

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, June 12th, 2014, at 10 AM.

Members Present:

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

Also in Attendance:

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory - Legislative District No. 15
Legislator Robert Trotta - Legislative District #13
George Nolan - Counsel to the Suffolk County Legislature
Lora Gellerstein - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Diane Dono - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Bill Shilling - Aide to Legislator Calarco
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory
Liz Alexander - Aide to Legislator Spencer
Bill Healy - Intern/Legislator Spencer's Office
Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy
Susan Eckert - Aide to Legislator Trotta
Brendan Chamberlain - Aide to Legislator Muratore
Tom Vaughn - County Executive's Office
Phyllis Seidman - County Attorney's Office
Elaine Siegmund - Intern/County Attorney's Office
Joseph Busweiler - Lieutenant/Chief of Department's Office/SCPD
Charles Leser - Sergeant/Chief of Department's Office/SCPD
Patrice Dlhopsky - Probation Director
Tracy Pollak - Suffolk County Police Department
Ed Moltzen - Assistant to the Commissioner/FRES
Thomas O'Hara - FRES/OEM Staff
Bob Sheron - FRES/Planning Aide
Tim Morris - President/Superior Officers Association
Jim Roddin - Superior Officers Association
Jim Gruenfelder - Superior Officers Association
Lou Tuttone - 1st Vice-President/Police Benevolent Association
Laura Ahearn - Executive Director/Parents for Megan's Law
Dan Wilson - System Engineer
Mark Fletcher - Chief Architect/Avaya
Henry Hunt - Resident of Longview, Texas
DaLonna Hunt - Resident of Longview, Texas
Suzanne McBride - AME Police Emergency Unit President

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 10:10 A.M.*)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, good morning. We'll start the Public Safety meeting. If everyone could please stand, we will have the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Hahn.

Salutation

If everyone could please stand for a moment of silence for those who defend our country, both home and aboard. And also a moment of prayer for the young woman, Ms. Goode, who's been missing for a few days and hope that her family finds her.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you. Okay, we have a couple of cards, and our first speaker is Mark Fletcher.

MR. FLETCHER:

Good morning. Thank you for your time here this morning. I'm Mark Fletcher, I'm the Chief Architect with Public Safety Solutions at Avaya, we're a telecommunications provider that manufacturers telephone systems commonly referred to as PBX or multi-line telephone systems.

I'm here today, we were holding a session within New York City for our customers and distributors that was very timely to this particular topic. Laws are needed when ethics fail. And just yesterday I spoke to a company that it purchased a brand new telephone system, had it installed, actually paid extra to have 911 provisioning done in that system and signed off on a check list that said everything had been tested. Within a couple of weeks, they had a 911 incident on that property and 911 showed up at another building, some 20, 30 miles away.

This is a problem of public education, this is a problem of not having any laws in the country that address this, very few laws. There are 18 states that do cover this. Gary's Law, which we're going to hear a little more about today, is one that addresses this not only in hotel/motels, but offices, schools. It's a simple problem to fix. It's not a financial issue, it's not a technology issue, it's just one of public awareness. And I really appreciate your time here today to raise this. And if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. Thank you

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I believe there's no questions, but thank you for coming.

MR. FLETCHER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Next speaker is Henry Hunt.

MR. HUNT:

My name is Henry Hunt, I'm from Longview, Texas, and I appreciate the invitation to be here to speak today. The reason I'm here is along the lines of what Mr. Fletcher just spoke to you about. On December 1st, this past December, my daughter took her three children to a hotel in Marshal, Texas, to meet with her estranged husband with whom she had separated from for a visit. Upon arriving at the hotel, they changed car seats to another car. For some reason, we're not sure, she entered the hotel with him where he pushed her into the hotel's restroom and began attacking her.

During this attack, she yelled at her 9-year old daughter, the oldest of the three kids, to call 911, which she proceeded to do. But she had to try four times, and each time she dialed 911 from the hotel room, the telephone in the hotel room, she received static or a busy signal. Because at 9-years old, we don't teach our children that in some buildings you have to dial a nine first to get out; she didn't know that. She did what she was taught. Our police cars have 911 on the side, that's what we teach our children in schools. Parents teach their children, *Dial 911 if you ever need help*. That's what she did, and instead of hearing, *911, what is your emergency*, she heard nothing except her mother being murdered. My daughter died from her injuries at that hotel. The three children were pushed out -- her youngest -- she pushed her younger siblings out into the hallway and ran for help, couldn't find any until she began banging on other hotel doors and someone finally answered and dialed 911 for her.

It is my firm belief that she saved those three children's lives by her actions. Could my daughter had been saved had she gotten through to 911? We'll never know. He brutally murdered her and we don't know to what extent and at what point the injuries she received was what killed her. Had he heard sirens and stopped before the damage had been done permanently, we don't know. But I do know this; when a child is mature enough and brave enough at 9-years old, in a situation like that, hearing her mother being murdered, to still be able to dial 911 four times, make the attempt, she needs to be answered.

What I'm proposing and what I am asking is that we eliminate pre-fixed numbers for telephones at hotels and motels, office buildings, especially schools. Schools where we teach children to dial 911, they will not be able to. There's a 99% chance they will not be able to. A lot of people will tell you that the cost is not conducive to them being able to do business. Ninety percent of the situation there's a programming problem, 20 minutes is done with. It's not new equipment that they need to purchase. In some instances that might be the case, but from my standpoint, I don't want another 9-year old to go through what she went through or another mother to go through what my daughter went through. And if you would consider helping that out here.

It's a public safety matter for any hotel that you go to. The one I'm staying at right now in New York City, if you dial 911 the front desk answers, and I do not believe any of them are trained EMS technicians. Those are the ones I want to talk to, not a hotel desk clerk.

So there's a lot of laws that I thought were already in place and they're not. There's a lot of factors when it comes to 911 and I think that's what it should be -- should just be that, is three digits, 911, that's why it was created. If you would, please consider that bill, and I appreciate you letting us speak today. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Mr. Hunt. And again, I think all of us, we're very sorry for your loss. The bill itself today does have to be tabled for public hearing. We have to go to public hearing, I'm assuming the sponsor will close it at the next one, and then the following committee meeting is when we'll pass it again.

MR. HUNT:

Great.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So I'm pretty confident it will be successful.

MR. HUNT:

I appreciate that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Is there anyone else in the room who would like to speak? Anyone else in the room?

Okay. With that, we'll go to the agenda.

LEG. HAHN:

Are you bringing forward anyone from the departments?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yes. I know, what was I thinking? *(Laughter)*.

LEG. HAHN:

Usually that's the first thing.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I'm not trying to rush anything, right? I don't believe Commissioner Williams is here from FRES, and I don't think there's anyone here from -- huh?

LEG. CALARCO:

FRES is here.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, there you are. I'm sorry, yes, you are here. Do you guys have anything you'd like to comment on? Come on up. No? Okay. No comments, no questions, okay. And I don't think the Sheriff's Department. Probation is here. Patrice, always good to see you. Do we have a date on a class? I don't know if --

LEG. CALARCO:

(Laughter).

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We'll keep asking until we get a date. How are we doing with Probation?

MS. DLHOPOLSKY:

I can't tell you what date the class is going to start, but I can tell you that we have signed SCIN forms and we have sent out the canvas letters.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

How many?

MS. DLHOPOLSKY:

Ten, ten, and we have sent out the canvas letters. The exact date truthfully is somewhat dependent on the Health Department, because the Health Department does our physical exams, psychological testing and agility. So, you know, we have to wait until -- once we do the interviews, we refer them to then and we find out what dates they can accommodate for appointments, but we are definitely looking at a class in September. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MS. DLHOPOLSKY:

It's good news.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, I hope so. We know we need them.

MS. DLHOPOLSKY:

Yes. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So, thank you. And I don't think there's anyone else in the room. Does anybody have any questions?

LEG. HAHN:

(Inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Do you have a question for them?

LEG. HAHN:

No, but I do -- I did want to talk about -- the Sheriff's representatives aren't here?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, they're not here today. They had another meeting that they had to attend that they're not able to be here.

LEG. HAHN:

Because I wanted to bring up what was in -- it's now been a week since this article in Newsday. And Kate, I know -- I'm aware that you sent some letters asking about it and I wanted to ask you if there's been any response yet.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

What I've done so far, I sent a letter to the Director of Civil Service, Alan Schneider. He has responded that he does not have the candidate questionnaire that I had requested for the investigation.

I would hope that an investigation will occur and we'll move forward.

I did also send a letter to the District Attorney and to the Attorney General requesting that they look into the candidate questionnaire to see if there was anything possibly criminal. I would be happy to share the letter with you and any member of the committee.

You know, it's funny. We talk about, you know, our kids in school and bullies, and I feel that, you know, when someone chooses to put their hands on someone against their will, forcefully forces themselves on someone, they're a bully. And in my opinion -- this is a sex offender. And again, I'm appalled that this is a person who works in law enforcement, and is also working in the jail where there are female prisoners.

So I am not taking it lightly. I don't think any Legislator or any elected official should take it lightly. We have laws that have been put on the books regarding bullies in schools. This is -- you know, we talk about how serious that is, and in my opinion, this is probably the bully of all bullies in Suffolk County and I will not let it go.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you. I appreciate your leadership on this issue. In my mind, as you know, as a social worker, as a woman Legislator, there are so many serious concerns as a result of this story, so many. You know, the first being, obviously, this individual's record of sex offense, felony, criminal mischief, his position of power, like you mentioned, in a jail where he has authority over extremely

vulnerable, powerless women. And, you know -- but that's -- I understand there are people exploring available options there and, you know. But number two, you know, if that could happen, someone could have an arrest on a sex offense and whatever they called it, however it was dealt with and there was probation; you know, do we have -- are there others? My other two concerns are could there be others in that jail in position of power over women, over very vulnerable people?

And so is there any way to know? You know, is this something that was systematically done? You know, now I think we're -- thanks to folks like Parents for Megan's Law, some very high profile events, you know, decades later we -- we're much more in tune to this kind of thing and recognize the severity of it, the devastation of that kind of abuse and that kind of crime and attack on a person and what that means. But, you know, over the years, when it wasn't so public, it wasn't so recognized, people weren't willing to talk about sex offenses, even use that word in public and, you know, were things ignored, were things overlooked or waived, or however you want to refer to it? And how do we get at that? How many people in positions of power over these very vulnerable people have this kind of background? And that's very concerning to me. Is there a way to know that?

And then obviously we may need some sort of systematic change. How do we keep this from happening again? How can we make sure that you can't, you know, whether it's lying on your application that you have an arrest and then get into a public safety job, or whether you've been arrested for this type of crime and get into a jail where you have authority over very vulnerable, powerless people. I think we need to take a serious look at this and I'm willing to work with you, Kate, to do that.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, I appreciate it. Because I agree, I don't think we should allow this to happen again, and I've spoken to George about what can we do to prevent something like this occurring again. And again, like I say, is when no one stands up to this person, he's only a person, you know, and he's certainly nobody special in my eyes. So I do believe that when everybody stands up against him, just like we tell our kids in school, you know, when there's a bully in school, you have to stand up against them and you can't allow them to take control, and that is something that as long as he's allowed to continue to get away with what he did, he'll continue to be the person he is. And, you know, they say the leopard doesn't change its spots, and I absolutely believe in that.

So we will continue to -- I will work with George. I have spoken with Laura, Laura Ahearn from Megan's Law, and I think that we absolutely should be looking to see what we can do to change. And again, it's an embarrassment of Suffolk County, it's an embarrassment of Suffolk County government and politics, and politicians here in Suffolk County that this kind of thing has occurred. And what -- what makes it even worse is the number of phone calls that I've received from people who had experiences with him in the past and have basically said, "*Thank you. Thank you for coming out and saying what you've said,*" and, "*It's about time.*" So there are a number of people, but again, a lot of them are afraid.

LEG. HAHN:

Do we know if -- well, I don't think we want to get into the specific case yet, but there may be a time and a place for that. But I thank you for your leadership on this. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Kate?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

DuWayne?

LEG. GREGORY:

I just wanted to chime in and say that I think we're all saddened, alarmed, frustrated, on some level angry, disappointed in some of the allegations that were outlined in the report, in the Newsday article. And I'm confident, with all the attention that's been brought to the issue, that some aspect of law enforcement will investigate it fully and it will come to its rightful conclusion.

But you're right, this is particularly offensive when it's -- you know, these types of allegations happen with the law enforcement community. And they're held to a higher level of trust, sacred trust and, you know, they're expected to, you know, live by a higher standard and to, you know, speak to the allegations that have been lodged. It's very disappointing. But I'm confident that, you know, whether it be the District Attorney or the Attorney General or some other agency, that they'll get to the bottom of it. But it certainly wouldn't have been done without your leadership on this issue.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, thank you. But, you know, again, on the political side, I think people need to stand up and take a position on that person and the power that they use here in Suffolk County, and I think it's time, you know. I'm sorry, I don't see taking the endorsement of, in my opinion, a sex offender; I certainly would not. And in my district, believe me, that's a big issue. So to tell people in my district that you're running with the endorsement of this individual? Shame on them, absolute shame on them, and I think that they need to stand up. This is an election year, too, and people need to stand up against them, and that's the only way to make a change. So anyway --

LEG. HAHN:

One more thing.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- I guess I'll get off the soap box, but I'm not giving up on it.

LEG. HAHN:

Just one more thing, and I alluded to it before, but it can't just be about this one individual. It's a high profile case because it's somebody with, you know, a title. We need to be certain that this kind of, you know -- like when the ignoring, overlooking happened, the title didn't exist then, and this kind of thing can't happen again and we've got to make sure it didn't happen more than one time in the past.

And that's got to be part of this, not just about this one individual.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Absolutely. But again, we'll continue to work on it.

So with that, we'll go to the agenda.

Tabled Resolutions

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

LEG. SPENCER:

Motion to approve.

P.O. GREGORY:
Second.

LEG. HAHN:
Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
There is a motion to approve and a motion to table. Motion to table. Is there a second on the table?

LEG. KENNEDY:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
Second by -- okay, so the motion to table takes precedent. The motion was Legislator Hahn and second, Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. SPENCER:
Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
Abstentions?

LEG. GREGORY:
Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
Okay. So two oppositions, *it is tabled (VOTE: 5-2-0-0 Opposed: Legislator Spencer & Presiding Officer Gregory)*.

1324-14 - Directing all County departments and agencies to update multi-line telephone systems to directly dial 911 (Trotta). Do we -- I think he was waiting for a financial impact.

LEG. KENNEDY:
I had a conversation with the sponsor. My understanding, maybe the Administration can tell us, one of them was at a point where it could be moved, the other one we're still trying to work. Through the Chair, maybe Mr. Vaughn has some input for us?

Mr. Vaughn, do you have any -- the last time we discussed the bill that would deal specifically with our County Telecommunication system, I believe we were awaiting some type of a price quote from our provider, whoever it is, AT&T or Verizon or whomever?

MR. VAUGHN:
Yes, Legislator Kennedy. It was -- it is and was Verizon. We are still -- I have not received any new information from Verizon as of yet. The time estimate that we were given was four to six weeks, we are still within that -- we're still within that four to six weeks, it's just that we've been on a very tight committee schedule and the four to six weeks hasn't elapsed that Verizon said it was going to take for them to get back to us on this.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Um --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:
John, I did speak with him earlier and he did say, you know, that it needed to be tabled. Because

there's the two 911 bills, and I know that this one he had requested to table and the other one is still in public hearings.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Who -- Tom, who has that Verizon contact; who's doing that? Is that our Telecommunications people, is that IT?

MR. VAUGHN:

Sure. Pat Connolly specifically has been the person who's been in communications with Verizon.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Who is that?

MR. VAUGHN:

Pat Connolly from over in IT --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. VAUGHN:

-- has been in communication with them, and he's working under Doug Miller who's the Acting Commissioner of IT.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure, sure. Okay. All right, that's fine. So I guess we'll look for it to table then. Thank you very much.

MR. VAUGHN:

Can I just --

LEG. HAHN:

I have a question.

MR. VAUGHN:

I'm sorry, I would just like to reiterate just, again, this is not a -- this is not a piece of legislation that we have any sort of concerns with other than to understand the full ramifications prior to adoption.

LEG. HAHN:

When is this supposed to take effect?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

George?

LEG. HAHN:

I mean --

MR. VAUGHN:

It's not my bill, I don't know.

MR. NOLAN:

It's a resolution, so it would take effect immediately upon its signature by the County Executive. But I think there's an understanding it would probably take some time to implement it, even though it's not stated in the resolution.

LEG. HAHN:

Right. And, I mean, what's going to happen? Verizon's going to -- you know. There's like -- how much could this cost, really? And could you come back to us and say, *This is excessive (laughter)*. Like I think that this is -- like a ridiculous time to have to wait for this.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'll speak to the sponsor today. But more importantly, that's why I wanted to know who the particular individual is from IT; I'll pick the phone up to them as well.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right. I did speak with the sponsor, because we had the Hunt Family was here for the other bill.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And, you know, he did say to me that they were still waiting for some information on the County one, so he did tell me to, you know, go ahead and have it tabled. The other one we have to table for public hearing. You know, hopefully the other one will get done a lot sooner.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'll speak to the sponsor and I'll call IT today. I'll get some kind of an answer. What I would say is win, lose or draw, I'm prepared to make the motion when we come into the next cycle at the end of July.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure.

LEG. KENNEDY:

By that point, if the cost information is not before us, then we're just going to have to deal with it, regardless of what they ultimately put into us. That will have been more than ample time for the parties to kind of get their stuff together.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right. And, you know, honestly, I look at that one and the other one, they're both -- what's the difference? You know, it's the same technology.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, I think it's similar to what we did with carbon monoxide. I mean, certainly within our own buildings and our own structures, we can move and we can move quite quickly. When we're directing an improvement that's going to go on at the world at large, we have to deal with Town codes and things along those lines.

LEG. HAHN:

Yeah. I think that I'm pretty sure we have support to pass this telling the businesses out there to do it. And if we're going to tell the businesses out there to do it, we need to do it, regardless of what it costs us to do. This is an -- you know, this is to prevent an emergency situation like that one happening again. And if we're going to tell businesses go out and do it regardless of cost, we need to do it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right.

LEG. HAHN:

Knowing that, you know, there'll be a cost, but we have to do it to prevent that kind of tragedy from happening again. And for us just to fumble over -- you know, I just --

LEG. KENNEDY:

I don't disagree with anybody as far as the need to go forward with this. I would say that I believe the sponsor is working in earnest with the Exec's Office attempting to try to quantify what the impact is and the timeline is. I haven't dealt with it directly, so I have to rely on their representations.

MR. VAUGHN:

Right. And I would certainly take slight umbrage with the term fumbling. This is not something that anybody does not take seriously, this is not something that we're just like, *Well, you know, let's wait and see what happens.* All this is is an earnest attempt to understand the full ramifications of what we're getting ready to do. We need that information from Verizon, Verizon laid out a timeline. I'm not in love with the timeline that Verizon laid out, but it's the timeline that was presented to us. We're still operating within that timeline, that's where we're at this point in time.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good. So I -- we didn't get a motion, did we?

MS. GELLERSTEIN:

No.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Well, I'll make the motion to table. Do we have a second?

LEG. SPENCER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

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

LEG. HAHN:

Opposed. I'm opposed to tabling.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Opposed to tabling, Legislator Hahn. ***It is tabled (VOTE: 6-1-0-0 - Opposed: Legislator Hahn).***

1325-14 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Local Law to ensure access to emergency services via telephone (Trotta). I'll make a motion to table for public hearing.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

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

1387-14 - Appointing Peter Gunther as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board (Spencer).

LEG. SPENCER:

We're working on it. Motion to table.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to table by Legislator Spencer. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's tabled (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).*

1390-14 - 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). I believe that has to be tabled for public hearing again. There were some changes?

MR. NOLAN:

There were major changes to the bill, so the public hearing has to be reopened.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So it is -- I'll make that motion to table for public hearing.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's tabled for public hearing (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).*

Introductory Resolutions

1508-14 - Authorizing transfer of surplus County property to Nissequogue Fire Department (Kennedy).

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm going to ask for a motion to table on this, Madam Chair. There is some underlying issues that we have to work out with the transfer from PD to the department, so.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

What are we transferring?

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm sorry?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

What is it?

LEG. KENNEDY:

There's some -- there's some question as to -- two things. One, who should be the receiving entity. There's some discussion going on right now between Nesconset and Nissequogue. Both departments have large water bodies that they're responsible for. The concept or the idea was that the boat was going to be portable and available for, whether it would be river or Long Island Sound or lake rescues, and they're really, I think, attempting to try to identify amongst the departments where it would be best to be stationed. Secondly, there's also just some language that has to be crafted for the recipients and a bit of an indemnity and hold-harmless from the department going over.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right. And actually, I have a bill to work on surplus items from the County to do a transfer,

because I have a similar bill for --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- an ambulance company, so I'm hoping you'll cosponsor that bill.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure. And I'll be happy to share the language with you. As a matter of fact, we should be able to go ahead and make surplus items available with that understanding that the recipients are taking them without any particular representation on our part other than that they are surplus. So I'll be happy to share that with you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you. So there is a motion to table. Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's tabled (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).***

1537-14 - Adopting the 2014 Suffolk County Multi-Jurisdictional Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA on May 12, 2014 pending local adoption, which was prepared in conjunction with a FY2012 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning (PDMC) Grant (County Executive).

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

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Madam Chair, just a word on the motion. I want to take the opportunity to thank the folks from FRES. I see Mr. O'Hara here and Bob Sheron, they worked tirelessly on this. But for this grant, we would not have been able to do quite a bit of the work that we've done with groundwater flooding up in my area. So it certainly has made quite a difference and I appreciate the efforts.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you again. So I believe we voted. Okay? It's good to go. ***Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).***

1568-14 - Approving the reappointment of Rabbi Dr. Steven A. Moss as chair of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). Actually, Rabbi Moss is in Israel right now and could not be here. However, it is just a reappointment. He sends his apologies that he couldn't be here. So in the meantime, I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. SPENCER:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go ahead.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second; I'll second the motion.

LEG. SPENCER:

I see that he's also being reappointed to be on the Human Rights Commission. And is it normal -- as far as him being reappointed as Chair, is that something that we should debate the merits of the Commission and the chairmanship as opposed to just blindly reappointing? I would like to know more. I mean, I know of the Commission and I know Rabbi Moss' reputation is stellar, but as far as just the Commission, just to say, *Oh*. You know, if he served as Chair, I would love a presentation before this committee as to kind of what the direction is and really there must be a leadership or some significance of him chairing, because normally those chair decisions are made internally for the committee members themselves. I don't know if he's --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

George can answer that; right, George?

MR. NOLAN:

Well, under the Code, the Chairman of the Commission is appointed by the County Executive with our approval. And so this is normal to appoint somebody this way to be the Chairman of the Commission.

LEG. SPENCER:

I'm fine with that. And I guess that obviously I'm voting for a reason. And besides just being a rubber stamp, which I'm not comfortable doing, I would like to have more information.

MR. NOLAN:

Just, though, so it's clear, the appointment to the chairmanship is different than the appointment to the Commission. It's a 1-year appointment, so we actually have to do this every year via resolution.

LEG. SPENCER:

I'm fine with that. And I think that as far as other people looking at their resume and making them members, but if we're talking about a particular -- or at least hearing from the Administration, you know, if we're reappointing, there's some reason we have some oversight here, and understanding the direction and where the committee has gone and what his chairmanship has mean -- has meant, I think it would be great to have -- I would like to hear from someone.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Tom's trying to answer it. Okay, Rob and then John.

LEG. CALARCO:

Well, all I was going to suggest is I hear what Dr. Spencer is saying and I agree with him to a degree. And we've greatly expanded, in some regards, the powers and the mission of the Human Rights Commission, giving them the ability to do some more real enforcement, and perhaps it would be very helpful. While I support Rabbi Moss and am more than willing to vote for this today, to have them come and give us a presentation and talk to the committee what they've been able to accomplish over the last year or two.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right. And like I said, Rabbi Moss said -- you know, he's sorry, he's in Israel, can't be in two places at one time. But he always comes, even if it's a reappointment, he generally comes and does give us a little presentation before that, but, however, today is a different day. John?

LEG. KENNEDY:

I tend to agree with Dr. Spencer and Legislator Calarco. I am very happy to see Rabbi Moss go back on the board again. He's done great work for us. But this board has been very challenged with the resources that have been provided to it by the Administration, so much so that there have

been a number of referrals that have had to have been turned away.

Now, I had extensive conversations with Dennis Brown, since the Human Rights Commission is now actually a subsidiary of the County Attorney's Office, and so it's the County Attorney who is charged with providing the investigators or the other support staff. And going back a year ago, we were down to only about one-and-a-half investigators. There has been some effort to address that more recently, but as of right now, I don't know whether or not we now have an adequate number of support personnel to actually meet the mission of the commission. And so I would like to hear from Rabbi Moss, in his role as Director, whether or not he's receiving from the Administration the resources necessary in order to be able to go ahead and to fully have the Commission function and operate.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I can reach out to him, see if he can come to our next committee meeting --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- and give us a brief presentation, or give you an opportunity to ask some questions.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay? Right, Josh? Okay. So I believe we had a motion to approve and a second; right?

MS. GELLERSTEIN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. SPENCER:

I'm going to just abstain on this particular thing, and that's not any reflection of lack of support for Rabbi Moss, but I'm going to abstain.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. One abstention.

P.O. GREGORY:

Cosponsor.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

1569-14 - Approving the reappointment of Michele T. Del Monte to the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). Can we do same motion, same second, same vote? Okay? Doc, do you want to -- are you okay with the vote on this one?

LEG. SPENCER:

No, I'm going to vote on this one.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So *it's all approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)*.

Okay. So 1570-14 - Approving the reappointment of Carolyn G. Peabody to the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). I guess same motion, same second, same vote. Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).

1571-14 - Approving the reappointment of Rabbi Dr. Steven Moss to the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive).

LEG. SPENCER:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Motion by (*laughter*) Legislator Spencer.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Is this -- Madam Chair, this is the motion to appoint him as Chair?

MR. NOLAN:

No, this is --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, no, no. That was the first one was to appoint him as Chair.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oh, we tabled the first one. This one --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Non, no, no, we didn't table.

LEG. GREGORY:

You cosponsored it. That's why I'm a sponsor on it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We approved it.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I did not cosponsor.

*(*Laughter*)*

LEG. GREGORY:

They approved that. That was my point, it was like --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, this is the one to approve his reappointment, his 3-year term to the Human Rights Commission.

MR. NOLAN:

As a member.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

As a member.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Why don't we table 1568 until we get him in front of us? Okay. Can I make a motion that we reconsider 1568?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. But I believe that's the -- the Chair is selected by the County Executive.

LEG. KENNEDY:

But we have to vote on it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So all I'm saying is let him come before us to go ahead and talk to us before we approve his chair function.

P.O. GREGORY:

Well, we can --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, I know -- he's a County Executive appointment, so that's the County Executive's appointment, so, you know, I'm not going to not support it because --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oh (*Laughter*).

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Believe it or not (*laughter*), I'm supporting the County Executive.

*(*Laughter*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

If I may? The world's turned on its axis right now.

MR. VAUGHN:

I was just going to say, I thought it was Legislator Kennedy's birthday, not mine.

*(*Laughter*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

But I think, you know, perhaps we can treat this as any other, you know, department head, if you will, have them come in and report to the committee. I don't think there's sufficient reason to hold up his reappointment as Chair. We can just ask him to come in and --

LEG. KENNEDY:

You're going to extend the invitation to him to come before us?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, we'll --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, fine. All right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We'll extend the invitation for next committee meeting.

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Hopefully he'll be able to come to the next one.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okey doke.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I don't know where we were. Do we have a motion by Legislator Spencer; second, Legislator Calarco. Okay? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, ***it is approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)***.

1572-14 - Approving the reappointment of Lynda Perdomo-Ayala to the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). Same motion, same second, same vote. ***Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)***.

1582-14 - Directing the Police Department to study the feasibility of utilizing Next Generation 911 Technology (Hahn).

LEG. HAHN:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve --

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- Legislator Hahn. Second, Legislator Spencer. Question? Can you explain that a little bit?

LEG. HAHN:

Sure. For me? Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

So I read in NACo, one of the NACo newsletters about Union County, North Carolina, that has launched a new generation of 911 technology that allows mobile phone callers to send images and videos to the County's Emergency Communication Centers. So -- and then I'm going to read a paragraph from this article, just so you can understand why it sounded, you know, good to me. *"Here's how it works. A mobile phone or a smart phone caller dials 911. If they have additional content to transmit with the call, the caller -- the call taker sends them a link via text message. After clicking it, they can upload an image or a short video from their phone. It all occurs while style on the phone with the 911 operator."* And this has actually been utilized and has been very valuable. The 911 operator can then send the photo on to the police sector cars, so that if they're looking for a suspect or if they're looking for, you know, a missing person or something, they can immediately have the imaged video, whatever it is, available to the folks on the ground, so to speak,

or at a scene or whatever it is.

And let's see what else I wanted to mention. Then it's also possible in the future that this will also mean that the information could -- the information that gets transmitted could include, you know, automatic crash notification data from cars equipped to transmit it and other things. This, of course, is not saying we must get this technology and install it now. This is saying, you know, we want the police to be really seriously considering this and telling us what it needs to implement it, etcetera. You know, if folks, so many people are now transferring to having these smart phones and that being the only phone they have. And folks are just taking pictures of everything that's happening, and if it can help us in emergency situations, in criminal investigation-type situations, to either help someone quicker, find someone quicker, etcetera, then, you know, we need to be getting there. And so this sounded really exciting and I'm hoping you'd be willing to support just studying the feasibility of it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Yeah, you know, I did -- I have heard of it. I thought the Police Department was looking at that, but I could be wrong. Did you have a question?

LEG. SPENCER:

The Presiding Officer.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Is there somebody back there? Okay, sorry.

LEG. GREGORY:

I'll yield to the birthday boy.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You know, you're hiding behind the podium, I can't see you (*laughter*).

LIEUTENANT BUSWEILER:

Good morning. Lieutenant Busweiler, for those of you who don't know me. When I saw the agenda, saw this on the agenda, I went to speak to Matt Jones yesterday, just to get a little bit of information on this, the subject; he's Director of Information Management. And basically what Legislator Browning said is true, that's one portion of it. This also seems to be a force multiplier as part of the system in that you don't just use Suffolk County resources. It's kind of like the Internet, you can get resources from other rescue sources or Police Departments, Poison Control.

And as far as the implementation of it or the feasibility study, he makes the impression that they're kind of past that, they're already working towards implementing this next gen 911. He says, "*We're way ahead of the curve on this request.*"

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good.

LIEUTENANT BUSWEILER:

And that it will facilitate an upgrade rather than a hundred percent replacement because they've been working with the current 911 system we already have. It is a long-term thing, he made it seem like, but they are ahead of that curve and working towards it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So is there a possibility that maybe, I don't know if you'd be ready next Public Safety meeting, but in a Public Safety meeting in the next month or so that you could have someone come in and kind of give us a presentation on where they're at?

LIEUTENANT BUSWEILER:

Sure, we'll try that, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

That would be great.

LEG. HAHN:

And/or, I mean, if we pass this and they can just -- I think it calls for a report on it --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, okay.

LEG. HAHN:

-- in 120 days. If we pass this and then they just report back as to, like, what they've done --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

LEG. HAHN:

-- and keep us updated on it. You know, it's really something -- they don't have to say we're ready to implement next year; I mean, no one's expecting that. I just kind of want to know, the report could detail for us where we are, what we would need to make it happen and -- yeah.

MR. VAUGHN:

We're completely fine with the adoption of this resolution.

LEG. HAHN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Actually, my request is giving him more time to pass your bill. Your bill gives them more time than my request, so.

LEG. HAHN:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So we're good with that. Okay.

P.O. GREGORY:

Madam Chair, I have a question.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, go ahead.

LEG. GREGORY:

I don't know if it's for the sponsor, or maybe for Lieutenant Busweiler; is that your name?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah.

LIEUTENANT BUSWEILER:

Yes, Sir.

P.O. GREGORY:

I think the technology sounds great. But I guess the immediate question that comes to mind is do you anticipate that there's going to have to be like a technology upgrade? Because now you're receiving images which is different than, you know, just normal communication. You know, then you have the storage of that information, I would imagine, because now it potentially could be part of, you know, some type of investigation?

LIEUTENANT BUSWEILER:

Yeah, he mentioned the facility's upgrade. He says that based on the stuff they already have, it won't be, I guess, as costly as if we just restarted this all over again. So it seems like they've been ahead of this whole way.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. That was all.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Doc Spencer?

LEG. SPENCER:

I second it and fully support the technology. And this may be premature, probably I watch a little too much 24, but one of the things I did want to caution was that when you have this type of information that may go to a sector car, as it's being distributed, that I would imagine that if there was an altercation or a mailing, if I was one of the bad guys, the first thing I would do is text you a picture of someone innocent. You know, I hope the officers are trained and they don't into a situation with a photograph that has come from a civilian and that they immediately divert all resources. You know, I mean, I -- so I just, I know that there could be some unintended consequences where -- and I mean it just from the standpoint that all of a sudden now in an emergency situation, you now have information coming in from the public that may go to a dispatcher and that could be sent out, and if it's the wrong information, if it's the wrong person, that it could have an officer coming on the scene with kind of a preconceived notion of what they're going after and not assess the scene. But I'm sure you guys are professionals and you would take that into consideration.

LIEUTENANT BUSWEILER:

Yes, sir. That's -- you know, that kind of already applies. You get a description over the phone, officers take everything into consideration before they take any kind of action.

LEG. HAHN:

And that would make it really easier, if they have four other photos of the bad guy and one of someone else, then you'd have the guy's number (*laughter*). And then we'd have your phone number.

LEG. SPENCER:

That's right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So with that, 1582; there was a motion to approve and a second; right?

MS. GELLERSTEIN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).***

Public Safety Committee - June 12, 2014

Also, I'd like to say a special thank you, especially to the 7th Precinct and the Crime Scene for their cooperation, the work that they've been doing to help the family of Sarah Goode. Please extend my gratitude to Police Headquarters, the Commissioner. There -- it happened to be right around the block from me that the family was out searching and police were there being very helpful with the family. So again, hoping that they'll find her, you know?

But before we go anywhere, I just want to say happy birthday. We have two birthday boys today; Legislator Spencer and Kennedy. Happy birthday to both of you. He's too busy talking, he doesn't hear a thing. (*Laughter*).

LEG. CALARCO:

Happy birthday, John.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Happy birthday, John.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oh, please. Thank you.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you very much, appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

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

(*The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 A.M.*)