

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, November 13, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Legislator Kate Browning - Chairperson

Legislator Robert Calarco - Vice-Chair

Presiding Officer Gregory - Ex-Officio Member

Legislator Kara Hahn

Legislator William Spencer

Legislator Monica Martinez

Legislator John Kennedy

Also in Attendance:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature

Sarah Simpson - Assistant Counsel to the Legislature

Jason Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Josh Slaughter - Aide to Legislator Browning

Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory

Bill Shilling - Aide to Legislator Calarco

Liz Alexander - Aide to Legislator Spencer

Lisa Pinkard - Aide to Legislator Martinez

Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn

John Ortiz - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office

Craig Freas - Budget Review Office

Tom Vaughn - County Executive Assistant

Amy Keyes - County Executive Assistant

Lisa Santeramo - County Executive Assistant

Robert Braun - Deputy Bureau Chief/County Attorney's Office

Ed Webber - Suffolk County Police Commissioner

Bill Doherty - Lieutenant/Chief of Department/SC Police Department

Tracy Pollak - Suffolk County Police Department

Michael Postel - Police Communications Systems Director/SCPD

Mike Sharkey - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

Russ McCormick - Sgt-at-Arms/Suffolk Detective's Association

Patrice Dlhopsky - Director/Suffolk County Probation Department

Joe Williams - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services

Bob Holley - Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy

Ed Johnston - Deputy Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy

Sharon Brenner - Texting Awareness Foundation

Rocco Panetta - Texting Awareness Foundation

Karen Torres - Texting Awareness Foundation

Tom Golder - Account Manager/Motorola Solutions

All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

Minutes Transcribed By:

Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

(*The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. *)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good morning. We will start the Public Safety meeting. If everyone could please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Hahn.

Salutation

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

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you. Okay. We do have one card. We have a presentation, but we have one card. We have someone who would like to come up and speak on public transportation. She prefers not to use her name, so we will honor that request.

SPEAKER:

Good morning all, and for those who know me, you know me. I live in Brentwood and I had the opportunity to be on the bus last -- on Election Day last week. While I was waiting for the 12:30 bus, there was 15 people there that were dealing drugs, prostituting, and there was a gentleman that showed up and he yelled into the bus that stopped, "Five dollars a bag, four cigarettes for \$5". People got off to buy from him. He said who he was there, I'm not going to mention the name. We have seniors there, you know, children, seeing their mothers without work watching these people making money. It's unbelievable what went on while I was sitting there. And I think -- I don't know if you know about it. I don't know if the police know about it. It's a major, major problem. This went on for two weeks, because the week prior to that I was also taking the bus and they were dealing and one older woman told another woman don't get involved, they'll give you a seat if you need it. This is the new homeless, and you can't take away their home.

We have a major, major problem there. You know, it's in the daylight. And I wanted to know if there's any way we can have more police activity. I mean, the buses -- I imagine the drivers are afraid, okay, because they sat there while this man had people coming off the bus to buy a \$5 bag.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Legislator Martinez is here and I am sure -- do you want to ask her anything?

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Well, yes. I just want to -- there are several bus stops. I'm going to assume that you are referring to Ross Park.

SPEAKER:

I'm referring to by the Brentwood Road Railroad, the buses that go into the South Shore Mall I was waiting for.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Okay, yes, that's the Ross Park. Just so you know, I have spoken to the 3rd Precinct. They do do their rounds, okay. I will call them in again, okay, and make sure that they access this area a little

more. But I have contacted them, they do know about the area, and they do make their rounds.

SPEAKER:

All right. Now, this is two weeks in a row at the same time of day, because I took the bus at the same time.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Can you tell me what time that day, you know, day of time?

SPEAKER:

I got off the bus at 12:10 and I had to catch a 12:30, but this is at the same time. So this is a nice lunch crowd that's going on there. And if I tell you 15 people, because I counted them, were there dealing right out in the open, and this man that showed up yelling into the bus, the bus didn't move, okay, and I can't blame them because they're up against a lot over there. So we don't just need people to show up, you need to have the police around that area at lunchtime or what time of day that is. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And we do have a representative from the Police Department. What I would like to do, I'll give the card back to my aide. If you want to give your contact information to Legislator Martinez.

SPEAKER:

Yes, I will.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So that way she can stay in touch with you.

SPEAKER:

Because I will be out there, you know. Sometimes when I'm part of the program, because you all know I'm an actress, sometimes I'm dressed nice and I really -- when they tell me move, I move. Other times it would be I'm sitting right here. And I was told move over while they were getting their stash set up. That's how open it is, you know. So, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Don't go anywhere. Legislator Hahn, you have a question?

LEG. HAHN:

Well, I mean, it's more for the representative of the Police Department who's here. That's just an incredibly brazen thing for them to do, especially daylight hours, to step onto a bus and to say that, as if there's absolutely no, you know, as if there's about absolutely no threat of any kind of consequence to that. It's just an incredibly brazen move and there's clearly something really serious going on there. Thank you for bringing it to our attention. I know that the officer who is here will bring it back to the powers that be and will be sure to have some action there, and Legislator Martinez has been working very hard at that location. And we know, you know, now knowing the level of the brazenness of those individuals, I'm sure we'll get more attention there. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you for coming in. Lieutenant Doherty is the new representative. He is replacing Lieutenant Busweiler, so we'll make sure that he gets all the information also.

SPEAKER:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

With that, we do not have any more cards. We do have a presentation on texting and driving. So if -- okay. Sharon Brenner, if you'd like to come up and do the presentation, and whoever else is with you. You can introduce them. Come have a seat at the table.

MR. PANETTA:

Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good morning.

MR. PANETTA:

Thank you for having us. My name is Rocco Panetta with the Texting Awareness Foundation. We're here to try to get some support from the Legislator and local business community and make the group here aware of what we're doing on a daily basis in the local schools and businesses to make the community aware of the dangers of texting and driving. We would like to try to use this presentation as a stepping stone and make you aware of how dangerous and epidemic this is currently and how we need to try to take steps, as we did with drinking and driving and seatbelts for safety, so that we can create educational formats where we can have remind you campaigns, disclaimers on people that are advertising in print and in verbiage to do things by texting. So a lot of businesses now are requesting the public to take activities and take action by texting, and there's no requirement for them to say any disclaimer about not texting and driving, as we do with cigarettes to safety and the warning labels for cigarettes and the warning labels how we have in vehicles for seatbelts as well. So this is a good opportunity for us to try to get the support of the Legislature and the business so that we can continue with our education and remind you campaigns for the public.

I have Karen Torres here with us, who does our presentations in the schools and the local businesses here on Long Island, and Karen can go ahead and give her presentation to the group today.

MS. TORRES:

Good morning. Can you hear me okay? Good morning. I'm not used to this format. I'm used to standing up and speaking, so I apologize if I am a little just -- okay. So, good morning. My name is Karen Torres and I'm with the Texting Awareness Foundation. I have been speaking for probably about the last five years. I have been going into high schools speaking to the Juniors and Seniors, because I feel they are the new drivers and this is when they're going to pick up their good habits of driving and their bad habits. I'm just hoping by the end of my presentation they're more aware of those bad habits and some of the consequences that can happen if they choose to do so.

Okay. Let me see if I can -- okay. Here we go. So I don't know if everybody is aware, but our teens are dying. They have the highest fatality rate in the nation ages 16 to 20. My daughter falls into this category. She's a Senior in high school. She does an average of 12,000 text messages a month. Yes, 12,000 text messages a month.

So do I understand it's the only way these kids communicate? Absolutely. You know, this little device has made life so easy for us, right. When we're behind the wheel we're not supposed to be Tweeting and Facebooking and e-mailing and chatting and texting. It's gotten so out of control and too many kids are losing their lives because of it.

Public Safety 11-13-2014

Texting and driving has surpassed drinking and driving as the leading cause of death in accidents amongst teens. Why is that? Because realistically they're not drinking and driving 24/7, but they have their phone on them all the time. It's so easy just to pick it up and just to use it. Over 5,000 teens are killed each year from texting and driving, and really what that says is that 5,000 teens should never, ever have lost their lives, because these accidents are 100% preventable.

Before I start this, it's not just a teen problem. You know, I change my slides up a little bit just to show, you know, it's an adult issue as well. As parents, you know, we're out there to protect our kids. We don't realize that they mirror what we do. Let me just show you this.

(Video played)

"I saw a body come down from off the top of the van and I just thought oh my gosh, what have I done. What have I done. There's never a day that I wake up that I don't think about it."

He was texting *I love you* to his wife, and by the time he looked back up he hit a car and he killed three children. Just like that you can change the course of someone's life and your own life. AAA did a study, they did a survey that -- and it came out that 82% of adults admit they use their phone while they're driving, and nine out of ten adults believe that distracted driving is a bigger problem than it was three years ago, but they still use their phone anyway, and that's just so sad. You know, why are we using that if we all know that it's dangerous? They say it's a habit, it's addicting, it makes you more productive. You don't have enough time when you get home and you believe nothing will ever happen to me. You know, and that's so true. We all think that we're invincible, that nothing like this would ever happen to you. But you know what? There's not one special person in this room, and it's just pure luck. It's not skill.

Sorry, let me go back. When I was saying before that we would do anything that we could to keep our children safe, so we teach them what? Not to run into the street, not to swim, you know, don't jump into the pool, don't touch the stove, it's too hot, don't play with matches. So why would texting and driving or using your phone be any different?

(Played video)

So you'll check your child's safety belt how many times to make sure that they're secure, but you'll answer your phone.

So how many distractions are too many. I try to explain to the teens, you know, it's not just -- well, this is drinking coffee. It could be drinking anything. Using your phone, talking with other passengers, reading the paper, finding the right music, eating, basically anything that diverts your attention away from the roadway is a distraction. You could be looking at a billboard, right, or there's somebody jogging or there's a traffic accident and, you know, you hear the term rubbernecking. You know, accidents happen so fast.

When the police pulled this man over they found he basically made his entire home office in the car, so if you can see in the bottom that's his printer. He's got his satellite set up for his Wi-Fi, he's got his cell phone, his computer and his GPS. And I guess it's funny to look at, but God forbid this man was driving in your neighborhood and he hit and killed someone you knew. Would you find it as funny? Of course not. So instead of this man just working from home or getting an office somewhere, he's doing things when he's driving. It's completely selfish.

I'm going to share a story with you guys about the cement truck.

The driver of the cement truck was out east in Eastport. He had just finished his delivery and he was heading back to his employer. He jumped on to Sunrise Highway and as he was driving he came upon a work zone that was being led by the New York State Department of Transportation. There was a crew of guys out there filling in potholes. So what they had is they had the middle line and the right lane closed off, and they had arrow boards directing everyone to merge to the left. So as the driver was merging to the left, not only was he speeding, he was doing 60 in a 45, he was just drinking a bottle of water, and the bottle of water had slipped from his hands, so he reached down to pick it up. But when you reach down to pick it up, not only did he take his eyes off the road, but he pulled the steering wheel down with him. And by the time he looked back up, he had crashed into that work zone, killing a worker, and that worker was my father, Patrick Mapleson. I go around and I share my Dad's story because I would never want anybody else to have to stand up and be an advocate against distracted driving because of someone they lost.

It was St. Patrick's Day of 2006. My father's birthday was just the day before. He had just turned 66 and was going to retire in seven months, and that was all taken away from him because someone decides to take their eyes off the road for two seconds to pick up a water bottle. I remember the day before I called him up to wish him a Happy Birthday, and it was a Thursday. I made plans for him to come over that Sunday to celebrate with me, my brother, my sister, and his six grandchildren. I said, *"Dad, what can I make you for dinner? I'll make you whatever you want."* I can still hear his voice saying, *"You make me those chicken enchiladas you make."* I said, *"You got it, Dad."* He said, *"I'll see you Sunday, sweetheart."* The next day I got up, I went food shopping, I even bought his birthday cake, and when I came home my phone was ringing. I will never forget, 11:01, 11:01 a.m. It was the dispatcher from the DOT telling me I needed to get to the hospital, that my father was just hit by a truck, and you can't imagine. I just started screaming. I thank God my husband was home to drive me to the hospital because my body was shaking so uncontrollably. I remember we pulled into the emergency room and I saw the ambulance and three Suffolk cop cars and my heart just sank. I walked in and the nurse at the door, she said, *"Are you Patrick's daughter?"* I said, *"Yes."* She put her arm around me and I just started screaming. I said, *"Oh my God my father's dead, he's dead? He's dead?"* And I saw my sister walking with two doctors and I just -- I couldn't believe it.

You know when people tell you, you know, you feel like your whole life is flashing in front of you? It's exactly how it felt. It's like this can't be happening to me. I just spoke with my Dad like 14 hours ago. I just bought his birthday cake. This doesn't happen to someone like me. You know, this is somebody else's family.

The doctors, they were trying to talk to me and I said, *"You know what? I want to go see him"*. They said, *"No, I'm sorry, Karen, but you can't see your father"*. I said, *"Please, I want to say goodbye to him"*. And she said, *"You can't"*. I said, *"Why?"* Then they explained the accident. Like I had said, my father was in his crew filling in potholes, and I'm sure you any time that there's a construction zone they always have a DOT truck that has the big bumper on the back of it, okay, the attenuator. It's a crash mechanism so God forbid something like this happens, that truck is there to protect the crew. So the driver that was sitting in that truck can see the cement truck starting to veer to the right, so he started wailing on the horn and just started screaming for everyone to run. Well, the workers didn't know what was happening. They all ran to the left. But my dad ran to the right, literally right into the path of the truck. The driver of the cement truck told me that my father and he actually locked eyes and then my father stopped to try to shield himself from the impact. So my father saw the whole thing coming. His head hit that bumper right down there. His body flew so hard in the air that when he landed he was completely disfigured from the top of his head to the tip of his toes, and that's why they wouldn't let me go see him. She said, *"Please, just remember your Dad the way he was"*.

Public Safety 11-13-2014

You know, I try to explain to people that all of this happened just because somebody took their eyes off the road for two seconds to pick up a water bottle. It doesn't matter how long you've been driving, it doesn't matter what a great driver you are. It's not what it's about. It's about those two, three, four, five seconds that you choose to take your eyes off the road to do something else, that's truly what matters.

This man that was driving was not a young, inexperienced driver. He was a retired New York City fireman. This man spent his entire career saving lives, and that one careless mistake, that one split second decision that he decided to take his eyes off the road, he has to live with the fact that he killed my Dad. It's horrible. You know, that day that he was supposed to be at my house, I was at his wake. This is what is killing our kids. Distracted driving is the number one cause. And I know my father was killed by somebody taking their eyes off the road for a water bottle, but it could be anything. You could be picking up your phone, you could be picking up your pocketbook. It's a matter of seconds.

I just want to share with you two public service announcements that my family filmed along with my dad's crew for highway safety. It aired about six years ago.

(Played video)

So now I go visit my Dad on the side of highway. I mean, no one should ever have to go to a roadside memorial to visit someone they love, no. I remember that day, like I said, I was pulling out of the driveway thinking my God, he's supposed to be here right now for dinner and I'm driving to his wake. It's just sad. My dad has missed so much. His oldest grandchild is going to graduate high school this year. It's really sad, he should be here.

So what I try to explain to the kids is that there's a very big difference between accidents, one that's unavoidable versus one that's unintended. Unavoidable, your brakes fail or your tire bursts. A friend of mine, her brother-in-law died on the expressway. He had a heart attack and he caused a crash. So obviously these things you can't help. But when you have an accident that's unintended, that's something that's not planned. So you know texting and driving is illegal, drunk driving, drugged driving, right? So if you choose to get behind the wheel, I'm sure you're not planning on getting into an accident, but God forbid you do and you hurt or you kill someone, the more likely it's going to be a crime. And we all know that they're really cracking down with the texting and driving.

This boy in Boston, he's the first person, he's 18 years old, first person to go to prison, okay, for texting and driving, veering onto oncoming traffic. He killed a 72-year old -- excuse me, a 51-year old man, who's also a father, also a husband. He went to prison for two years and now he has a 15-year license suspension. This is a girl from Wisconsin. She was 16 years old. Last spring she was texting and driving and she veered onto oncoming traffic and she killed a 72-year old woman, and she was sentenced to three and a half to five years in prison for vehicular manslaughter. Same scenario, a couple of years ago this 18 year old boy left a party two days before Christmas. Got into his car, started texting his friend that he was coming over and he veered into oncoming traffic and he killed someone. He was sentenced to prison last year for five years. Okay. And they say, well, you guys can multi-task, because listen, we all think that we can do it. On the next slide I'm going to play two brain games with you, okay? Don't use your fingers, you are just going to use your brain. Let's see how well you do.

(Played video)

Ok, so did anybody get both right? Exactly, you got to get both right. It's very hard. Okay. I have one more, which is I think a lot harder.

(Played video)

Okay. So you could see how much you miss in one black frame, right? So I try to explain that let's say that represents one second. They say the average text message takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. So with the environment constantly changing as you are driving, how can you ever expect it to look the same when you look back up? I mean, think about the driver of the cement truck. Before he reached for that water bottle he was in the left lane going straight, and by the time he looked back up he was in a completely different spot.

Let me show you what five seconds looks like.

(Video played)

And just like that, like I said before, you can change the course of your life or someone else's.

Okay. So they say 46% of teens admit to texting and driving. I usually ask the students, you know, if any of their friends text and drive. It's scary, about 80% raise their hand. When I ask how about your parents, usually half the room raises their hand. You are talking about a group of five, 600 kids. You know, as parents, it's our responsibility. Like I said before, you know, they mirror what we do.

I'll give you an example. When my daughter started driving, there is a stop sign right near my house. She was driving and we'd go to the stop sign. She slows down and then she turned left. I said, "*Lex, what are you doing? You didn't stop.*" She's like, "*Oh. Well, that's not what you do.*" I'm like, oh my God, she's right. So if I'm using my phone, why wouldn't she? You know, they're in our driving school for the first 16 years of their lives. You have to remember that.

I'm just going to show you just a quick preview of a documentary that I show to the teens about how texting and driving affected a few teens.

(Played video)

Okay. So what I would really like everyone to do, if you have your cell phones with you, could you please take it out and look at the last text message that you sent. Everybody. Look at the last text message that you sent. Okay. Does everybody see it? Okay. I'm going to show you these four snippets, this is what I do in the school. I am going to show you these four snippets and I want you to picture yourself as the driver in each one of these snippets, sending the last text message that you sent, and then ask yourself would it be worth it.

(Played video)

Okay. So who here has a text message that would be worth that? You know, we all, like I said before, there's not one special person in this room, so it's just pure luck. It's not skill. You make it home and you're texting and you make it home okay? It's just pure luck. This can happen to anyone, especially to our teens. Like I said before, they're dying. Not only just their inexperience, but now they have a phone in their hand and their trying to text their friends. It's so out of control. I try to explain to them it's so important for them to speak up. You know, you have peer pressure the rest of your life. We all know it doesn't just end in high school. I try to explain to them that if you knew getting into that car that you were going to drive to your death, would you ever get in that car? No. So you got to make sure, you got to speak up. Don't be afraid of your friends or your parents. Because, you know, a lot of us are doing it. I mean, I don't. I don't. I don't use my phone when I drive. To me it's obviously because of my father, but it's just not worth it. And if anybody in this room, if you absolutely have to answer your phone or text message or look at an

e-mail, just pull over. So you arrive somewhere a minute later than you are supposed to. Isn't that worth someone's life or your own?

There's apps out there. I just happen to use this one. It's called DriveScribe. They're free. You can download it right to your phone. If somebody's -- around 10 miles an hour I believe it shuts my phone off. If somebody is texting me it will send a text right back to them saying that I'm driving and I will call you when I reach my destination. These things are great to have, because you know what? If we feel our phone and we hear it, we're going to want to answer it. It's the nature of the beast. If you have an app or if you have something that shuts your phone off, you will forget about it. I mean, really how long are you going to be really driving that you have to answer that phone call right away. And if you do, you just pull over.

I have met some amazing advocates. I just want to share just a couple of their stories. A 19-year old girl, one of the moms that I have met, her daughter was driving home from college. She was texting her boyfriend. They were going back and forth about football. The last part of her message says, *"I can't discuss this right now. Uploading Facebook and texting isn't safe. Haha"*. And then right after she had sent that at 80 miles an hour she hit the back of a tractor trailer and she was killed.

Another advocate friend of mine, this is her son, he survived. He was answering a text message. He was reading one from his friend and he veered off the highway and he hit a lamp post. He had such a severe brain injury that it actually brought him back to infancy. He had to learn how to do everything over again, walk, talk, eat, everything. It's been two years, but he's -- he'll never be the same.

This is my last one, my friend from North Carolina. Her daughter, a Senior in high school, she was fighting with her boyfriend via text and they were breaking up. And the last thing she to him was I still love you and she looked up and she hit a truck and she was killed instantly.

So what do I do to tell these kids to stop? You got to speak up. They have to say, you know, listen tell the friends they'll text for them. Don't be afraid to speak up. You got to turn their phone off and they have to get one of these free apps, but we all have to do our part. You know, as adults, as parents, you know, we're their role models. We all have to stop using our phones when we're driving. It's killing people. It's so senseless. Senseless deaths, preventable deaths.

I love this quote. Whenever one person stands up and says wait a minute, something is wrong, it helps others to do the same. It's so true. When I was in high school it was drunk driving that was killing our friends. Now it's socially unacceptable to do that, and this is what the next thing -- this is what's killing this generation and it has to be socially unacceptable to use your phone when you are driving.

I want to thank you so much for listening to me today, for having Rocco and I and Sharon from the Texting Awareness Foundation. It's just such an important message. I absolutely love what I do. I can't think of a better way of honoring my father then by going around and sharing his story with the hopes I can impact one person. If I impact one person in this room today to not use your phone, then it makes everything that I do worth it, because I will tell you if somebody told me I would become a public speaker years ago I would think they were crazy, because I was one of those people who are so afraid of anything. But, you know, when you believe in change, you'll do anything for it. I'm just a mom who cares and a daughter who really, really loved her dad. So thank you so much and I hope you guys always stay safe. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. I have to say, you're an excellent public speaker.

MS. TORRES:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Let me tell you, I think you'll probably put a tremendous impact on the kids, and again, we're sorry for your loss of your Dad. But I know that we've met before and we sent letters to our -- I had sent letters to a number of my school districts to get the banners put up. I know I believe you've got a copy of the letter that we sent?

MR. PANETTA:

Yes, we did.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. How successful was the response?

MR. PANETTA:

We have two of them up so far and we are continuing to get them now. So we have two acceptance on donating the banners into all of the high schools.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good, good. So if you'd like to kind of let the members know what you're doing in case anyone doesn't know, we -- I sent letters to my school districts. They have banners that they put up as the kids are leaving school, basically similar to what's there.

MR. PANETTA:

It's very similar to this but it's a horizontal banner instead where they are able to hang it on the fences in the parking lot so the students can see them entering or leaving the parking lot as a reminder. We're donating those to all of the high schools in Nassau or Suffolk County. So if we can touch base and communicate we can get that started for your district as well.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Doc Spencer, your question?

LEG. SPENCER:

Hi, Sharon. It's nice to see you again, hello. I just again wanted to tell you how moved I am personally just with regards to the information that you shared with us and that you shared privately with me, and I definitely identify with what you're saying. It's something that since over the last three years I have made a priority and you and I are going to be doing something together in the near future. We're going to be doing a public service announcement on Cablevision. We've arranged that and a script and everything.

I encourage my colleagues, too, another thing that we're able to do, which work very nicely, is at the beginning of every school year a lot of the school districts will have a Senior Assembly. On some of the school districts you also have a driving assembly for students that are driving. And one thing that works out very nicely is that if you can call your principals or your Superintendents and get in and administer the pledge to them, the no texting while driving pledge, and give them the stickers to put on their phone, it can wait, and also to put on their vehicles. It's something that is very effective. But we look forward to working with you and, again, I'm sorry for your loss. I heard you speak to me in my office and still today hearing you share the information again is just as gripping and moving, and I think you are a wonderful, fantastic advocate for this issue.

MS. TORRES:

Thank you.

LEG. SPENCER:

You have already saved lives. So thank you.

MS. TORRES:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go ahead.

P.O. GREGORY:

I, too, want to thank you for your compelling presentation today and also for your loss. I mean, it really -- I think it really puts everything in focus. You know, we're so used to being in touch with our lives through our phones and it really puts it in perspective that, you know, what really is important, you know, driving safely. What was life before cell phones, right, and text messaging. It was really the message, it wasn't all that much different and better in a lot of respects. You know, I'm guilty of it myself. I won't text, but I'll look at my phone, which is probably just as bad obviously, taking my eyes off the road.

I congratulate you for your drive and your willingness to be a spokesperson on this issue because it's so important, not just necessarily for our younger drivers, but everyone. No one is a skillful driver when their eyes are not on the road, and I think that's the underlying message here. And we're here to support you however we can. Thank you for all that you're doing.

MS. TORRES:

Thank you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Kate.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

John?

LEG. KENNEDY:

I want to add my thanks to you for being out here and it's poignant for all of us to hear and it's important, and when you see that, you know, there's just a natural tendency to want to want to pick that phone up when you are in the car, whether you are going to answer it, look at it, or whatever, kind of like the Presiding Officer said.

So let me ask you this. The instructional message is important, the advocacy is important. I'm curious as to whether or not you've done anything on the other side, the manufacturer's side, either with vehicles themselves or with the cell phone providers. There's got to be some simple technology that makes it impossible to use the phone in the vehicle, whether it jams a signal or disables the engine or any of those types of things. There's got to be something that probably is about a \$5 item that could either go into a vehicle or go into a phone that would disable.

MS. TORRES:

That's what I use, the app.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I saw the app, yes I did.

MR. PANETTA:

The apps are a voluntary system that allows you to turn it on or off. We're currently working with manufacturers so that we can have a censor in the vehicle that disables the car -- the phone of the driver, so that the other people in the vehicle have their ability to have their rights and use their phones if they choose. But it disables the driver's phone until that car is turned off and turned back on again.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And so which direction are you going? You're going for the actual, the vehicle manufacturer, Chevy or Ford, or are you looking at the cell phone manufacturer?

MR. PANETTA:

It's into the vehicles. You have to have the censor in the vehicle that disable the driver's phone, operating through the Bluetooth operation on the phone itself so that there's no necessity to even get the phone companies involved, because he can disable it on his own. We're also trying to get them involved so that it can be a joint operation between car manufactures and phone manufacturers. But currently the system we're working on doesn't even require the phone manufacturer to participate, just the car manufacturer.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It's the same process that put seatbelts in, that put in airbags in, that put any other safety feature in there and, you know, usually they go kicking and screaming, but once they realize that, you know, there's legislation that's going to mandate it, then they usually come along and will voluntarily comply.

MR. PANETTA:

That's what we're hoping for.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You know, one question is because a lot of our cars are fixed so we don't have to even dial. You know, you hit the speaker button and, you know, you can say call whatever. How do you feel about that? Do you feel there's still some distraction there?

MS. TORRES:

Absolutely. You know, I use the example of you could be arguing with your husband in the car, right, screaming and yelling. How many times have -- I know it's happened to me, I'll be listening to a song and I pass my exit, you know, on the Expressway if you are not fully paying attention. So if you're having a phone conversation with someone they say that you create almost like a tunnel vision, so you're really only seeing what's in front of you here. You are not really realizing what's all around you. So if you're in a heated argument or you're talking about something else, you're not really fully paying attention. To me, it's just not even worth it. If it's a quick phone call, pull over. Like that's just my whole answer to everything. You know, I had a principal ask me the other day, he's like well, what do you do with your phone, where do you keep it? I'm like in my pocketbook. I don't answer my phone. I said that before. I don't -- I practice what I preach. I don't do it. It's not worth it. I could never live with the fact that I hurt someone or I killed someone. The driver of the cement truck told me -- you know, he didn't go to jail. He had a 90 day license suspension. But he told me that my father's face is the first person he would see every morning and the last person he would see before he went to bed. So to me, this is where his prison sentence is. I can't imagine having to live with that, over something that didn't need to happen, you know, my daughter calling me and asking me what's for dinner. It's just not important.

It's just not important.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, I certainly appreciate you coming in. Definitely very, very interesting, the videos, you know. The public service announcements are definitely very effective.

MS. TORRES:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I think it's something that the European countries were more into making it more graphic, more real, and I think they're finally starting to get it, that it needs to be done to make an impact on people.

MS. TORRES:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So, again, thank you. Any other questions anyone? No? We appreciate you coming in.

MS. TORRES:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We'll continue -- you know, what you are doing with Doc Spencer, with our school districts. I definitely have an interest in trying to do something that like with my school districts.

MS. TORRES:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Stay in touch. Let me know how our schools are doing with getting the signs up.

MR. PANETTA:

We will. Thank you.

MS. TORRES:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I believe we -- do we have any more cards? No? I thought I had a card show up. With that, there is -- I guess we can go to the agenda. I will give -- I know our Commissioner is here from FRES. Nothing to report? I know that there's not anything significant for you going on other than accepting money; correct?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Probation, do you have anything you'd like to report?

MS. DLHOPOLSKY:

No, all is well.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

All is well? Good to hear. Hopefully we're going to see some new Probation Officers soon.

MS. DLHOPOLSKY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Actually the {Cady} program I would like to at some point maybe get back with you on that to see how things are moving. It would be a good idea to find out what's going on. Did I see -- did I see Mike Sharkey? I thought I did. He's outside. Okay, well, maybe when he comes back in again. I guess there's no one else? Anything you need to report? Okay. I just -- I want to give everybody courtesy. But anyway, with that we'll go to the agenda.

Tabled Resolutions

We have Tabled Resolutions. ***1759-14 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Charter Law to provide for fair and equitable distribution of public safety sales and compensating use tax revenues (Schneiderman).*** I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

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

LEG. SPENCER:

Opposed.

P.O. GREGORY:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Two oppositions, Legislators Spencer and Gregory. ***(VOTE: 5-2-0-0 Opposed: Legislators Spencer and Gregory - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).*** It is tabled.

Introductory Resolutions

1854-14 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Local Law to amend the County's Human Rights Law and Resolution No. 683-2014, A Local Law to amend, update and reorganize Chapter 528 of the Suffolk County Code to incorporate changes adopted by the State and to facilitate continuing advancements and modifications of the law in the future (Stern).

I think -- okay. I'll make a motion to table for public hearing. Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It is tabled. ***(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote)***

1859-14 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Local Law to prohibit the use of unauthorized tracking devices (Browning). I'll make a motion to table for public hearing. Second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. ***(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote)***

1901-14 - Appropriating funds in connection with Countywide system enhancements to the 800 MHz Radio Communications System (CP 3241)(Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve. Do we have a second? Second, Legislator Hahn. Is Mike Postel here? There you are. I know I saw you.

MR. POSTEL:

Good morning, Madam Chair. How are you?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Could you kind of give us a brief on what exactly this is going to do?

MR. POSTEL:

This will enhance the coverage for the existing Countywide 800 Megahertz system, something that the County has been looking for to enhance coverage in fringe areas that we currently have. The fringe areas we are looking at are the Babylon area, which is the southwestern corner of the County, the Port Jefferson area, where we currently have another piece of equipment in which we want to replace to allow the system to work more seamlessly, and that will cover Port Jeff Village and the terrain up in that area. And the last location is in Montauk where the coverage needs to be enhanced due to its geographical distance from the last primary communication site, and that will help with all users on the trunked radio system in that area.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Now, we have an RFP went out to -- for improvements. I know we've been going through this, it's probably about two years now.

MR. POSTEL:

It started August of 2013.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right and, you know, I'm just curious what impact does this have putting up these towers and who -- are we contracting this? Who's doing this?

MR. POSTEL:

So, Madam Chair, we have -- currently what this is doing is the funding for the planning portion of this was appropriated last year.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. POSTEL:

Because we can't appropriate construction money until one year after planning based on laws, that's why we're here at this point. We have not awarded a vendor for this at this point in time. We are getting ready -- we have proposals and we're looking at them, but we are going to wait until the final determination is made because I don't want to have one vendor have the primary portion of the system and the second vendor have the secondary portion of the system. These are two separate Capital Projects is what it comes down to. This one started prior to the upgrade of the main portion of the system being moved up in Capital funding. So this one was on the schedule prior to the other program starting.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And where are we with the RFP that we've been waiting for two years to get up and running with the infrastructure improvements for communications.

MR. POSTEL:

Reviews are complete. We have one question, which is being returned by one of the vendors, and then we will be making a recommendation to the Police Commissioner, who will then forward that to the County Executive's Office for the recommendation for the upgrade.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So you haven't awarded the contract. Can I ask who the two vendors are, the two responders.

MR. POSTEL:

From the -- from what we were looking for -- just so I'm aware, the larger of the two projects, not this one?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

The larger of the two projects.

MR. POSTEL:

The two vendors are Motorola and Harris.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And the current, this project, do we have -- how many vendors on this project?

MR. POSTEL:

Right now since this project was started separately, it's just one vendor that we have information from.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And who is that?

MR. POSTEL:

That's Motorola.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So -- okay. Well, how does that affect, if we're using Motorola for this project, the smaller project? Does that have an effect on who we use for the larger project?

MR. POSTEL:

It does, that's why I won't award anything for the smaller project, but I'd like the funding appropriated because we're not far from awarding the other one.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right.

MR. POSTEL:

So if the funding is approved for this then we can move down the road of getting additional information from any other vendors that we might need to --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Do --

MR. POSTEL:

-- to get the project moving.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Do you know what the timeline is that we are -- because I know one of the vendors basically there was an offer made which will expire at the end of this year. So are we going to see -- before the end of the year we're going to see something?

MR. POSTEL:

I am planning on returning some additional information once we receive the response back from one of the vendors regarding some questions to the Commissioner next week.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I had received some information from some first responders about some outages, I guess, in communications. Are you familiar with that?

MR. POSTEL:

I am not.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I'd like to see if you could check into it. I guess it was more nighttime than during the day, but that is a concern of mine, if there is some outages in communication, especially, and God forbid, it would have been at a busy time of the day. And to be honest with you, I don't know that when it comes to our first responders and emergencies, I don't know that there's one time is more busier or more important than another time, because, you know, at midnight or 3 o'clock in the morning it could be just as busy as two o'clock in the afternoon. But I'd like you to kind of look back into the outages, what's been going on.

Again, my concern is is that we have, you know, a system that it's old and it needs to be replaced. I know we've had this conversation many, many times and I'm going to continue to say it until I hear yes, we have a contract, yes, we're moving. Because I do have concerns that, you know, we're going to have an outage when there's a serious crisis has happened, a multiple car accident or something that's happened that we could, you know, potentially have a problem with our communications that it's not going to make us look good and I don't think you -- I know you don't want it to happen.

MR. POSTEL:

Absolutely not.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I certainly appreciate your work. I know you're very respected for everything you do and especially with our communications. But if you could get back to me with the information on those outages I'd really like to know if you could find out when the outages occurred, what times they occurred, so that, you know, we can, you know, whatever we need to do to make things happen. I know we've talked to, you know, the company as far as some of the breakdowns and the fact that some of our stuff has gotten so old that it's just not fixable anymore and it's just going beyond repair. What I would appreciate is keeping the committee in the loop, because we do have to approve the funds with the, you know, when the other RFP has been awarded. I certainly think it's important that we are kept in the loop to make sure that we know what's going on. Does the -- well, when it comes to the outages, the increased coverage, does that, with the outages, does that -- is there any difference in the impact with one or the other?

MR. POSTEL:

Well, the cause of the outages, I'm not sure at this point -- first off, we're not aware of any issues which are occurring, so if I can contact your office to get further information regarding that.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. POSTEL:

Who was having the issues, find out which systems they're related to, we can address that and I can work with our partners at Fire, Rescue, Commissioner Williams, to find out if there's any issues that we both have to work on collectively.

As far as the expansion, the expansion will just assist with areas which have fringe coverage at this point in time. It's going to enhance the coverage in the area. So it will -- somewhere where you had fringe coverage, staticky, the transmissions will be clearer is what it will come down to.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Does anybody else have a question? Okay, the Presiding Officer does.

P.O. GREGORY:

You know, my only concern is because the portion in Babylon covers my area in Amityville.

MR. POSTEL:

Yes, sir.

P.O. GREGORY:

So I would like to not see too long of a delay because, I mean, we're talking about public safety and the interest of public safety and the ability to communicate, so the quicker you guys can resolve this the more appreciative I certainly will be and the residents of the Village of Amityville would be. So you said next week you plan to provide more information, but you may have --

MR. POSTEL:

I will be giving further information to the Commissioner once we receive a response from a letter which was sent to one of the vendors for some clarification of questions.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

MR. POSTEL:

Within the next week to the Commissioner.

P.O. GREGORY:

So you said you have two vendors for the bigger, the larger project, but only one for the smaller project. Is there a reason why only one for the smaller?

MR. POSTEL:

The reason why was at the point in time we started with this process was last year. We were only working with one vendor at that point in time, so that vendor went forward. Rather than muddy the waters on the larger project because it is much bigger than this, we moved forward with that and we're hoping to be further than where we were with the other project at this point in time. But because of other items which had come up regarding recommendations from the Comptroller, getting additional bids on New York State contract, etcetera, we asked for additional support because it is such a large project, the other one, the other Capital Program. So we're doing our due diligence for the both the public safety community, the taxpayers, the Legislators, to make sure that we're getting the best system for the upgrade, which is why that's taking longer to accomplish.

P.O. GREGORY:

And this is just a part of -- I think it was a Federal requirement that was passed a few years ago or that took effect a few years ago; right?

MR. POSTEL:

Regarding?

P.O. GREGORY:

800 Megahertz.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

PSAP?

MR. POSTEL:

No, this is separate. The larger project is because the age of the system we need to upgrade it. The system is 20 plus years old and we have components which are aged and we need to replace them because of the life cycle.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. Thank you.

MR. POSTEL:

Any other questions, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I think that was the intercommunication is the Federal part, right. And, you know, if you wouldn't mind hanging out. I know one Legislator needs to leave, I think I might have had one more question, but I don't want to hold her up.

MR. POSTEL:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So if you wouldn't mind holding up. I know we'll go ahead and do the vote. Did we have a motion and a second?

MR. RICHBERG:

No motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Motion, Legislator Calarco. I'll make a second. We do? Who made the motion? Oh. Second, Kara. Okay. So we do have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).** Have a seat a minute so we can get this done and get her out of here.

MR. POSTEL:

Certainly.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

1903-14 - Authorizing the transfer of funds from the Sheriff's Office Prisoners' Commissary Account to the General Fund (Co. Exec.). Motion to approve, Legislator Calarco. Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1906-14 - Accepting and appropriating a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the amount of \$25,000 for FY2014 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) to be administered by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, a member of the East End Marine Task Force and to execute grant related agreements in Suffolk County with 100% support (Co. Exec.). Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

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

1907-14 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$6,000 from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Grant (GTSC FFY2015) Highway Safety Program with 100% support for Sheriff's Traffic Safety Initiative (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1909-14 - Accepting and appropriating grant funding in the amount of \$269,775 from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee passed through the Stop-DWI Foundation for the Suffolk County Stop-DWI Program to fund DWI Enforcement Related High Visibility Road Check Patrols with 84.74% support (Co. Exec.). Motion by Legislator Hahn. Second, Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1914-14 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$20,500 in Federal pass-through funding from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, for the Suffolk County Police Department's Motorcycle Safety Enforcement and Education Program with 78% support (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1918-14 - Approving the temporary replacement for two decommissioned vehicles of the Suffolk County Police Department Fleet through the donation of a 2008 Nissan Altima and a 2010 Nissan Maxima from State Farm Insurance Company through 1-800-Charity Cars (Co. Exec.). Make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1920-14 - Requesting Legislature approval of a contract for Remote Payment Services for the Sheriff's Office at the Suffolk County Correctional Facility, Riverhead, New York (Co. Exec.). Motion to approve. Does anybody have any questions what that's about? No?

MR. NOLAN:

You need a second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

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

1930-14 - Approving a temporary increase in the fleet of the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (Co. Exec.).

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve, Legislator Hahn. Second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1933-14 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal pass-through grant funds from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the amount of \$102,000 for the 2014 HazMat Grant Program administered by the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and to execute grant related agreements (Co. Exec.).

LEG. HAHN:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar, Legislator Hahn. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1946-14 - Accepting and appropriating a grant award of federal funding in the amount of \$325,000 from US Department of Health and Human Services/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ("SAMHSA") to the Suffolk County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council with 100% support (Co Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).

1949-14 - To enforce domestic violence orders of protection using GPS monitoring (Hahn).

LEG. HAHN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to table, Legislator Hahn. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1970-14 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal pass-through grant funds from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the amount of \$900,000 for the "State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) FY2014" administered by the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and to execute grant related agreements (Co. Exec.). Motion to approve, Legislator Spencer, and place on the Consent Calendar. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).

1972-14 - Accepting and appropriating a grant providing 100% support, in the amount of \$247,973, from the New York City Police Department in conjunction with the Federally Sponsored Securing the Cities Program, and amending the 2014 Capital Budget and Program in connection with the purchase of marine and helicopter equipment (CP 3513)(Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).

1976-14 - Accepting and appropriating federal funding in the amount of \$45,000 from the Department of Homeland Security, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the ICE El Dorado Task Force with 77.55% support (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. HAHN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

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

1977-14 - Accepting and appropriating 100% federal pass-through grant funds from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the amount of \$2,652,733 for the "Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) FY2014" administered by the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and to execute grant related agreements (Co. Exec.). Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar. Second, Legislator Hahn.

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

1978-14 - Accepting and appropriating federal funding in the amount of \$17,375 from the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force with 77.55% support (Co. Exec.).

Motion to approve, Legislator Hahn. Second, Legislator Martinez.

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

1979-14 - Accepting and appropriating federal funding in the amount of \$17,375 from the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the DEA Long Island Task Force with 77.55% support (Co. Exec.).

LEG. HAHN:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve. Same motion, same second, same vote. How's that? **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1980-14 - Accepting and appropriating federal funding in the amount of \$17,375 from the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the Long Island Cyber Crime Task Force (LICCTF) with 77.55% support (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

1988-14 - Authorizing use of County facilities by WALK-FM in connection with providing space near the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as an auxiliary broadcasting location during periods of declared, local emergency (Co. Exec.). Motion to approve.

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

1996-14 - Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Local Law to amend the County's Human Rights Laws to further protect victims of domestic violence (Spencer).

LEG. HAHN:

Table for public hearing.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to table for public hearing, Legislator Spencer. 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).**

2004-14 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$198,900 in federal pass-through funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the 2014 Bomb Squad Initiative Program with 100% support (Co. Exec.). Motion to approve. Second, Legislator Hahn. Place on the Consent Calendar. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

2005-14 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$133,825 in federal pass-through funding from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to enforce motor vehicle passenger restraint and aggressive and distracted driving regulations with 77.55% support (Co. Exec.). Motion to approve. Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: 7-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Gregory is included in the vote).**

That's the end of the agenda.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Mike, one last question. Mike Postel, are you still here? Sorry. Okay, one last question is I know we have -- there's two vendors have responded to the RFP for the larger project. I know we -- the one vendor, I know who the one vendor is that right now is doing the work. Just curiosity, if in fact we were to go with the other vendor, how much work needs to be done, infrastructure changes, if we were to choose a different vendor since we currently have one particular vendor's equipment and everything. Is it going to make a difference?

MR. POSTEL:

There is a slight difference in what has to be done. Changing everything would involve more work if we were to remove other pieces of equipment which could just be upgraded, however, the majority of the infrastructure work, which is being replaced at the base of the tower sites, requires a total replacement. There's just different ways of approaching the work based on which vendor is chosen.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Now, what about the radios that everybody's using, Motorola radios. We have our fire departments, you know, would that all have to change, too, or would they still be able to use the same radios?

MR. POSTEL:

Regardless of vendor some need to be replaced.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. POSTEL:

And some need to be upgraded is how it works. And just one thing. I know everyone, and I'm pretty sure you're aware of this, Madam Chair, but everyone keeps using the term RFP. We have not actually used an RFP. It's not a request for proposal. We are just leveraging the New York State grants and seeking other alternatives via the New York State grant and will award the project based on current -- I'm sorry, not New York State grant, New York State contract is what I should say, will be awarded through that avenue.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Well, again, if you would, I would appreciate that you would keep the Public Safety Committee in the loop as to where you are, when the bid is going out, you know, when the bid has been decided upon, because, you know, this is something that I know that some of them may not have been involved in meeting like I have and the Presiding Officer, but again, knowing our communication system needs to be changed. And this is -- how many years is it going to take? How long is this project going to take once it's done?

MR. POSTEL:

We estimate two years, give or take, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And again, if the bid is awarded at the end of this year, you're talking, you know, a two-year project and then again weather permitting. You know, obviously the workers are going to go out there and do the work throughout the winter, but if we have severe snow storms, you know, any kind of severe weather, it's going to slow them up. So I thank you always.

MR. POSTEL:

I will relay your concerns to the Commissioner and the Chief and we will make sure that we keep the committee apprised.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I appreciate it. Thank you. Is there any other questions for anybody? No? Okay. I'll make a motion to adjourn. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? We are adjourned.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m. *)