDOLT:

All the new vehicles that have been purchased that we have now, the new Interceptors -- well, first I think they were 100, but we increased it to 125,000.

LEG. KENNEDY:

We had that option to go -- to step up.

MR. BERDOLT:

Correct, yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Is it just straight milage or is it the alternative miles or years.

MR. BERDOLT:

Three years, 125.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Three years or 125, whichever we hit first.

MR. BERDOLT:

Correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And what would the enhanced warranty be and what would the cost of that be? Do we pick up another year? Do we pick up miles? Do we pick up greater coverage?

MR. JAMES:

Mike James, Fleet Manager. The standard warranty is 3/36.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. JAMES:

We at the time we wrote the contract, it was available to go to three year, 125.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. JAMES:

Currently we could go to a four year/125, that is an option. Cost wise, it's in the two thousand dollar range.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And what are your -- what are your metrics showing? One of the slides there I thought I saw we have average age on vehicles, the blue line was P.D., I guess. That was going to six years, I think, and mileage, we looked like we were going to what, 110, 120,000, somewhere around there?

MR. MASTELLON:

That's correct. And the P.D. was a subset of the P.D. vehicles specifically --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes. The P.D. was the blue line, right?

MR. MASTELLON:

That's correct, yes.

MR. BERDOLT:

Legislator Kennedy, that was also mostly on the Crown Vics.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oh, I see.

MR. BERDOLT:

We've got a new vehicle coming into play here, the Interceptors.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So you don't have that same history yet to try to age out with our Taurus's.

MR. BERDOLT:

Right. We don't know what it will -- how it will -- how the age will fare yet.

LEG. KENNEDY:

What do we have so far? We've used them now one year, two years, three years? What do we have with the Tauruses so far?

MR. JAMES:

They were introduced in 2013.

LEG. KENNEDY:

2013 so --

MR. JAMES:

It was late 2012 that they were available.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You probably rack up out of a precinct what 30, 35 maybe even 40,000 in a year if you've got it going that frequent?

MR. JAMES:

I would say at least, right.

MR. MASTELLON:

Yeah, I would say 30 to 40.

MR. JAMES:

I would say at least.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So you have -- you probably have a couple of them that look like they have 60, 70,000 miles on them by now.

MR. JAMES:

Yes. I think we have three approaching the 100,000.

LEG. KENNEDY:

We do. Okay. Okay. In '13, and here we are mid-'14 and we're approaching that. So that really is a question then whether you're going to do a cost benefit analysis on whether or not it's worthwhile to step up for the enhanced warranty or not, or you're just going to hit a point where you decom. What are you doing with decom? You are still holding at 125 or is it vehicle by vehicle?

MR. JAMES:

We are using -- budgetary I used the 130 mark. The warranty to the 125, I figured we could get the 5,000 more out of that on the safe side.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Now, let's go to -- so, Mr. Mastellon, you talked about, and I was the one in particular that, you know, along with some of my colleagues jumped up and down about the fact that last year we took delivery on vehicles and they sat on the parking lot for five, six, seven months or something like that. So as to this next purchase, you're talking about the five million in capital for 2014, which has to equate to another, I don't know, 100 vehicles maybe? One-hundred and ten, 120? Do we have an idea yet?

MR. VAUGHN:

Legislator Kennedy, part of the reason that you don't have that five million dollar resolution in front of you yet is that the exact number of vehicles and what is going to be purchased out of that vehicles is still being evaluated, and that's why it's not coming forward until the June 17th meeting. One of the things that DPW is looking at now is not just Police Interceptors, but also vehicles across the entire public safety spectrum.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Well, yes, and I know that there are couple of different things, I know Marine Bureau needs vehicles, there's the four-wheels, there's the decision on the Explorers for Highway, a couple of different things, I guess, that we're looking at. So that's still yet to be determined.

And by the way, Tom, just for a point for that. I've asked for this before. When we go to this bond in particular, I'm going to ask that it be segregated and that it be a separate five year bond, or whatever, six year. One of the things that a number of us have talked about is, you know, there's a threshold decision between operating and capital. If it has to be capital, and I get it, we're in a tight time. Very few people go out today and buy a car all cash, so there is some justification, but there is no justification to go 18 years on a vehicle.

(The following was taken by Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer, and transcribed by Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Can I jump in, because that was a question that I had asked. Connie Corso did say that the Comptroller has the opportunity, and he does do that, is not bond it out for 18 years, but a five year bond.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So it is being done that way?

MR. VAUGHN:

Legislator Kennedy, Connie Corso did speak with Legislator Browning and talk about it. And as with a lot of things financial, despite the fact that I have an MBA sometimes I just don't understand them as well as I would like to. However, my understanding is that while it may be an 18 year or extended bond, what the Comptroller has is the flexibility to pay that bond off early, and he is doing that. So for when we are purchasing things like vehicles, those bond are being paid off earlier. But when I don't have a complete understanding of things I like to defer to the experts, so when we get into that conversation about how we're going to pay off the vehicles and the way that they're going to be specifically bonded, we'll make sure we have the right people to answer the right questions on that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Fine, and I didn't expect we were going to go ahead and make that determination. This is more of an I'm suggesting to you or asking or requesting as to this particular commodity purchase we utilize a shorter term debt instrument.

MR. VAUGHN:

And I certainly do understand and hear what you are saying, but I do -- I would also want the experts on how we pay off that to kind of weigh in on that because I -- like with so many things, I'm not sure if it's just that simple.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So let me shift over to these gentleman, who have a lot of important work to do with vehicles. Mike, I'm just going to ask about three different items, none of which I expect you have right on your fingertips, but I'd like to find out as we go forward. We do have a provision in the Charter, as a matter of fact, or in the Administrative Code, that talks about like an annual compilation regarding all of the vehicles that we have in the County. I haven't seen it in a couple of years. I would be interested when it's available. I forget if it's a particular month in the year where the department produces it or if it's, you know, at request. But these three items in the subset, and I'm going to speak specifically just about police sedans now. How many operational vehicles do we have as of today, how many new vehicles do we have that are being prepared right now. And when I say that, prepared is a wide open kind of thing I believe, because that reflects our striping, it reflects the electronics installation, I guess, for our laptops and I think our light bar configuration and things like that. All of those are enhancements we do after we take the delivery of the base vehicle from Ford, right?

MR. JAMES:

What we have done, what's been done on the last vehicles is we take delivery of the vehicle, we install the fuel system and check the vehicle. We transport it to --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Hold on one second. When you say fuel system, so in other words, we're stepping up or enhancing it? What does it come with, a 20 gallon gas tank and we throw in a 40 gallon?

MR. BERDOLT:

Just fueling.

MR. JAMES:

A fueling system that the County uses.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oh, our reader ring. Okay.

MR. JAMES:

Exactly.

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right.

MR. JAMES:

We install the fuel system. It goes to the vendor for decaling, lights installed, and now the console and wiring so that the radio and computer can be installed. It would be a plug and play.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So really then that piece of it from the time we roll it off the car carrier to the time we can have an officer go in seems to have been compressed considerably by virtue of the fact that we're using vendors to do a number of those functions.

MR. JAMES:

That's correct.

MR. BERDOLT:

Correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And that's relatively new?

MR. BERDOLT:

Yes.

MR. JAMES:

That was done on the -- a combination of the last 40 vehicles I would say.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. JAMES:

We did do a collaboration between Police Radio Shop and DPW mechanics to do that work and we also had Mobile Fleet, the vendor, do a complete job.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Did you do a cost comparison with that as far as costing out what it would have been for an additional County employee for the man hours, the person hours, as compared to what the vendor is turning around for us and that cost per unit?

MR. BERDOLT:

Yes, we did.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You did.

MR. BERDOLT:

And they're almost identical.

LEG. KENNEDY:

They are.

MR. BERDOLT:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, all right. That's good to know.

MR. MASTELLON:

I'd like to point out if I could, Legislator Kennedy, that what we're looking to do, while that was successful and we're able to compress that time, how we're looking for an opportunity to take some time to see how well those vehicles are actually -- were operating in the field. So if there are issues and whatnot that are coming up on a long-term basis or even a short-term basis, we can evaluate that and put that into the overall equation to determine whether or not that effort was effectively successful.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, is that going to impact what we see before us on June 17th as far as the order for this next round of vehicles? I mean, is it safe to assume we're going to have more Taurus's? I would imagine.

MR. MASTELLON:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

That really is the only law enforcement type vehicle that's being produced right now, right?

MR. BERDOLT:

Correct. That's what we're purchasing, yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, that we're purchasing.

MR. BERDOLT:

Yeah, for patrol.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And that's all I want to talk about. I don't want to talk about anything else. All right. Let me go

down just a couple of other quick questions. My colleagues have been very patient while I've gone through this. Do we have GPS in our cars, our police cars?

MR. MASTELLON:

Yes, we do.

LEG. KENNEDY:

We do. So that somebody is able to go ahead and get a look at, you know, especially if we have a vehicle that's been idle somehow or has to go in a particular area, that's something that somebody remotely is able to go ahead and see.

MR. MASTELLON:

That is my understanding, yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, that's your understanding. Is that -- how about the guys from the P D. Captain?

CAPTAIN WARING:

I would have to look into that and get back to you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You'd have to look into that.

MR. VAUGHN:

Legislator, I'm sorry. What was the question?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Do we have GPS in the cars. We do. I see a couple of heads nodding. Somebody is able to see remotely about a particular vehicle if for some reason it's in a place other than where we thought it might be or if it's idle for a period of time or something like that?

MR. VAUGHN:

We will confirm that, Legislator.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, good. Thank you. Cost per unit. I can talk to Mr. James about, you know, the periodic maintenance or the preventive maintenance. We're hitting that. Last question, a computer decision. We continue to use the Toughbooks right now? I believe, and again, I guess I'm posing this for the folks over from the P D. Gentlemen, ladies, Captain, we're using the Toughbooks computer in the cars?

MR. MASTELLON:

I apologize. I think I can answer that. Yes, the new vehicles are utilizing Toughbooks.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, and that's based on the fact that we know that -- I know there is a very -- that is a laptop that you can throw off a building and it basically will stand up and keep working.

MR. MASTELLON:

Well, maybe not so much off a building, however, it does have a specific height.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It's got an exterior skin to it that's metal or something like that. It's very resilient.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

John, did you see the new computers that they have?

LEG. KENNEDY:

No, the only ones I've seen in the cars are the Toughbooks.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go to 4th Precinct and go take a peek because --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Are you switching those up?

MR. BERDOLT:

Well, Legislator, what they're doing now is their putting the console, the laptop itself in the trunk, and then there's a remote monitor in the cab with a remote keyboard in the cab. So actually now they'll even have two stations. So if they come to a crime scene or an accident they can actually open the trunk, slide the drawer out, and they can do work from standing up in the back also besides in the vehicle itself. So it's actually -- it's a nice configuration. But the body itself is now mounted in the truck.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I will go over and look then. Okay, that's good.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I have had an opportunity to see how the computers are. I talked to the guys that are in the cars and they love them, because now the laptops are not just stuck there in front of them. They're actually able to move the screen away, they're actually able to move the keyboard away, and even if someone's in the passenger seat with them. Everything is a bit more movable than what it used to be, so they seem to be happy with them. They seem to like them.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. That's all I have for now. Thank you very, much gentleman. I appreciate it. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I have a question for you with regards -- I know we're kind of more talking a lot about the marked cars. I believe there's about 15 unmarked cars that have to be put out on the road yet.

MR. BERDOLT:

We just ordered 15 new Chevy Impalas. We're about four weeks into the order, and we figure another four weeks possibly. Do not hold me to that, we're at the mercy of the dealership. But they'll be in soon.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So you're figuring about four weeks. Okay. Because, again, I hear, too, about too often the unmarked cars and the guys who are driving those, their cars are in the shop for extended periods of time, so we'd appreciate, you know, sooner than later would be much appreciated.

Any other questions? No? Excellent. So, well thank you for doing everything. And again, I will continue to say due to the shortage of mechanics that we have in DPW, I would like us to maybe start having a conversation. I did speak with the Commissioner to let's look at creating a motor pool for the P D. You know, the Sheriff's Department has a motor pool for their vehicles. And I know that these are newer cars and probably a little less maintenance than normal, but I do think

that at some point in time it is something that we should consider, is having a separate motor pool for public safety. Not to take it away from the DPW guys. I know they're doing a good job, but the pressure's on them, especially when the winter weather gets here and the maintenance of those vehicles that they have to make sure that they're out on the road. So with that, no more questions and I thank you.

And I know we lost our Probation Director, and I'll apologize to her later, that we -- she sat here for a long period of time, but I don't think -- is there anyone else in the room that I'm missing? I don't think anybody's here from the Sheriff's Department. I don't think anybody is here from FRES. So, Tom, do you have anything you need to add? I know Monday we'll have the ME will -- the new ME will be here.

MR. VAUGHN:

Yes, the perspective Medical Examiner will be here on Monday. We never like to count our chickens before they're hatched so we will keep referring to him as the perspective Medical Examiner until you guys appoint him. But I don't have anything to add other than that I just hope that you all have a wonderful weekend.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We will. Thank you. So with that, no more on the agenda. I'll make a motion to adjourn. Second by Legislator Spencer. And we are adjourned.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. *)*