

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Thursday, February 26th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Legislator Kate Browning - Chair

Legislator Robert Calarco - Vice-Chair

Legislator Kara Hahn

Legislator Kevin McCaffrey

Legislator William Spencer

Legislator Monica Martinez

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory - Ex-Officio Member

Also In Attendance:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature

Lora Gellerstein - Chief of Staff/P.O. Gregory's Office

Jason Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Robert Lipp - Director/Legislative Budget Review Office

John Ortiz - Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office

Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory

Josh Slaughter - Aide to Legislator Browning

Bill Schilling - Aide to Legislator Calarco

Liz Alexander - Aide to Legislator Spencer

Amy Ellis - Aide to Legislator Anker

Alysa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn

Lisa Santeramo - IR/County Executive's Office

Katie Horst - County Executive Assistant

Kerri Suoto - County Executive's Office

Shannyn Ball - County Executive's Office

Risco Mention-Lewis - Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department

Bob Donohue - Detective Lieutenant/Chief of Department's Office-SCPD

Bill Doherty - Lieutenant/Chief of Department's Office-SCPD

Matt O'Malley - Sergeant/Chief of Department's Office-SCPD

Charles Ross - Police Officer/Suffolk County Police Department

Greg McVeigh - Retired Suffolk County Police Officer

Maurice Thomas - Assistant/Wyandanch Resource Center - COTA

Daniel Elting - Wyandanch Resource Center - COTA

Gil Anderson - Commissioner/SC Department of Public Works

Phil Berdolt - Deputy Commissioner/SC Department of Public Works

Mike James - Fleet Services/SC Department of Public Works

Patrice Dlhopsky, Director/Suffolk County Probation Department

Joe Williams - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services

Bob Holley - Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy

Eddie Johnston - Deputy Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy
Lou Tuttone - 1st Vice-President/Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association
Russ McCormick - Sgt-at-Arms/Suffolk County Detective's Association
Jimmy Roddin - Trustee/Superior Officers Association
Michael Sharkey - Chief Deputy Sheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
John Becker - President/SC Deputy Sheriffs Police Benevolent Association
Arthur Sanchez - Secretary/SC Deputy Sheriffs Police Benevolent Association
Christine Larkin - Vice-President/Probation Officers Association
Ron Barz - VEEB/Board of Directors
Anthony LaFerrera - Chairman/Suffolk County FRES Commission
Jay Egan - Former Chair/Suffolk County FRES Commission
Zach Viola - AME/Legislative Liaison
Suzanne McBride - AME/President/Police Emergency Unit
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 10:11 A.M.*)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Good morning. If we can have all of our Legislators to the horseshoe, we'll begin the Public Safety meeting. And if everyone could please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Martinez.

Salutation

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

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you. Okay. Good morning, everyone. We have only one card, so we'll start with that. And our first card is -- our one and only card is Mr. Jay Egan

MR. EGAN:

Good morning. I guess the last five years I've been here as the Vice-Chair and Chairman of the FRES Commission. As of last night, I've been officially stepped down; Anthony LaFerrera is going back in as Chairman. I just want to take the time to thank Public Safety. You know, we've had a few battles, we won a lot, but we worked together. And I really want to thank all the Legislators for their continued support of the FRES Commission, of public safety in general, and making sure that the taxpayers of this County get their due reward and have a safe place to live in Suffolk County. I thank you again for your time. I know we have a few more irons that are into the fire that will come up in the next few months. I'm not going anywhere, I'm still going to be involved with the FRES Commission, but Tony will be taking over as Chairman. And again, thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, don't go anywhere, Jay. I'd like to say thank you. It was nice to be at the meeting last night and, you know, you guys are always very on top of everything that's going on. I know we have a meeting, so yes, I know you're not going anywhere. I know we're going to be meeting, I believe it's a Monday in Yaphank, with regards to an issue that you guys have brought to my attention. So I appreciate it, because it's amazing what people will do to make a buck. And so I appreciate that you guys have been paying attention to this and that you're stepping up to get some help.

MR. EGAN:

Thank you. It just goes to show that if both parties, both sides and everybody talks, we can get through a lot of problems and we can hit that point or that goal. It's happened through the last five years, at least through my tenure, and I greatly appreciate it

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And thank you for your service. I guess, Anthony?

MR. LAFARERRA:

Monday's good?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Monday is good, Yaphank.

MR. LAFARERRA:

Okay. It's going to be hard to follow the storm; you know that, right? (*Laughter*).

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, come on (*laughter*).

MR. LAFARERRA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you.

I think I saw the Deputy Police Commissioner was here already. I know she wanted a -- is the Power Point ready, or do you need some time?

MR. FLACK:

It's ready.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, it is ready? Okay. So we do have that presentation. Is there anyone else in the room who would like to speak? No one else? Okay.

There was an issue, I don't know if Katie's here or anyone. We did submit a letter about the domestic violence organizations and the financial problems they're having with pulling -- possibly having to pull some of them out of the precincts. I know I sent the letter; have we come up with any solution?

MS. SANTERAMO:

Hi. How are you doing? So we -- we did receive the letter, and basically we're looking -- this was a Federal grant that they no longer -- it was a competitive grant that they no longer received. So I know that the County Executive's Office, we've been meeting with them to try to identify other grant sources to try to offset the cost of losing that grant. What they lost, there's 200,000 a year for eight years, so it is a significant amount. So we are -- basically, I mean, I think they're looking at options to try to find other grant sources. I don't think we have identified any yet, although I have not been updated on this since the 19th of February, so maybe in the last couple of days they might have. But that's pretty much where we are.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Because I know Kara's got a couple of bills for domestic violence victims. And, you know, to

not see them in our precinct, which I think we seriously need them, I think it would be good if we can work to come up with something.

MS. SANTERAMO:

Yeah, this is a priority for us. We've been working hard to try to find some other Federal grants that we might be able to apply for.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I appreciate it if you can just keep us updated and make sure the committee is aware of everything.

MS. SANTERAMO:

Yes, we will absolutely keep you updated.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you.

I don't know -- FRES is here; sorry, VEEB, Bob Holly. Do you guys have anything you need to report?

DIRECTOR HOLLEY:

No, Ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Nothing? I know Probation, Andrea Neubauer is here; nothing? And I know, Mike, there is a bill coming up that you might want to kind of give us a little information on, that would be appreciated. Phil, are you here for a specific reason?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:

Just in case there are any questions.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You just came to help, okay. Thank you.

I don't think there's any other questions. Is Deputy Police Commissioner Risco here?

MS. HORST:

She is here, she's just waiting for a COTA member to join her for her presentation.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, okay. So then what we can do is we'll start with the agenda, and when we're done she can start.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay, Tabled Resolutions, **1949-14 - To enforce domestic violence orders of protection using GPS monitoring (Hahn)**. Kara?

LEG. HAHN:

I would be ready to move this except for it had to be amended to become a budget amending resolution and we can't do that, because of our procedures, until April 28th. So this one I'm really frustrated that I forgot about that part of our procedure and it's delayed again, once again. So I need to make a motion to table.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, that's a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's tabled (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).*

2160-14 - To educate domestic violence victims about their risk of repeated violence (Hahn).

LEG. HAHN:

I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve, and a second by Legislator Calarco. Kara, there was a question that was asked of me, and I know that -- I was hoping that Kelly Lynch could be here to get a little bit of information. I've heard about this, the Campbell Program and the Ontario Program, and I believe that the PD is currently using the Ontario Program. So I kind of would like to get an FYI -- oh, okay.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Good morning, Madam Chair. How are you?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Lieutenant Doherty, you have information? You know, one other question that was actually posed to me, that somebody had asked was where the District Attorney's Office is with this and where the judicial system is on this as far as our Judges. Lieutenant Doherty, if you want to -- so you could explain the difference between the two?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Sure. Several months ago we were tasked with assessing a domestic violence program that would predict an offender's -- his percentage to re-offend, his likeliness to re-offend. And what we did was we took -- we did a study. We basically took a sample of domestic violence assault victims and what we did was we applied an offender-based model to that -- to those victims. And what the Police Department liked about the offender-based model was that it removed, we felt, a lot of the subjectivity from the numbers. They were all based upon information that the Police Department was already in possession of.

Some of the questions were whether there was any prior domestic assaults, any failed probation or parole, things of those nature, and it was 13 questions and it was information that we could gather from a domestic incident report and information that we already have in our databases. And what we would do is we'd put that information into an algorithm and it would spit out a score, and based upon the score, what we did was we went back and looked at a sample of assaults, domestic assaults, and we found that based upon this offender-based system, we would have been able to pretty accurately predict who would be most likely to re-offend. And again, the offender-based system removed the victim, so to speak, so the victim wouldn't have to do any work, so-to-speak, they wouldn't have to reach out to us, we would have the numbers.

Now, where we are with our offender-based system is we feel we have a pretty good system and we're pretty confident that we'll be able to help prevent domestic violence incidents. But what we need to do is get our other partners in the criminal justice system on board; the DA's Office, the

Courts, Parole, possibly even the Sheriff's Department if there's incarceration, and possibly even domestic violence agencies. So we're really just looking for a little bit more time to coordinate with the other partners in the criminal justice system before we go forward on this. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Does anyone have any questions?

P.O. GREGORY:

I do.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Just exactly -- and maybe you explained it and I missed it -- how will this work, this process?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

What it is, when a police officer shows up on a domestic incident, they have several forms they have to fill out, one of them is a State mandated Domestic Incident Report. The police officer fills out that report and it gets entered into our blotter system, which is basically the hopper of all of our information.

P.O. GREGORY:

Right.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

And through our IT department, what we did was we could put in the victim and the offender, and also use questions that are on the Domestic Incident Report. And then based upon that, we could score, the computer algorithm would do a score and spit it out and basically give us a score of how likely to re-offend the person was, the bad person, the offender.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. So -- but based on what? Does the blotter system have access to this person's criminal history?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

For Suffolk County it would, yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Not only -- so is it -- okay. All right, so say a person has a background in, I don't know, embezzlement or some type of non-violent crime, but now --

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

From my understanding, it deals mostly with prior assaults --

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

-- things of that nature, failed probation or parole. Someone who's on probation or parole who doesn't care about that, the algorithm takes that into account and it would score that person probably more likely to re-offend.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. And then what; what do you do with this information, the officer?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Well, this is -- basically the officer, after preparing that Domestic Incident Report, would hand it in, the report is signed off by a supervisor, critically reviewed, and then it's given to one of our data-entry people, he or she would enter it into our computer system and then a score could be generated based upon our offender-based model.

Now, where we are with this is we need to talk with our other partners -- the DA's Office, the Courts, other criminal justice agencies -- what do we do with the score? What exactly do we do with it? But the study was fairly striking on how predictive this model was, it basically would have helped us predict who would be likely to re-offend.

P.O. GREGORY:

Right.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

When I say re-offend, I'm referring to assaults.

P.O. GREGORY:

Right. I mean, those who commit these type of assaults are more likely because there's anger management issues or whatever that they're not dealing with, to appropriately deal with, you know, stressful situations.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Right. And that's where our partners in the criminal justice system come in, including domestic violence advocacy agencies.

P.O. GREGORY:

But you think that's more effective than saying to the victim who is going to be --

LEG. HAHN:

Just a point of information? This bill does both. So this bill tells the Police Department to take the offender-based system that he just described, to implement that, and also to do the self-assessment of the victim. So it's complimentary, it does both.

P.O. GREGORY:

Oh, I thought --

LEG. HAHN:

And so we're not -- we don't have to argue about the two because it does both.

P.O. GREGORY:

I thought I heard him say that the preference was the offender-based as opposed to the victim-based.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

That's the study that we did.

P.O. GREGORY:

Oh, okay.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

We really -- I personally don't know enough about the victim-based assessment to give any sort of educated comment on it, at this point. But the only thing we would ask is in order to ensure the success of this bill, we would like to coordinate with our other partners --

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

-- to make sure that, you know, what we give them can be acted upon in an appropriate manner.

P.O. GREGORY:

No, the only point I was kind of leading to was I think it's important that we do an assessment on the offender so that particularly, you know, whether it's Probation or the District Attorney's Office, when they're in court and they're making decisions as to lowering offenses or sentence recommendations, that they say, *Hey, this person has a likelihood of 90% re-offending, maybe this is not someone we should lower offense or put on probation, we should lock this person up for six months*, or whatever the case may be. But I think also it's equally important, if not more important, for the victim to know, *Look, this guy, gal, whoever, there's a 90% or whatever percent chance that they're going to re-offend, you're likely to be the victim. You have to make some serious choices, life choices about --*

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Absolutely.

P.O. GREGORY:

-- *how you want to -- you want to exit this situation? We can provide those resources for you and the kids and family, whoever, to get out of that situation.* So I think equally are important.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Right. And we want to have that process ensured so that when the score is given, when the score is generated, what do we do with it?

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

And that's really why we're asking for a little more time.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay, great. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Does anyone -- I mean, I do have a question. I mean, when you say that you don't have the questionnaire for the victim and you don't include the victim; for what reason is it that you don't use that? Am I correct in saying --

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Well, there's two different assessments. One is a victim-based --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

-- where the victim will actually fill out a form, and then based upon the scoring of that form, there is a predictive analysis of that person, of the offender's likelihood to re-offend. And then there's a second one which is an offender-based --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

-- which really just uses the domestic incident form and the information that's already available to the Police Department.

So they're kind of two separate things.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So is there sometimes issues with the victim's form, when the victim fills out the form?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

You know what? I really -- like I said, I don't know enough about the victim's form to make any sort of educated comment. The only thing that we felt was that the offender-based was objective, because it removed the victim actually scoring and forwarding the information.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Because I know now we have -- and this is something that the Police Department's been working on and, you know, I wish Kelly was here today because I know that's her expertise, that's what she does every day. And I don't know if Kara would mind to tell Kelly to come to the next committee meeting so we can see, because it seems to me that the Police Department's been working on a new program --

LEG. HAHN:

We --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- and now we're introducing a different program when it might be somewhat the same.

LEG. HAHN:

No, no, no, no, no. So we've been working together over six months or more on this, and so they, you know, went back and looked over five years at the data with this offender-based system which takes a look at the gender of the offender; the age that the offender first had any kind of interaction with PD; the current incident, whether it violated a restraining order or a stay-away order; prior domestic violence or family disturbance offenses; prior arrests, any kind of arrests; whether there's one or two or more, you would get different points; prior violent offenses; prior alcohol or drug offenses; whether or not in the past year there have been domestic violence or family disturbance offenses, and taking all -- each one of those has a predictive value. And the formula would find -- and they looked at our, you know, from 2010, the domestic assaults of intimate partners in a year and they ran the cases and those that scored between 10 and 13, you know, came out with a very, very high percentage of re-offense, you know, where they actually re-offended.

And so this Portland model, you know, this scoring system turned out to be when we looked at it as what had had happened in Suffolk County in the past, it turned out to actually be very predictive right here on finding out who re-offends. And so this is something that will be extraordinarily useful in the future. The cases that those highest scores, we can give extra resources, you know, or a domestic violence unit can, you know, go do little bit of extra in those cases. And whatever the Police Department may turn out to establish procedures on whether they, you know, have a special

alert, you know, put in the sector cars or whatever, you know, whatever it is you decide to do with these highest risk cases, just using that system will be incredibly informative and preventative for future domestic violence incidents.

On the other hand, 50% of women don't understand their risk of repeat violence. So you have the one hand where the public safety agencies now have a better understanding of who would re-offend, but on the other hand you'll have this educational tool, this self-assessment which will help to educate the woman -- I'm sorry, in most cases the woman -- who is the victim about the risk of her being re-offended, I guess is the way -- maybe that's not the best way to put it, but revictimized.

And so there are two equally valuable, complimentary assessments going on here that we've worked long and hard together on, you know, as just part of this whole journey and finding solutions in the domestic violence arena. And I'm excited about both of them and I think both of them will help us moving forward and does require -- I don't have -- see, this doesn't have any like implementation dates, so -- I see George just walked out, but I don't see anything that says this has to be implemented within, you know, 20 days of signage or anything. So I imagine that we'll work together to work with the domestic violence agencies in understanding what this will mean when people bring the forms to them. I did put in a piece here that our domestic violence agencies that we contract with will have to be trained and certified in using this assessment form, because it will be a self-assessment, but the victims are told to take their answers and go to an agency, because we really do want all victims to utilize the services of the agencies. And the agencies are the ones who know how to best walk them through all that is recommended for someone who is going through domestic violence. So I hope that answers your question, Legislator Browning, Madam Chairwoman.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You're done?

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Kevin?

LEG. McCAFFREY:

And I think Legislator Hahn answered my question, but just to make sure. Lieutenant, so you checked the reliability of this algorithm by -- and the correlation between past offenders. So you went through and said had we scored them back then, and this is exactly what happened; or the predictability of it was --

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

The predictive ability of the algorithm we used was pretty striking.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

It predicted very accurately who would be likely to re-offend. We were actually all, frankly, in the room, we were going over the numbers. And I don't have the exact numbers in front of me, but we were -- we were happy with the model we used --

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Right.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

-- because we feel it will let us predict, with a fair degree of certainty, who was likely to re-offend.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

And that was in Suffolk County, right?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Correct, that was based upon Suffolk County data.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Right. Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I hate to say this, but we have the PD that's been working on one model and now we're asking them to go to a different model.

LEG. HAHN:

No, no, no. No, this is using --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Both models.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes. Right, so we worked on this together and PD -- what we described is what is in the bill.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. But now the Lieutenant mentioned the District Attorney's Office and, you know, we need to have the Judges included in this. And I want to know where the DA's Office has been with this; I mean, obviously their input is going to matter, too, and obviously the Judge who is the one that's going to be the one who does the sentencing.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Madam Chair, I don't have answers to those questions today.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So could -- you know, I hate to go ahead and pass something that's going to tie the hands of the Police Department from doing something that they're doing or to change anything. Again, I did ask, I know Kelly was not able to come today and, you know, I'd like to have Kelly Lynch come because this is her expertise. I know it's hard for you to have to -- I'm sure you know quite a bit about it, but, you know, this is something that Kelly does on a daily basis.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

If it would be possible to --

LEG. HAHN:

Could we discharge it?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, could we have her come to the General Meeting? I mean, I don't know, that's up to the Presiding Officer.

LEG. HAHN:

Could she come to the General Meeting?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

If we were to say do a discharge without recommendation or -- and then have Kelly Lynch, who works in Domestic Violence, to come to the next General Meeting, or would it be better -- I know we're only two weeks away to the next Public Safety meeting.

P.O. GREGORY:

Well, I know that they want to do some outreach to the different agencies as well. Is that going to be able to get done? I mean, it's, you know --

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Madam Chair, when is the General Meeting?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Next Tuesday.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

I couldn't ascertain whether or not the outreach will be done to the other agencies by then.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right. But again, personally, I would like Kelly to be here because, you know, it's going to be in Kelly's hands to have to do this, and she's not here to speak on it. And to say -- I'd like her input, I think it's important, but also I'd like to see where the District Attorney's Office is.

LEG. HAHN:

She's obviously been very involved in this.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. What about the DA's Office; where are they with this?

LEG. HAHN:

No. I'm not quite sure --

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

I can't answer that right now.

LEG. HAHN:

Can you explain why the DA's Office -- you know, what exactly the DA's Office would do here?

P.O. GREGORY:

They have the -- many years ago I interned in the DA's Office in the Domestic Violence Unit Office where they handle these cases, they do the reports, the DIRs and all that stuff, and the prosecutions.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And then the Judge is the one that has to do the sentencing. I mean, obviously -- my understanding is, and correct me if I'm wrong, is that when you do the scoring, you look at who's most likely to re-offend. So if that person winds up getting rearrested, the DA's Office has to, you know, prosecute it, and then the Judge is going to have to determine what he's -- what his sentence is going to be; should I let this guy out again or do I --

LEG. HAHN:

Right. So we're going to have -- we're going to have this tool that shows a very high amount of predictability and it will be a tool that we will offer to them. So you want them to be involved in designing the tool, I guess is what you're asking about?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I would think --

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

No, I think --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, I think not as far as designing the tool, but to see -- because again, if somebody gets convicted of a crime and the Judge has to impose a sentence and he says, *Well, you know, I'm going to release him, you know, and put him out on probation versus maybe incarcerate him*, and if the guy does something when he's on probation, then the Judge is going to be kind of held accountable for -- I'm trying to --

LEG. HAHN:

No. I'm just confused, because we can't -- I've been told that we can't tell Judges what they can and cannot consider --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, we can't.

LEG. HAHN:

-- and, you know, what they must do.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But when it comes to scoring --

LEG. HAHN:

Because I've been trying to do that with the GPS bill.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, but when it comes to scoring this, the Judge is the one that's going to have to be looking at -- he's going to be looking at the score --

LEG. HAHN:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- that they have presented --

LEG. HAHN:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- to determine whether this guy --

LEG. HAHN:

But we'll be offering them a tool, we'll be offering them a tool on predictability that they will or will not use, depending on what the Judge wants to do, and so we will offer that to them as support. You know, I guess it will be the District Attorney that would offer it if they decide that it's something

they want to do. But this is for -- as much as it may be able to be utilized in a sentencing capacity, which I very much hope that it will be because of the predictability numbers and how incredibly, you know, reliable this is, and I hope it will be. But really the purpose here had been what we can do to prevent the further, you know -- there's multiple uses of this that are not solely based on sentencing, which this will be a tool that we can offer, that the District Attorney can or cannot offer whether or not they decide to do that. Hopefully they will use every tool in their book to keep the worst offenders with the highest risk, you know, from getting lighter sentences, and I would imagine that they would do that. But we also want to use this internally to find ways of preventing the instances of further violence. And so this is for an internal purpose as well in the Police Department, so this has multiple uses, and I just don't understand the delay. I mean, once we get it going and we get it, you know, showing, I mean, unless someone from the -- is there someone here from the District Attorney's Office that has a problem with this? Is there anyone here from the District Attorney's Office today that can explain?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

I'm not aware that this has even been presented to the DA's Office yet.

LEG. HAHN:

Okay.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

I really, you know --

LEG. HAHN:

But again, the purpose was for an internal, preventative measure.

And we can get -- and I absolutely would want to get the DA's Office and the Judges involved.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right, but if we -- if we pass this today, then we're basically saying this is what we want and this is what everybody has to abide by. And what the Lieutenant is saying is that what they've done so far, they have now yet to reach out to the other agencies, the District Attorney's Office, the Judges, to present what they have been working on to decide whether they agree with it. So now we're kind of giving them two competing programs.

LEG. HAHN:

No.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah. One's the one program and the other is the Ontario Program.

I'm trying to understand, but I think that what they're saying is where they're at right now is where has the conversation been with the District Attorney's Office, and we're telling them that we want them to do something different than what they've been doing already. Do you know what I'm saying? And the DA's Office and the Judges have not been included in the conversation.

LEG. HAHN:

I don't think anything in this bill tells the DA's Office to do anything, so this is why I'm just confused.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No.

LEG. HAHN:

I am very confused.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, no, no.

LEG. HAHN:

Because there's nothing --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No. And I know that --

LEG. HAHN:

George, is there anything in the bill that tells the District Attorney what they have to do?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I don't think this is telling them what they have to do, and we can't tell a Judge what to do.

LEG. HAHN:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But obviously we want the cooperation of the District Attorney's Office and the Judge when it comes to prosecution and sentencing.

P.O. GREGORY:

If I may, Madam Chair? Although the bill does not directly direct the various agencies to use the bill, I would imagine from a liability standpoint they would feel very much forced, for lack of a better word, to use it. Because, for instance, if there's a scenario that an individual has a high probability rate based on an assessment and they don't use that and they release them and something happens, you know, there's risk there, so they're going to be more inclined to use it. So I don't necessarily -- I don't see any harm in getting their input, at least for the importance of them understanding how to utilize it. You know, so that they can utilize it in an effective way and get the result, the desired result that we're all looking for.

LEG. HAHN:

Okay. So do you think that can be done before Tuesday, or do you really think we need to wait another cycle?

P.O. GREGORY:

You know, two weeks or three weeks I think would be more conducive to have those conversations than kind of in a rushed manner, over the next several days, to do it right. I think -- I hope that everyone can get on board and get those conversations done within the next couple of weeks.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure. Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

You know, I had gotten involved with this issue as far as trying to advocate to do more with the sexual assault, with partner -- with the domestic violence issue. And there was an article that came out last year, Oklahoma City Police Department implemented a checklist and it showed that certain actions committed created a higher level of concern, and basically women, mainly women were more at risk of dying from domestic violence, from choking. So if your domestic violent partner committed a crime of choking a woman, there was a higher incidence of that woman dying in a crime, in the situation. So -- and this study was done with John Hopkins University. And the numbers are there, we know that, you know. And Legislator Hahn has been working very hard on

this piece of legislation so Suffolk County can move forward on our own checklist. So I have to advocate strongly that we move this resolution forward as soon as possible. Do you have -- you may have said this earlier, but do you have the numbers regarding the incidents of domestic violence in Suffolk County?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

No, I don't, I don't have those with me.

LEG. ANKER:

Could you bring those, you know, whether we discuss this at the next committee meeting or at the General Leg meeting, so we can understand the urgency of passing this resolution?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Sure.

LEG. ANKER:

Great. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

And for the record, Ms. Anker, anytime in Suffolk County a victim is choked, or it's called criminal obstruction of breathing, domestic violence does do an automatic follow-up on that; and that's Kelly Lynch's team, Sergeant Lynch.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Kara, what do you want to do? I mean, could we -- I mean, I definitely would like to -- it is an important issue, but I want to make sure that the District Attorney's Office is aware of what we're trying to do. You have a question?

LEG. CALARCO:

I do. So if I'm understanding this debate properly, what I'm hearing is that the Police Department is using one particular method and the sponsor is looking for us to use another very specific method.

LEG. HAHN:

No.

LEG. CALARCO:

It sounds to me as if the Police Department's using one specific method, your bill specifically named another method to use, like you have a very specific -- unless I have an outdated copy of the resolution. It makes mention to a Portland --

LEG. HAHN:

Yeah.

LEG. CALARCO:

So you're looking for a very specific method. And the Police Department is using a different method; is that what I'm hearing correctly?

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Well, we're not really using anything.

LEG. CALARCO:

Oh.

LIEUTENANT DONOHUE:

We've just done a study on an offender-based model.

LEG. CALARCO:

So --

LEG. HAHN:

There's two different models.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

There's two different models; there's a victim-based and offender-based. And we went back and did a study on the offender-based system and we found it to be --

LEG. CALARCO:

So the sponsor is saying they're both in the bill, so the sponsor wants us to use both models?

LEG. HAHN:

Yes. So -- okay, I said this earlier, but I'm sorry if it's confusing. There are two things in this bill: One is the objective, offender-based, analytical system of what has happened to the offender, all those points I brought up; the other piece is the Jacqueline Campbell model that will be the self-assessment for the victim. These are two complimentary pieces, okay? They're not mutually exclusive, they complement each other. They're to be used together so that we, you know, both educate ourselves as to which offenders will re-offend and educate the victim as to their risk of being re-offended.

LEG. CALARCO:

So one method is going to have the department doing an assessment based on what they're seeing on their own accord.

LEG. HAHN:

Right. So one method will have the department running a formula against the offender. What's happened -- what does this offender bring to the table that's, you know, statistical numbers, you know, are --

LEG. CALARCO:

And that's intended --

LEG. HAHN:

Like the one they read before, they're male or female, have they had --

LEG. CALARCO:

Okay. That's intended to help them better identify where they need to -- when they may need to intervene further.

LEG. HAHN:

Correct.

LEG. CALARCO:

And then the other method is a method that involves the victim and that's to allow the victim to have a better understanding of that individual's -- their risk.

LEG. HAHN:

Right. And so for the victim to understand their risk of re-victimization.

LEG. CALARCO:

And so --

LEG. HAHN:

Correct. Because it's very important that the -- so it's been shown that 50% of victims who were either killed or had the attempt to be killed didn't understand their real risk, so they tend to minimize their risk, actually.

LEG. CALARCO:

So the debate we're having isn't about -- at least from your perspective, isn't about which method is better, you want to see us implement both methods --

LEG. HAHN:

Correct.

LEG. CALARCO:

-- so that we are both -- our Police Department is able to be as proactive in preventing a future event that would be tragic versus -- and at the same time trying to empower the victim themselves to recognize that maybe they're in more risk than they, you know, want to know or even are capable of recognizing at the moment.

LEG. HAHN:

Correct. And in their recognition of the threat, there is a greater chance, like if they actually can recognize this, there's a greater chance they'll reach out to the agency --

LEG. CALARCO:

Sure.

LEG. HAHN:

-- and they can use the services that we provide.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure, if they actually know that they're at risk, they're more likely to do something to prevent that risk, that danger.

LEG. HAHN:

Right.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

And if I may add, with the offender-based model, we could even give that information to the advocacy agencies and have them reach out to the victim.

LEG. CALARCO:

No, I understand that, and I think that the sponsor isn't saying she doesn't want you to do that. I think what the sponsor is trying to say is that we have to also take every opportunity we can, including at the time of the incident, to inform and help the victim to understand the risk and danger that they are facing.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Sure.

LEG. CALARCO:

Because, you know, unfortunately sometimes the victim isn't going to want to accept or see that. So oftentimes you have to kind of reinforce the message as many times as you can, and I think what she's saying is that we're missing probably one of the most critical times to do that which is right after the event.

So I think this is, you know, maybe a prudent action so that, you know, it's not just asking the department to be a little proactive, which it sounds like the department is trying to do themselves -- you are saying that that's what you want to do -- but also helping be a little bit proactive in terms of educating and informing the victim right off the bat; *Here's a form, fill it out, take a look at it. This will help you kind of get a better handle where you might stand and what you may or may not want to do with yourself, and sometimes you might not get that if you don't do that.*

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Just to be clear, the Police Department is not advocating against either of the assessments. It's just that to my knowledge, I'm more familiar with the offender-based one.

LEG. CALARCO:

And I think the sponsor is just asking us to do both. You know, when you come to a situation like this where you're dealing with something that is so difficult to deal with and so often, you know, things slip through the cracks unintentionally, the more approaches the better. Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So where are we going?

LEG. HAHN:

So I'm absolutely willing to reach out to the District Attorney's Office? You know, it just didn't -- until today, I didn't realize that this would, you know, need to go through them. And so I'm hoping that we can --

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Ms. Hahn, just for the record, I don't speak for the DA's Office or anyone else, any of the other criminal justice departments.

LEG. HAHN:

No, I get that. So --

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Just the mechanics of the bill, having it --

LEG. HAHN:

No, I get there's a tremendous amount of uses of this extraordinarily predictive tool, and I didn't, you know, work through that particular use to bring the DA's Office to the table.

I would ask the committee to pass this out. I will reach out to the District Attorney. If we cannot have a substantive conversation before Tuesday, we can table it on the floor.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Okay.

LEG. HAHN:

And, you know, I absolutely value their input. I've worked -- we've been working on this for a very long time. Having been a victim myself, you know, it's important to me, very personal, would like to

see it moved. But I am willing -- you know, I would like to do it in the right way, so we will --

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Okay. And again, Ms. Hann, it's not just the DA's Office.

LEG. HAHN:

I understand.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

It's the Courts, Probation, advocacy agencies.

LEG. HAHN:

Probation has been involved in conversations on these bills, so. But I will continue to talk to them and do my best to have a substantive conversation with each of them before Tuesday. I very much appreciate everything that the PD has done and your commitment to ensuring that we can find a way to reduce reoffenses for domestic violence victims.

LIEUTENANT DOHERTY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So there was a motion to discharge without recommendation by Kara?

LEG. HAHN:

Well, I didn't say that.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Rob will.

LEG. HAHN:

There is a motion to approve and a second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Rob's making the motion?

LEG. CALARCO:

No, I seconded the approval.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Do I make a discharge without recommendation? I'll make that. Because, again, I want to know that everybody's comfortable with what they're being asked to do. It's a very serious, important issue and I want to know that everybody's on board, that every agency's on board, that it's going to be done correctly. Because if one agency's not on board, they may decide, *Well, we're going to do our thing*. And so I --

LEG. HAHN:

No, I agree with you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So I don't want to hear --

LEG. HAHN:

Process; process is important.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right, right, so I just want to make sure that every agency's on board. And I appreciate that, you know, you'll reach out to the District Attorney's Office also. And again, with the court system, Kara, I think also with the court system it would be a good idea to reach out to someone in the courts, and I'm sure the District Attorney's Office will help with that.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So I made the discharge without recommendation. Do we have a second?

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I'll second it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

There's a second by Legislator McCaffrey.

MR. NOLAN:

To discharge.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Was there a motion to approve and a second?

LEG. HAHN:

Discharge takes precedence.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, discharge takes precedence? Okay, so discharge without recommendation; there was a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. SPENCER:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

One opposed? Okay. Abstentions? ***It is discharged. (VOTE: 6-1-0-0 - Opposed: Legislator Spencer).***

2185-15 - Establishing a School Traffic Zone Safety Commission (Hahn). Is there a motion?

LEG. HAHN:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve, Legislator Hahn. Do we have a second?

LEG. CALARCO:

(Raised hand).

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

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

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1044-15 - Declaring the month of May as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Month" in Suffolk County (Martinez). Legislator Martinez makes that motion?

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

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

1054-15 - Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Local Law to amend the membership of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (Browning).

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

1057-15 - Accepting and appropriating a grant as pass-thru funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to the Department of Probation with 90% support for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (County Executive). I'll make a motion.

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

It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).

1070-15 - Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of communications equipment for Sheriff's Office (CP 3060)(County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve.

And second, Legislator Martinez. Mike, can you give us a little background on what this is?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

This is simply appropriating the funds that were discussed and approved during the Capital Budget process during last year for 2015.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Now, there's no connection between this larger 800 Megahertz project and this one; this is two totally separate projects, right?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

These are items that fall outside the scope of that larger project.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Any other questions? No. Okay, so there was a motion and to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).*** Thank you, Mike.

1071-15 - Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of Replacement Public Safety Vehicles (CP 3512)(County Executive). Motion to approve.

LEG. SPENCER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second. And what are these replacement vehicles; is this cars for the PD, cars for who? Does anybody know what this is?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh; that's why you're here, Phil (*laughter*).

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:

I'm here for a reason. Yes, this is for the purchase of public safety vehicles for PD and Sheriff.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, okay, because I did put in a request. Ah, thank you. How many on -- how many PD, how many Sheriffs?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:

The total for Police, there'll be 78 marked sedans, there'll be 17 SUV utilities, there'll be 24 unmarked, five undercover, there'll be two prisoner vans, four pick-ups and two cargo vans.

And for the Sheriff, we're looking at five marked, six utility, four unmarked -- Impalas, I guess it's four, probably high Level -- two unmarked Interceptors and one prisoner van, for a total of 18, and PD has a total of 132 vehicles.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I did make a request on the car situation for all of our law enforcement. Granted why this is -- we got some numbers. John, did you get any information yet so far, or -- well, I guess you made the request of Phil. Did you -- I did put in a request for vehicles, you know, mileage like we've done in the past doing a breakdown.

MR. ORTIZ:

The information that Phil has is basically that information.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, no, no, no, this is purchasing new ones.

MR. ORTIZ:

Right, this is --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

What the existing inventory is.

MR. ORTIZ:

Well, what we're doing here is we're replacing 150 vehicles that have excessive mileage on them.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. ORTIZ:

If you need a complete inventory, we can get that.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, if you could. You know, now that we're replacing them, what are we replacing them with? What kind of mileage are in the vehicles that we're replacing.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:

They're all 130 and above.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:

We're still looking at -- we're not even chose to the complete decoms that were already taken off, out of service. So we're getting there, though. We've greatly improved over the last year.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:

Our whole process in general, getting the vehicles to purchasing and getting them from the date we get them on the ground, getting them outfitted and put into service.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So what's your timeline once you do this purchase? What is your timeline, when do you expect to be able to do the purchase and get them marked and --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BERDOLT:

Well, as soon as it's approved and the funds are released, we'll make our order and we'll start off with the unmarked -- excuse me, the marked patrol vehicles because they're the highest need. Our last round, our 70 we got outfitted in a few months, so we're doing very well with it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Thank you, Phil. Any other questions? No? Okay. So we're good to go. So there was a motion to approve and a second, I believe, right? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).

1099-15 - Accepting a donation of \$35,000 from the Suffolk County Police Memorial Fund, Inc. For use by the Suffolk County Police Department to upgrade Hogan's Alley, a training facility located at the SCPD Firearms Range (County Executive). Motion to approve. Second, Legislator Spencer. Can we Consent Calendar this?

MR. NOLAN:

It's up to the committee.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, we'll put it on the Consent Calendar. So motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar. There was a second, Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

It's approved (and placed on the Consent Calendar - VOTE: 7-0-0-0).

1103-15 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$97,000 in Federal pass-through funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the 2014 Tactical Team Grant Program with 100% support (County Executive). Motion to approve by Legislator Calarco and place on the Consent Calendar.

P.O. GREGORY:

Madam Chair, I have a question.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure.

P.O. GREGORY:

Once you get a second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Huh?

P.O. GREGORY:

Once you get a second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, okay. Second, Legislator Martinez. Okay, we got the second.

P.O. GREGORY:

If I may, through the Chair, BRO. Robert, on this, on 1103, it's a Federal pass-thru grant from the Division of Homeland Security from the State. Is -- I'm trying to be kind. The discussions, or lack thereof, in Washington, will they have an impact on this funding?

MR. LIPP:

No, not on this one.

P.O. GREGORY:

Not on this one; why is that?

MR. ORTIZ:

It's already in place.

MR. LIPP:

This is the one that's already in place, so they don't have to vet it out. In other words, the loss or the furlough of Homeland Security staff wouldn't have to progress this any further, it's already been established.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. So the money is to be paid. Now, are there any other funds from the Department of Homeland Security that may --

MR. LIPP:

So we've identified, just by looking at resolutions that were adopted last year that had Homeland Security as the focal point, and the grants of almost eight and a half million dollars we identified. That being said, there's a lag between the appropriation of those -- or the acceptance of those grants and the actual spending of the money and receipt also. So that it's not clear exactly when they'll show up in the budget. A lot of it will show up this year and next year, and it remains to be seen, you know, if you want to use that as a template. There's more sort of in the pipeline that we haven't adopted yet that will be during the year, but just as a sort of example, we found eight and a half million dollars that were appropriated last year.

P.O. GREGORY:

So potentially, because of the dysfunction in Washington, we may potentially lose up to \$8 million or more.

MR. LIPP:

That's a possibility, but that -- the entire amount, it's unlikely that we would lose it all, but it's always a possibility. You know, it's basically a lot of it is going to be delayed and probably will eventually come through, but some of them might fall by the wayside depending upon what happens in Washington.

P.O. GREGORY:

Do we have an idea of what -- I mean, we have a sense of the dollars, but does that also include personnel, what type of --

MR. ORTIZ:

It's mostly for training.

MR. LIPP:

Yeah, mostly for training and, I guess, overtime in order to do the function.

P.O. GREGORY:

So training obviously are Homeland Security issues, which could at least put in jeopardy some of the safety of our residents here in Suffolk County because they're not getting the most latest, up-to-date training.

MR. LIPP:

Right. There would basically be a loss of service provision if any of the grants did not come through.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

MS. SANTERAMO:

I just want to let you know, Commissioner Williams has been looking at this possibility of how DHS would impact FRES and some of the other departments. So we're hoping to come up with a more comprehensive overview for you shortly, but this is something that our departments are paying attention to and working to kind of assess how much it would impact us. So we should have something for you shortly on that.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. Thank you, Madam Chair.

LEG. HAHN:

Do we know how many Federal workers -- you know, maybe not through Suffolk County, but how many Federal workers there are here in Suffolk County that could be affected, whether furlough or --

MR. LIPP:

No.

LEG. HAHN:

Is there a way to find that out?

MR. LIPP:

We could try.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Any more questions? Okay. So there was a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar and a second?

MR. RICHBERG:

Yes, there was.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Abstentions? Okay, *it's approved (and placed on the Consent Calendar - Vote: 7-0-0-0).*

I do apologize, I know we were trying to get this done sooner than later. We have our Deputy Police Commissioner, Risco Mention-Lewis, to kind of update us on -- I think it's about a year ago she came in to talk to us about the COTA Program. So have a seat, make yourself comfortable. Do you have some people with you? They're welcome to come up and sit by you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

No, that's okay, they're fine where they are.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We actually have some new Legislators who haven't had the opportunity to meet you and, you know, learn about the program, what you're doing. So I guess, you know, we will hold off on any questions and let you -- I know some of it might be a little redundant and repeated for some of us, but that's okay, it's been over a year. So if you want to just start, give us some information about the COTA Program and how it's been progressing over the past year.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Good morning. I know you wanted specifically to hear about COTA and you will hear about COTA, but even when I first came I told you about community-based intervention, which is a strategy and COTA is just a small piece of it. So I want to update you on the whole package so you can see all the things we've been doing in the Police Department, all right?

So the first thing is that we've been working on Police Department Enhanced Community Relations, and I'll show you how that fits in terms of the entire model of the Police Department. The mission really is accountability, intelligence-lead policing, which you've been hearing about the patterns and trends and things like that, and then there's enhanced community relations saying that we can't do -- solve crime by ourselves, we have to have a robust relationship with community.

So you have to my right here Lieutenant Donohue who runs the Community Response Bureau, and Community Response deals with incidents in the community and responds to it with PAL or activities, and deals a lot with young people. He has much more than that, but I'll leave it there. But advancing into community relations says that as opposed to responding to situations, now what we're going to be doing is looking at a community, assessing its safety, assessing its needs, assessing the relationships and building those relationships and structures in communities that most need it. All right?

And the most important thing is a lot of times we address crime stats with police, and so when they go to a community meeting they don't know why people are upset, but it's because they are dealing with safety. And so dealing with -- now we're looking at it twofold; crime stats, but also what are the feelings of safety, where are the hot places, hot people and hot issues. So that's Lieutenant -- you have Lieutenant Donohue. The department structure is you have Community Response Bureau. With the Community Response Bureau, you have PAL, you have the CLOs, they're doing a lot of work in communities. Where the precincts change is the School Resource Officer, COPE, FIO Gang, we're actually bringing them to meetings at school districts altogether to bring a wholistic approach, the suppression side and the intervention side working more effectively together.

So how do you do that? You community problem solve. You look at hot people, identify the hot people, identify the hot places or hot spots, and you identify the hot issue. And this is really a national model, a national trend. Department of Justice is doing this, DCJS is doing this and, of course, we're doing this in Suffolk County. And what that means is your School Resource Officer,

Community Liaison Officers, COPE Officers. Also, we just started having the Community Liaison Officers which we have in the each precinct and their job is to get to know the entire community, all the administration, all the stakeholders, all the businesses, door-to-door and really understand what's happening in a community, and Lieutenant Donohue oversees them. And the next part of that is to successfully collaborate with community to build infrastructure, in a sense.

Human capital. So what are some of the tools the Community Liaison Officer and COPE and SROs have? We've been developing these leadership teams, which it's kind of interesting because Legislator Calarco has been involved in the one in Bellport, Legislator Martinez started hers -- and I apologize, I missed yours this week -- we have one started in Huntington and we have one that's been going on in Wyandanch that Legislator Gregory has been involved in, and hopefully soon we'll have one in Amityville.

Another thing is we have a mothers' club in Wyandanch. The Council of Thought and Action is just another piece of it. *Vamos a Hablar* and *Let's Talk*, these are meetings with groups of Latino families and community with school districts to have a better understanding with police. We've been doing community surveys. We have been -- we created a new training for bias-free policing and cultural efficiency. Of course we've always had Nixle. We are utilizing what we've learned from those surveys, community surveys, and we've been increasing our Police recruitment, a cultural diverse focus. So these are all the tools we've been using. Cooking classes, movie nights, sports programs, youth conflict insertion which is something new we've been doing with young people in school districts. Custom notifications, door-to-door, going to jails visiting people and telling them to come back different. Crime Stoppers and community door-to-door when the major incidents occur.

So some of the education we've been doing with CLOs with school districts and others. We have *The Ugly Truth Forum*, we had one in Commack, I think we had like 500 people at that function. Youth conflict insertions, we've done another one of those in the high school. And I'm going to talk more about the details of what these are later, but I'm giving you an overview of all the tools in enhanced community relations for the Police Department. We're doing more in communities and these are the ways we're doing it. Narcan training, which you're already familiar with, Citizens Academy, the Youth Academy Explorers, Operation Medicine Cabinet, active shooter drills in school districts and bullying programs.

So what statistics is Lieutenant Donohue going to have for you already? A thousand fifty community surveys, and that was in 2014, we have more since then; 500 community meetings to get to know the community. So you see the national things happening in the nation, we want to make sure that doesn't happen here. So we're having community meetings to make sure people have a better understanding and relationship with Police and know what -- you know, that we're here to protect and serve them. Nineteen thousand five hundred pounds of medicine; why is that important? We know because of Opiates. One hundred twenty-six guns were surrendered in just two gun buybacks. And of course we have the SAVE Program, because you know that with the phone system.

Now, this is the important part. National Initiative for Building Community Trust. The National Network for Safe Communities is the model right now in the country, cutting-edge model for working in communities and also cease fire and group violence intervention. We wrote a letter, in partnership with the County Executive, to be one of the five cities that is looked at for this national model. And what it does is bring in experts to teach us how to do procedural justice, police legitimacy, bias-free policing and they'll bring experts from across the country.

So those are all the tools in the tool box you saw. I showed you the training that we have, and now let me show you what happened in Wyandanch in particular with the model, right? The youth center, as you know, a year ago or a year and a half ago, we fought really hard and partnered with the community to get a new director in there. You went from 30 kids a month, if you recall, to now

there are 350 kids in that resource center a month, I mean youth center a month, and that's because of the work you did here to make sure a good organization is running the resource, the youth center.

The resource center has a new director and we have one of the Deputy -- Assistant Directors here with us today who is involved in COTA. They were seeing about 25 or more a month, and now they're serving 350 or 400 a month in the Wyandanch Resource Center. Now, how does this affect crime? What it does is when people are busy, when people are connected to resources, they're much less likely to commit crime.

And as we know anyone who is a parent, the more children involved in activities, the less likely they're involved in criminality, less likely gangs can pray upon them.

You know we've done the leadership teams, and we've developed one in Wyandanch, one in Bellport, and now it's spreading, the County Executive's Office and Legislators here are running those other leadership teams. We've done the Mothers for Change, which is a mothers' club; because if mothers aren't educated as to how to work with one another, how to advocate for resources, children won't have what they need a lot of the times. And of course you have Council of Thought and Action which is the piece that we'll be talking more about later, which is a weekly ex-offender support group, which we have two right now. The one that's doing really well is Wyandanch, Bellport is not doing well, to be perfectly honest with you.

So this is what the leadership teams look like. The leadership team on the left is the one in Wyandanch and the one on the right is the one in Bellport. We also -- with all the leadership teams, you have subcommittees of youth, conflict -- I mean youth subcommittees, you have employment subcommittees, and the Police Department CLOs, COPES, SROs are involved in these meetings.

Mothers club I told you about. They actually have a logo now and they actually meet monthly. And the Mothers Club, when we first started, they actually -- when the resource center went -- when the youth center was happening, the Mothers' Club did a survey of the school district of the youth, high school and middle school. They surveyed over half of the high school students, over half middle school students, and what we found was when they conducted the survey, what do you think was the number two or three thing that kids wanted in Wyandanch? What do you think, which activity, they were most interested in? That's a question, I'm asking you that. Anybody?

LEG. CALARCO:

I know the answer.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

If you know the answer don't give it. Anybody who doesn't know the answer? Guesses? Legislator McCaffrey, what would kids ask for?

LEG. McCAFFREY:

More recreation.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

More recreation? Well, that was one of them. But the number two or three thing they asked for was cooking classes. Who knew? *(Laughter)*.

Lieutenant Donohue, along with Michael Neal, an officer, a COPE officer, worked with Pace's Restaurant. We bought grills and they had cooking classes in the school, and also all last summer cooking classes in the youth center. So these are the type of things we're doing. It's comprehensive, it's not just one thing. We're looking at all aspects of a community and saying how can we supply the needs and work with young people to identify the most at-risk as quickly as

possible and shepherd them toward the resources; whether we knock on their family door, whether we work with the school districts, or whether we just know from the community what the needs are.

Another thing -- so that's young people. Another thing we're doing is -- so those are the young, young people. Now we need to think about the number one median age is 18.5 for shooters on Long Island, the youngest shooters on Long Island is 18.5. So how do we go after that 16 to 25-year old population, 24-year old population, to reduce crime, to reduce violence?

One training we're about to have, the Department of Justice -- DCJS, rather, is doing a training on March 3rd and 4th of the Police Academy, other counties are coming in and they're going to be trained in violence reduction strategy, which is that call-ins, bringing those offenders in, bringing parolees in who have gun cases in and telling them this moral message. And what they found statistically is it reduces the incidents of gun violence for those who are coming back who went away for gun violence, and it also reduces gun violence for those who are in groups that we know are violent are violent. And you give them three messages: One, that violence must stop as a community message, you bring the community to talk about it; you get a law enforcement message which is saying we know who you are and we know that this is your liability if you get rearrested; and then we also, since we have these resource centers being developed in the communities and these outreach workers developed, which I'll talk about later, there's actual resources that they can tap into with the leadership teams, developing employment and things like that. Does that mean they're going to do it? No, it doesn't. But they have viable choices that they know for a fact, and if they choose not to do it, suppression is always available.

So another thing we've been doing is a thing called custom notification. So this is along the same lines of the cease-fire model. We've been going to jails and see specific young people we know are coming back to a community, and talking to them about who they should be when they come back. We're not saying they're all changed, because sometimes we have to watch them and make sure they get locked up quickly, because one thing we know nationally is that swift and certain repercussions leads to change. So if a person comes out of jail and they know they can go back to doing what they did and keep doing it for a long time, they'll keep doing it. But if you warn them and then you stop them quickly and lock them up if you have to, then you're much more likely not to have those guys going back three, four, five and six or seven times. So swift and certain is most important, and the way you do that is you identify them when they're coming out of jail, you go to their houses and warn them, and then you put the suppression team to watch them, even though you're doing intervention with them.

So we've been working with Judge Camacho's Court, a few young people with them him have come out, we've worked with them in the school district. One young man is actually on the wrestling team, was on the football team, is doing well. Another young man came to COTA, and it's kind of interesting, he's a COTA member, but the first day he ever came to COTA he said, *Some people have to commit crimes*. You know why he believes that? Because that was the only avenue he thought for himself, but now he actually got -- he's doing well in school and he just got a job last week and he's working his job. Does that mean he doesn't still come to COTA and need help? No, last week he had a little problem on the job where somebody yelled at him when he was divvying out the soda and he got a little attitude, you know. So you still have to come and learn, how do I do well on that job? And so that's the custom notifications and that's why we're working with the kids coming back to the neighborhoods.

Another thing we've been doing in Suffolk County is youth conflict insertion, and what that is is this. You know that in school districts, in Bellport and Wyandanch and other school districts, you have 15 to 30, it's very few young people that get involved in violence with one another. They're usually separate groups, and normally we call them want-to-be gangs, etcetera. Throw those concepts out, because what you're looking at really is young bullying and we need to call it young bullying. And so

what we've been doing is when a school district, we've been working with the Superintendents of school districts, when they identify groups raising their heads, or we in the Police Department identify the groups, we work with the school district. We reach out to the parents, we give them the Power Point, we show them Facebook page, we show them all the things we have about why we're worried about their child, their children rather, their groups, and then we ask them, *Can we meet with your kids?* We meet with those young men and tell them, *Stand down. The violence must stop. There's resources for you, but you must stop.*

In one of the incidents in Bellport, we found out that some old boys were involved in the conflict, they didn't go to school. So we had COPE officers and gang officers knock on their door and say, *Stay out of this conflict. These kids need to go to school and you need to stay out of it.* And of course, eventually one of those young men who didn't -- he stayed out of the conflict but he was doing other stuff; he needed that swift and certain punishment, so he's locked up right now. But you know what? The idea is to give people options and let them know the options. Suppression and intervention is always on the table.

And of the young people, the three youth conflicts we did last year, we also gave -- worked with the Department of Labor to do Summer Jobs Program, and of the ones we put in, 34 out of 35 kept their employment. And in the Fall, the school said the kids were quieter and better in the Fall, and they were quiet all summer. Because what we're trying to do is identify the kids who, if they're out of a neighborhood and they're working and doing well in the summer time, are less likely to bring conflict into the school district or into the neighborhood.

Another resource we have for this population is we got a grant, a GIVE and a SNUG Grant, and we've been working with the 16 to 24-year old population. So we got -- we have one outreach worker already hired, we have one survey worker in Wyandanch, and we're working on the survey workers for Brentwood or Huntington. The SNUG Grant is in and we're still solidifying exactly how we're going to -- who we're going to transition into the hiring. But basically what that is violence interrupters, guys who get trained by a national organization to do work -- to go after these violent young people to try and intervene with them and then bring them to the resources which we've already developed through the Community-Based Intervention model.

Another thing we're doing with this SNUG grant is resource fairs. So the Community Liaison Officers are working to do resource fairs just for the 18, or 16 to 24-year old out-of-school population. Why? Because we know they're the ones involved in group violence, we know they're the ones selling drugs, we also know they're the ones who are being victimized. And so doing a direct outreach for that 16-to 24-year old population is very important and that's what the SNUG Grant and GIVE Grant is all about; reducing gun violence through going after the most violent groups, young people.

Okay. Then we have COTA, Council on Thought & Action. So when you look at it, we have programs in the community with young people, we have the resource centers developing, we have a youth center developing, we have the outreach for customer notification, we have high school and middle school outreach through conflict insertion. And then the evening meeting, once a week, is COTA, and what that's for is for guys who want change but may not exactly know how. And so the three tools of COTA are the *Corporate Plan*, which is a written plan for their life, a 45-day plan; the other things, we talk about *Rocks in the Backpack*, what are the systems you have that no longer work for you, including crime being one of them; and *Higher-Ideals* are saying, How do I give back? How do I become that young man or woman that I needed? The picture you're seeing there is one of the events we had which is the Fall Festival we had. Over 250 people came out to that Fall Festival that COTA organized, and basically it was games, we got different donations from organizations and we used the football field and the community came out. And so it was good for COTA, it was good for the Police because we all -- Community Liaison officers worked with us, School Resource Officers worked with us and the community worked with us and saw, you know,

that -- saw people giving back.

Some of the things you talk about when you come to COTA, and I invite all of you to come. The Wednesday COTA is the best, it's Wednesdays at five o'clock. We get kicking around between 5:30 and 6, and I invite you to come out. You don't have to just sit here and listen to me, come to COTA. And remember, three meetings you remember yourself. Challenges -- one of the things we do in COTA is we challenge false narratives. Young people in these communities often have false narratives. One of the very common false narratives is this; *I'd rather be caught with one than without it*, and what they're talking about is a gun. And so if we talk about why you don't need a gun, why guns actually bring problems to you, why you can do something better than carrying a gun or committing crime, or address the false narratives like the young man that says, *Some people have to commit crimes*, that's what COTA is really about, it's about changing the thought pattern to change the false narratives, to change the behavior.

We also have COTA members that mentor others. And I have one person here, Daniel, who's been in COTA for a while and he actually -- a lot of COTA members have been talking to Jordan, the young man who has been in trouble for a while. And so any young person that comes in, the older COTA members talk to them, all right? It builds relationships and builds police legitimacy. Now, how that works is we have a Probation Officer in Wyandanch, she's a regular Probation Officer who comes, sometimes there's one who goes to the Bellport one. We have Police Officers that come and just sit in the room. We have community people that come in and sit in the room and then we have COTA members, and the reason why that's important is because it lets people know, even though you committed a crime, you're still a part of the inclusive community, that Police can still sit down and communicate with you, that Probation can still deal with you other than as a probationer.

One interesting thing is we had a COTA member who came in and said he really didn't like police. He's 40 somewhat years old and had a 10-year old son and he said, *My son asked me, You don't really like Police, do you,* and he said, *No, I don't.* But in COTA, we had an officer come in and sit down and talk and what he said at the end with tears in his eyes, literally tears in his eyes, he said, *I'm really glad you came.* Because people have anger and hurt feelings and it's important to have those sit-down conversations. So this also deals with this Fergusons and all that stuff. This model where you have police and young people sitting down and communicating and older people talking about historical conflicts is important because it happens in the room also. And, of course, as you know, it's a grassroots movement. It is not a program, COTA is not a program. It's not like you would think about a program, it's a movement where you're doing activities in the community and it's a place where they can sit down and talk about whatever is going on in their minds, and also plan for their futures.

So this was one of their projects we did. We did an Easter egg hunt, which I don't know if you knew about that, we had about 300, 400 people at that. To the left is -- I'm sorry, an officer and a COTA member playing football with a kid, and on the bottom is one of the COTA members who's actually on the Wyandanch construction site. We have a lot of COTA members doing construction because of the resource center training. We have some -- one young man is actually in the city making \$22 an hour. You know, we have some not making that kind of money. We have a young man right now who's working at Boston Chicken in Mastic, even though he comes from the Bellport COTA. So, you know, but the idea is to get a job and then work toward a career and that's what the planning does for you. So that's COTA.

Some other things we're doing in the Police Department, obviously as we've been doing all along, is Project Play, which is a camp for kids. There's also a camp in Wyandanch that goes on, it's sponsored by the Hispanic Society. Something we've been doing lately, which, you know, it's been extremely successful, and that is these meetings of *Vamos a Hablar*. We've been working with school districts, with Police, where we meet with groups of Latino families. This one you're seeing

on the screen is the Huntington one we had, 150 people came to that one. We just had one in Brentwood that over 300 people came to. And the Inspectors speak in front of the group, I speak some Spanish, we have Spanish officers speaking and we basically tell them about the language access line. We tell them if you're a victim of a crime, be comfortable coming to the Police. You know, we tell them about -- and we also learn about things that are happening, like in Huntington we learned about a particular person who is victimizing the community with housing, fake housing rentals, and they didn't even know it was a crime. And so that's another part I think in these meetings we're learning, is what is happening that we may not always know about.

Another thing we've been doing is the Let's Talk with African-American young people, having Police just have conversations with them. We had these two, I just did another big meeting with RACE and Police at Stony -- not Stony Brook, at St. Joseph's College the other day, and also at the time I did a lot of recruitment. So we're doing these meetings, but also putting recruitment as a piece of it.

We've also been doing The Ugly Truth, heroin, meetings in school districts with people. The last one we had, I think we had over 500 people at the -- and we partner with Commack Coalition of Caring, and the community liaison officers are setting up other heroin educational programs in communities to let the community know about the real dangers of the scourge in Suffolk County. So basically what it is, is once you know hot people, hot places, hot issue of your community, the Police Department is working to educate the community and give resources to the community and work with the community to help fight its own problems.

And the last thing we've been working on is Police recruitment, obviously. And the interesting thing about this is we changed some of the advertising, and one of the things we discussed is particularly African-American males, when we asked them, you know, *What would make you want to be a Police Officer*, one of the things they talked about was working with your community, community commitment. So a lot of advertising only has like helicopters and planes and all that, but we intentionally put the word *community* in because that's what some people are more attracted to, the idea of working to protect your community, being a hero in community.

So that's basically all the things we've been doing, enhanced community relations. Thank you. I lost a lot of people, wow.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, I think -- yeah, only two. Three? Oh, boy. Okay. Well, the people who really -- no.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

And also I just want to --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I want to back up a little bit.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Because you mentioned the Mothers' Program.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And I think that a lot of the problems with some of the young people today is the lack of a father figure.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And have you looked into doing a Fathers' program?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

No, because I -- because sort of that's what COTA is. COTA is mainly males. And so in COTA we talk about -- as a matter of fact, last night -- I mean, I have two COTA members -- actually, two COTA members; one is Daniel and the other one is Elton and the other one is Maurice Thomas, who he's now the assistant at the Resource Center in Wyandanch. We had a meeting last night, and part of our dialogue specifically last night was male responsibility. Actually, it was a very good conversation. As a matter of fact, one of the young men who came to COTA from high school was saying that, you know, he told his girlfriend, *We can wait*. We all clapped for that one (*laughter*). And so those dialogues are -- male -- being a man, relationships, taking care of your children is a constant dialogue in those rooms and that's what it really is for, changing the mind-set that may exist.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Now, you mentioned the COTA meetings are on Wednesdays?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Wednesdays in Wyandanch, Thursdays in Bellport.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thursday, okay, because Bellport's my district.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So what time do they meet?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Six PM.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Six PM?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Bellport's not as strong.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, you were saying.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

And the reason why it's not as strong is because it's getting the Resource Center. We just started working on the Resource Center, and so if don't have people coming into the building and you don't have people doing outreach as fully as you need, you're not going to get people coming at night. And so I think once now that we have the Department of Labor there and we have the Department of Social Services there, now the night meetings might build up. But they don't have -- really, they don't have enough staff there. They need more staff, they need more resources in that resource center.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

They have more in the Department of Labor and Department of Social Services, but honestly, they need to higher an outreach worker, which they don't have.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Another thing, you mentioned that you go into the jails; what jails do you go into?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Wherever they are. I've gone to -- mainly the two people we went to were in Yaphank.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

The two people we've gone to were in Yaphank. We also go to houses. But remember, these are specific people that you -- like they're in the neighborhood and the Police Department knows about them and we know they're coming back to the neighborhood, we know their cases are finishing, so we go and say, *Hey, did you know these resources exist? Do you know you can do this? You don't do that, and if you don't do this, unfortunately we're going to have to do what we have to do.*

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, but let me back up, I'm not sure if I missed something. Are these people who have been in COTA who now have wind up back in jail?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

No, no, not at all.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Or are these ones that --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

No, no. Custom notifications are just people in the community that make communities unsafe. People who have been identified -- one question I often ask people in the community, or young people even in particular -- and I've always asked, even when I was a prosecutor -- is who is the next person to kill or be killed? Now, you might think, okay, well, just do suppression on that person, but I believe in first trying to get next to that person with intervention. It doesn't mean suppression is not watching them, doing wire taps or whatever; it doesn't mean that's not going on. But we know this; even if you lock a person up for three years, five years, 10 years, 25 years,

they're always going to come back. And while they're away, they're going to cost, Upstate, if they're under 16 or so, \$200,000; and if they're not they're going to be, what, 50 to 60,000 a year? So not go after them?

You may not -- you're not going to win with most of them, but you're going to win with some and, therefore, it costs less when you go after them and you actually win. So custom notifications is not people who go to COTA. It doesn't mean they can't go, it just means they're those high-end guys that are causing conflict, and we want them to know, *We know who you are, we know what you're doing. And when you come back, you can't come back like you left, or we're going to pick you up swiftly.*

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And these are people who are in the process of being released?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Correct.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So do you coordinate with the Sheriff's Department when you go in?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So there -- okay, so you notify the Sheriff's Office you're coming in to meet specific ones?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Correct.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So that whatever you're doing with them and preparing them for release, the Sheriff's Department is aware. You know, they're working with you to set them up through their departments that they have.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Correct.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, you can't get into the jail, even the Deputy Police Commissioner, without the Sheriff knowing.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure you could, just go to visit (*laughter*).

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yeah, no, we don't do it that way. That's not how we do it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Does anyone have questions? I know Kevin is -- he's new to this, so he didn't have the opportunity to meet you last year when you were here.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Thank you. It was a nice presentation you made; in fact, I'm going to an Ugly Truth viewing today, tonight in Lindenhurst, so it's making its rounds.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Excellent.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

No matter the community, we all have that same problem. You know, it's not selective.

I had a question concerning the outreach that you have with the people in the COTA Program, or the Police Department has with the youth or the individuals in the COTA Program. How does that work? I mean, what kind of dialogue is there between them and that sort of thing; I mean, how do you make that relation or that connection with them?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, actually, why don't we have Maurice? Maurice, you want to come up and answer that one? Because he -- Maurice is the assistant at the Resource Center, so he's at the Resource Center during the day and he does a lot of the outreach to bring them for the evening meetings.

MR. THOMAS:

Hi. Good morning. What I have seen as an observation, how COTA has affected the youth, you have young men who come in who have been misguided at an early point in their lives. They now have an outlet to be heard and voice their feelings, how they feel on a daily basis, whether it's issues in school, whether it's issues at home, we know that there's a lot of poverty in Wyandanch. These young men, the experiences that they grew up with, for example, relationships with Police Officers, how you're supposed to carry yourself "*in the streets*", quote/unquote. I think that as you're developing as a young man, it's a difficult thing to take on by yourself, especially, as I believe Ms. Browning has mentioned, where so many people lack a positive father figure in their lives. So COTA now creates an outlet or an avenue for these young men to be heard and also find answers to questions that have gone unanswered.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

And what about the interaction between, say, the Police and the individuals, not just the community center?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

We -- COTA members -- Police come in. If Community Liaison Officers or COPE Officers are working nights, they come in and sit in the room.

The way COTA works is it's a circle, anybody can come in and sit in the circle. You can come in and sit in the circle, you say your name, how your week's been going; if there's a topic that comes up based upon that conversation, like last night was about relationships between men and women and how we should treat them, so that topic may come up. So the Police who sit in the room are COTA. Probation Officers -- I mean, actually we have -- I don't know if he's still here. A Probation Officer, he's COTA on a regular basis, Officer Porter, he's a COTA member. He talks, say your name, how your week's been going. So it's not -- it's regular -- it's just a conversation, so anybody can come in and sit down. So that's why it's good, because it's just a conversation between two people and they get to see Police as people, because that's what they are, whereas before they might not have seen them as that. They don't see them as, you know, having issues or needing -- or having desires or caring about them, and so it really is effective just to have a general conversation. So that's the interaction; in the room, they're sitting there talking. And when we have events, officers work with COTA members at the events.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay. When is the Wyandanch meetings?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Wednesdays, five o'clock. We start around 530, quarter to six we'd say?

MR. THOMAS:

At 5:30.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

And where is that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

What's the address?

MR. THOMAS:

Wyandanch Resource Center, 1585 Straight Path, Wyandanch.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I know where it is, okay. Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

And I dragged Daniel here. I don't know if you want to hear from Daniel, but he's here also. He's also a COTA member.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Monica, did you have a question?

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Good morning, almost afternoon. Just a couple of questions, just to clear some stuff up in my head. You had mentioned two different grants.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

SNUG and GIVE?

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yeah. Are those the national organizations that you're referring?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

No. DCJS gave out the GIVE and SNUG grants, and they're basically gun prevention grants. Because you know that 18.5 in Suffolk County are the main shooters, and so what they did was they gave funding to hire violence interrupters or outreach workers to those populations. We have one, Chris couldn't be here today because actually has another job, so he's at his job right now, but we have outreach workers in Wyandanch. And the SNUG grant, I forget which neighborhoods we have that one, certainly one is Wyandanch, but I'm not sure if the other one is Huntington or Brentwood, I'm not really sure. But part of that is you can't have an outreach worker really until you have a place for them to bring people to, and so that's why the Resource Centers are so important to be well developed.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes, I know, trust me. I'm having that issue right now.

Now, in terms of the training that you said; you said they were going to be trained by national organizations. The outreach --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Workers.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

-- workers, they're the ones who are going to be trained by the national organizations?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes. I also had a meeting with a group of people in Wyandanch and we'll probably have -- we're going to have one in Huntington also, of community members who are interested in being outreach workers, volunteers. So once we do the training, it won't just be the paid outreach workers, it will also be community members.

So one of the things called -- and I'm sorry, I didn't write the name down, but one of them is Violence Interrupters, it's a national model, they're in Brooklyn. There's one program in Brooklyn, so we'll probably take them into Brooklyn to be trained. And there's another model out of Rhode Island, the Director is Teddy Gross, and that is -- actually, I can't recall the -- it's -- I can't recall it right now. But -- oh, Institute for Non-Violence, it's the Institute for Non-Violence. They're in the grant to come and train us and how to create outreach workers and violence interrupters.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Now, when these outreach workers are coming out, they're going to -- and being trained, they're going to be -- I mean, every single district is different. So each trainer, would they be trained based on the district they're going to be conducting the outreach?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

I mean, the populations you're going after, they may be culturally different, but -- to be honest with you, I've worked in California, I have two COTAs in Chicago, and places really aren't that different. Criminals are pretty much criminals everywhere you go, you know? Violent people are violent people everywhere you go. They still have the idea of *I'd rather be caught with a gun than without one*. They still have the idea that, you know, homelessness, they still have the idea that crime pays, you know, they still have all those false narratives. So I really don't see that much difference no matter where you go.

The question -- the outreach worker being -- the importance of an outreach worker knowing his community and being from that community is what's important, because he'll know where people are. You know, you and I -- well, me -- you might not, or I don't know who might not. Some people may not go to any neighborhood and know where to find the offenders, won't know which house is the hot house, won't know where the hot place is, but these people that we're hiring are people who know those people, those places.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Okay. Now, Deputy Commissioner, as you know, I represent both Brentwood and Central Islip, and predominantly we have a larger Hispanic population than we do African-Americans. But in terms of the outreach you're doing thus far, I know you just did a *Vamos a Hablar* over at the Brentwood Library. How often do you plan on conducting those forums? And aside from the *Vamos a Hablar*, what else do you anticipate bringing into the community?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, right now for Brentwood, I believe we have -- we've been looking -- we've been advertising for two survey workers, and what that is is for the out-of-school, 16 to 24-year old population to do

outreach for them. So we reached out to community members, reached out to your office, we reached out to others to hire those two people.

And we are doing more Vasmos a Hablar because Community Liaison Officers set them up; I think we have another one in a week. I try to look when our next one was, it's either next week, or I saw something on the calendar. So we're doing those on a regular basis and we're working with school districts, so it really -- like the Ugly Truth, it depends on our partners. So the school district -- we're working in partnership with the school districts for the Vamos a Hablar, and the reason why is because sometimes some communities have, you know, trepidation in meeting with Police, and so by going through the school district, we can get that 150, that 250 people, and that's why we're really going on the CLOs, reaching out to the school district and then setting up the meeting on what's best for the school district.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

So you're saying there's another one in Brentwood?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yeah, I believe there's another one in Brentwood coming.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Can you please let me know when that date is? Because I was not aware of that.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Sure.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Thank you. Also, when developing your programs with COTA, how do you determine which individuals will be participating? I know you say they can come in, I can go into your meeting and just sit down. But is there a breakdown in race of crimes committed here in Suffolk County?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Oh, of course.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Would you be able to provide that? I'm not sure if anybody else needs that. But is there any way that I could get a list, you know, like a breakdown of race and the crimes committed by race?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yeah, we can get you that.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Okay. Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Remember, though, the work I'm doing is focusing on violence; group violence, shooters, that's who I'm focusing on. Although, obviously the Vamos a Hablar is not for that, you know.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Did you want the breakdown on what the Deputy Commissioner is doing or do you want just a breakdown?

LEG. MARTINEZ:

I think of both, if that's possible, of what you're doing and what we have here in the County.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

On which thing? I can tell you right now, there are -- there's probably only one Latino who has been in Suffolk County COTAs, because as I said, it's really focused on shooters. And we know that statistically the number one shooters are 18.5 years old, Blood Gang members.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Okay. I'm sorry, I just want to make sure that I understand. So you're focusing on shooters and violence or --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes, and violence. That's why we -- part of the thing which you and I have talked about in Brentwood is we need to develop -- once you develop your resource center, then I can come -- we can come in and do the next phase. But you can't -- see, community-based intervention had four pieces; one is identifying the chosen few, obviously; the mapping, right; the community building, which the leadership teams, the resource centers, which you're working on; but we can't do shepherding until you have a place to shepherd them to. Whether it be Make the Road, that's why I reached out to Carlos Sanchez, to help me hire the two survey workers; I'm looking for Latino survey workers. But I also -- I'm hesitant because I don't want to do outreach unless I have -- one thing these people -- the number one emotion of these people that we're dealing with is hopelessness. So the last thing we are going to do is do outreach when we have no place to bring them; it's not going to happen. So once we finish the -- you finish developing that aspect for those neighborhoods, then we can really work on that shepherding of those particular populations.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

And I understand what you're saying, but it's become very difficult in my neighborhood to make sure that gets up and going, okay? As you know, in the other communities, the Town and the school districts are actually helping out, where in my resource center that I have opened once a week, okay, with two departments in there, it's taking a little slower, you know, in taking off. So in terms of -- I know that you're saying you have to first have a place to shepherd them, but I think in order for me to also move forward and making sure that I have the proper resources being brought in, I think we could start doing a little surveying so I can have a better understanding of what else we need.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, we definitely are working on hiring the two survey workers, so that's what I thought. I can't do the outreach workers like I have, but we are doing the surveys, because we want to know, what do young people, even at 16 and 24 out of school, what do they want? What would they be interested in having? And because we do have Department of Labor resources, we do have other resources that do exist, we may have to get them to the resources, and of course we have them in the Make The Road once a week, so that's still good. So by doing the surveys, we can actually -- you'll have that information. But right now it's working on hiring those two survey workers.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

You don't have a timeframe for that, do you?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, yesterday was my timeframe, but yesterday's passed (*laughter*).

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes, it is (*laughter*). We are here today.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yeah.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Okay. So obviously you know that my doors are always open and I hope that you -- you know, you have my support in making sure that both Central Islip and Brentwood, both the Hispanic community and the African-American community get the resources that they need.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes. And like I said, the outreach workers we're looking at right now, we are looking for Latino outreach workers. And that's why I work for Carlos Sanchez and other organizations to try and find those two outreach workers. And I think some were interviewed, but I'm not really sure -- EOC is the hiring agency, so I don't know if they had the interviews or whether they were already hired, because we're setting up -- we got more names I think a week-and-a-half ago.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

DuWayne?

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you, Deputy Commissioner, for your presentation and all that you're doing. I know sometimes we have a plan and we try to execute the plan, and as we learn in the military, our plans don't always go as executed, but we certainly -- it certainly benefits us to have a plan. And I certainly appreciate the work that you've done in my community in Wyandanch and I'm very familiar with that. Particularly, you know, I was impressed when you really -- you know, there was always in the community a dissatisfaction with the youth center and, you know, you took the time and a hands-on approach and went out and not only just listened to the complaints of the community, you went out and surveyed the students of what their needs were and found out that, you know, 50% of the students, you know, had never been in the youth center, and then that really shepherded a movement.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Actually, 78%.

P.O. GREGORY:

Seventy-eight percent, excuse me, to change the leadership at the youth center, which was severely underutilized. I just saw Janine Reynolds last night, who is Executive Director, and she walked up to me and said, *DuWayne, we're in conversation with the Town to expand the building.*

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Wow.

P.O. GREGORY:

I mean, that's tremendous, you know? So that's really a reflection of your work, as I see it. I didn't do it, you did it. I'm happy to support, but it was really your hands-on approach and getting into the community and making that happen.

You know, and I've been to some of the COTA meetings and I support what you say, that the Resource Center is a critical and key component of that, because then those -- it's like a therapy session, if you will, right? Because you have ex-offenders and people who are there and they talk about anything. Like, *I'm DuWayne Gregory, I'm your Legislator and my week's been okay*, and, you know, some people say, *Well, my week hasn't been okay*, and you get in this group discussion. And here, to be a part of it, you have to have certain elements. You know, you identify -- you know, maybe you grew up in a home where there was abuse, and from that you have emotional issues on how you treat women or authority figures or whatever the case may be, but the other part of it is you're supposed to establish your own corporate plan, as it's described, and that's, you know, maybe you want to go to school to get your CDL, right? Well, presently you don't have a job, you have a suspended license, so that obviously makes it difficult. You know, there was one person who wanted to get a CDL and he had suspensions on his license. The Resource Center is there to work with them; Look, this is how you can address that issue, contact the DMV, and how do you address those issues that are complicating your path to -- for your betterment and to reach your corporate plan. That's why the Resource Center is really critical, and they've done tremendous work there. You know, you're not going to -- because you're dealing with high-risk populations, obviously you're not going to have a 100% success rate, we would love that, but I think one success is one less person that's on the street that can cause issues in the community and the community is safer for it. So I certainly appreciate everything you do.

But if you could just identify just a little bit more clearer for me what hot people are. When you say hot, I'm thinking like J Lo and Beyonce; you know, my mind's going off somewhere.

(*Laughter*)

And no disrespect to my wife, of course, who's very lovely and beautiful. The most beautiful person in my life. But, you know, like what does that mean? What does that -- I mean, I know -- because I've also witnessed, too, that, you know, people that are a part of COTA, they said, Look -- there was one guy, I forget his name. He said, *Look, you know, the gangs are after me. I'm going to get shot.* And I remember you and Kimberly, we're like, *What are we going to do with this guy?* He was kind of causing his own problems, but still, nonetheless, his life was under real threat. So how do you -- so you spoke about how the community identifies people that are the troublemakers, if you will. But how -- that's not the only method of identifying those that you should be --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, obviously the Police can identify who the hot people are.

P.O. GREGORY:

Right, right.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

The community -- like, for instance, young people can identify who the hot people are. I had saw somebody before last, two different groups of young people identified one particular group of brothers that were causing a problem, and so a community identifies who hot people are. You know, guys coming out of jail, you're talking to them, or COTA members can identify who the hot people are. There's any myriad of ways you can identify hot people, but the number one way I would say is Police and community, obviously.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. And I remember, there was one instance that you and I had spoken about, there was a gentleman who was Blood or something, he was due to come out within the next month or six months or something, you spoke to the parents and said, Look, we know he's a Blood, and the Mother was kind of in denial, and I think there were two -- she had two sons, the older son was a

Blood and wasn't aware that the younger son, who was at that time locked up was a Blood and he was coming out and you wanted to kind of say, *Look, he's coming back to the community. What are you going to do to ensure his success?* So, you know, how do you -- obviously you can't do that for everyone, but how do you make the assessment to which families? You know, who do you approach and when is that the appropriate approach to go? Because you can't do the same approach to everyone, but how do you --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, the way you have to look at it is this. You know, in any community, a lot of times we think our community is having thousands and thousands of criminals; they don't. And violent criminals are one to 2%; it's a very small population. That's why even in school districts, it's maybe 15, the maximum 30, but 15 to 20 young people causing a lot of conflicts. And so once you know it's only a very small population, then you just go after the very small population. And what you do is you just go top to bottom; who's the noisiest; right? That's where you go; who's making the most noise and seemingly causing the most feelings of lack of safety in the community and you after them first.

Now, suppression is Police -- we're always looking, if you're committing crimes, to arrest them, but you also are going after them for intervention. It doesn't mean they won't do it. So that's how you do it. How do you prioritize it? Who's making the most noise? Who is the community saying is making the most noise? If you're in Huntington, which house is the house that's most disruptive in the neighborhood? And we all know, every Legislator here has a house number that is the most disruptive. And the thing about it is in those same houses, though, are mothers and little kids who aren't involved in this, and little kids watching. And so, you know, that's another problem, making sure the School Resource Officer or Community Liaison Officer reaches out to the children in that household, the little kids in the household, who aren't with older brother yet. So that's how we identify it, who's noisiest.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right, thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Lieutenant Donohue has also something he wanted to bring up.

DETECTIVE-LIEUTENANT DONOHUE:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Just very quickly, I wanted to remind everyone, our elected officials and our audience members, of the Police test we're having on June 13th. The last filing date is April 1st, the eligibility requirements are 19-to-34 years old, the application fee is \$100, and we're encouraging all applicants, anyone interested in becoming a Police Officer, anyone interested in helping out their community, to please consider taking this test. Very simply, you visit joinscpd.com for all information and on-line registration.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. That's it? Okay.

I have a couple of questions. Do you have questions, Kara?

LEG. HAHN:

(Shook head no).

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. How long has COTA been in existence, the creation?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Since 2008.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Since 2008?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And I know you mentioned it about in Nassau County and, you know, I know criminal justice usually emphasizes on evidence-based -- sorry, my phone's going off -- but on evidence-based practice.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So, you know, have you been able to -- I mean, do we have any evidence of how successful it's been?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, this is the evidence we have. The first thing is that COTA uses cognitive behavior therapy, which is thought, changing thought; that's evidence-based. The second part is, the two Chicago COTAs are being studied by the Chicago Crime Lab. But if you would like to put some funding towards studying COTA in Suffolk County, I'd love to have it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, I'm not saying we should be doing it, but --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

I mean, but that's how it's --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

When we do something, generally, is it something that's been done elsewhere in other places, and where can we get evidence that it's a successful program? Because I was actually Googling a project, I think it's called Project Green Light; I don't know if you're familiar with Project Green Light. You know, that was a program, and when I looked at it, I thought is it similar? I'll send you the information on it.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Because it was actually a program -- I know you said it's not a program, however, it was something that they looked at, it was a pilot program and they decided that, no, it wasn't successful and that it wasn't effective. So, you know, you have people coming into COTA, and like you said, it's not as successful in Bellport as it is in Wyandanch. You know, how did it work when you were doing it in Nassau County?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And what statistics do you have to have say that it was very successful?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

In Nassau County, at the time I left, I forget the numbers we had back then, but at least -- I think we had over 800 -- I'm not going to give that number, because I don't remember the number that came through anymore, but I know I had a 69% employment rate and a 10% recidivism rate from 2008 to 2012 when I left, 2012 when I left.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

And so, you know, the name COTA is not evidence-based, but the principles that COTA operates under is evidence-based. It's like school districts; do we know, is education evidence-based? Has it been studied? And so studies take millions, sometimes millions of dollars. A lot of these programs that people are talking about, evidence-based means it got studied by a researcher, that's what it means and, therefore. You have to get the interest of a researcher. And fortunate for me and fortunate for us, that researcher is Chicago Crime Lab now for the COTA in Chicago, but right now we don't have a researcher for -- to determine the numbers here, but we do have a 69% employment rate and we did have a 10% recidivism rate, which we know, you know, is way lower than any other -- is very low statistics for recidivism, the 10%.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

And remember, we're going after -- we're going after people who have a high propensity for recidivism.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right, right, and so it should be. Now, this is being delivered by the Police Department, this COTA?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yeah, as of right now, but my goal has always been to hire part-time people or people who work in the resource -- like, if we had a resource -- if we got a resource center in Brentwood and then we got a person who can work in a resource center, that person could run COTA at night. It's only, you know, two to three hours a night, because during the day they're doing the job placement, the school placement and all those things, but at night it's a nightly meeting, it gives people opportunity to kind of unwind and talk about what's going on and get some real problem-solving skills and a new theory of life.

So my goal has always been, not that we run it, is that we get people within communities to run it. I'm sure Huntington Station will have volunteers, because I've met with about 30 people who are interested in Huntington Station. So part of that is who is going to run the nightly meetings. I obviously can't run them all, but I can certainly train people on how to run them.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So you train individuals to do COTA.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I don't want to say program. And now the individuals that are being trained for COTA, how -- do you have someone to monitor it, to oversee to make sure that they're doing things -- you know, like any program -- I hate to say program, okay?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

First of all, we only have one -- two right now and I'm doing both of them. The one in Huntington Station I'll train and I'll keep popping in, and then the Resource Center will oversee it, so the resource centers will oversee the model.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But you want to expand it. So when we train individuals for COTA, are we -- you know, obviously we want to expand it, we want to have more people trained so that they can oversee it, you know. But once we spread our wings a little bit on this and try and expand it, who's going to oversee it; is it the PD or is it now going to be something independent?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Most likely the resource centers.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

It'll be the resource centers.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Correct. It doesn't mean -- believe me, it's a model. It's a thing that's very important to me, so I will pop in regularly.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But it will continue to be under Suffolk County.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

But hopefully it will fly under the resource centers.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, but it'll still be under the County. Just curious, I mean, because I know that you had mentioned the young man in Bellport who, you know, has gone back to jail. And with COTA, when you're obviously some of them have been in trouble before and may have a conversation with you and feel comfortable to share that they might have done something wrong, let's say. How do you handle that; what do you do with that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, believe it or not, people are kind of smarter than that, so they're not going to talk in specifics in COTA generally. And most people -- remember, the guy who did something wrong, remember, he wasn't a COTA member, that was a custom notification. So we've got to keep the models separate; you follow me? COTA is generally people who have decided to make a change, they decided to make a transition; and custom notifications are people who absolutely have not decided to make a change and we're trying to push them towards change.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But it's someone who's in COTA right now who is a member of COTA. You know, and again --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Hasn't happened.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

-- everybody falls off the wagon.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You know, and --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

It depends on the wagon. Because if the wagon is, *I murdered somebody*; believe me, before they leave the building, the Police will be there.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, I would assume so.

(*Laughter*)

And again, you know, I question, being that it is being run under Suffolk County, I don't think we have anybody -- I don't know that we have any Counsel here who could let us know what liability we would have in the event that something would go wrong.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yeah. Well --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

If there's any mishaps.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yeah. And I apologize right now, but I have another meeting that I have to get to. So in terms of mishaps, it just hasn't happened. I mean, you know, it's not -- you're not counseling people. You're not -- you know, it's not that type of situation. You know, it's not that type of situation. I can't explain it to you sufficiently, probably, but it's just not that type of situation; it just isn't.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Do you have something? Yeah, I'd like to hear from you.

MR. THOMAS:

The Council of Thought and Action is exactly what it says it is, it provokes thought. So you have individuals who might lack the education to make the right decisions, but they're put in a room where everyone is humanized, Police Officers, Probation Officers, criminals, and they're able to talk in a reasonable manner and listen to each other, everyone has the platform to say what's on their mind or in their heart. So it's a very practical method, but it shows to be effective.

And in relation to the Resource Center, you know, which I can speak from, I've seen already people who have no place to live finding their way to the Resource Center to look for jobs, because they have an idea as a result of putting their issues on the table. And the room working together to find

solutions, they now have an idea and they're now making steps towards achieving something. There was an individual a couple of days ago who came to the Resource Center for the first time and he said he's never worked a day in his life, sold drugs his whole life. I briefed him on the Council of Thought and Action and he was there at four -- at a quarter to five looking out the window waiting for Commissioner Lewis. Because one of the things, the principles that I use is that everyone has a story. You know, these people have families, they have kids, like Ms. Lewis has said, and I'm sure most of you have families and kids, and your kids and their kids, there's a chance they might go to school together and they might have to collaborate and work together, you know, to make society better. So it's really putting a microscope on the human aspect and just thought in general, just thought in general. You know, I don't know the logistics of statistics and exactly what goes on, but I've seen people who have been staples in the community of Wyandanch for the wrong reasons.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right.

MR. THOMAS:

Making strides to be better, as little as they may be, so.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right. You know, again, it's more just saying, you know, if you have 500 people or 200 people and, you know, you're doing something and you want to see that the best success rate. And, you know, if it's not as successful as you'd like it to be, then what do we need to do to make it more successful?

MR. THOMAS:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And that's kind of what I'm trying to find out. Obviously, this is not -- it's not a new concept. It's something that's been going on since 2008, so obviously there has been some success. And out of that number, you know, of successes, how many was your initial target?

MR. THOMAS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And that's what I'm trying to find out. Because I would love to see a 100% success rate. So that's something that I know that I'm sure everybody is focused on trying to get 100%.

MR. THOMAS:

Yes, most definitely.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But reality is. So, also on the jobs programs, if you could provide us with the information on the jobs programs, and I know -- because with COTA, you're helping people to find jobs, right?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

The Resource Center, it's not COTA.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, it's just with the Resource Center? Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

The Resource Center has statistics, though.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Say again?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

The Resource Center has statistics, but COTA is about changing thought and getting people moving on their lives.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

That's what it's about.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And how -- okay, if someone wants -- because you're saying right now you train everybody? What -- where did you get the training? I mean, how did you -- how did this all happen? I'm sorry.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

And I really apologize --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I'm trying to understand the history of it.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

-- but I really do have another meeting to go to. I wouldn't mind coming back another time, but I have another meeting to go to. And I'll tell you this. How was I trained? I was trained by 19, 20 years of working in the streets. I was trained by John J. College of Criminal Justice and one of the best practices for working with offenders. I've been part of the John J. College of Criminal Justice Leadership Team since 2008, and they are training DCJS and they are training Department of Justice. That's who I've been training with and that's who also -- I'm on their leadership team, I'm training them. If you go on the John J. Website, COTA is deemed an innovation in criminal justice, because we know that mentoring works. We know that group mentoring works, the model is common. Mentoring works, group mentoring works. Written plans for your life work, you know, changing your thoughts, which is cognitive behavior therapy, works. So you're using the components that are proven; they're not any components that aren't proven. Mentoring works, group counseling works, support systems work, written plans for your life work, and of course, people utilizing the resource centers work.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So I think that's what I'm trying to -- where did it originate from, COTA? Because, you know, I've been trying to Google some stuff. I did see, you know, the John J and, you know, was there a specific treatment program or, you know, how did this all begin? What's the genesis of this?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Okay. COTA came out of the Drug Market Intervention Strategy of the Nassau County DA's Office. So what happened was when they did the Drug Market Intervention, which is another proven model, along with Cease Fire, what I found out nationally was although they cleaned up the streets, the people who got -- it's way too complicated for this moment, because I really have a meeting to go.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

But what we found, though, is those groups that you gave the Drug Market Intervention to, whether 13 or 20 or 40 people nationally, two-thirds of them are going back to jail. Even though the street was clean and the crime was off the streets, they were going back to jail. So we came up with this mentoring initiative, this group meetings to give them the support so they didn't go back to jail, to give them the guidance so they knew how to navigate life, and that's what COTA is. COTA is a name, but the pieces, the mentoring, the cognitive behavior therapy are nationally-proving methodologies. We just call it COTA here.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Again, you know, we're being faced with the possibility of having to build a new jail, and I think it's important, between the Sheriff's Department, Probation, the Police Department, that we make sure that whatever alternatives to incarceration we have and working on recidivism is extremely important. Because then we want to justify that we don't have to build another new jail, it doesn't work; jails don't work, programs do. And so that's why we need to ask the questions. We need make sure that whatever is being done is going to be successful and that we are going to have a very good success rate.

So with that, I don't think there are any more questions; is there?

LEG. MARTINEZ:

No, I just have one comment. You said the resource person should run -- you would like them to run the evening COTA meetings.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Yes, I would like that.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

But now COTA is changing behavior and thought. Should that person have a background in being able to change behavior and thought?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

COTA has a curriculum of language that works with people who have a street relationship. Some of the concepts of it, you know, there's concepts that work with certain populations and it just uses the concept. So once they learn the concepts and the language, they can do the work. I'll give you -- a simple example is the concept of they are holding us down, they are out to get us, they won't let us get a job. The corporate plan counters that, and if you have a written plan for your life and you do that written plan, right, and you have success in it, right, which we all -- hopefully we have written plans for our lives, that counters the idea of -- that they are out to get us because I have success, because I'm following the plan. I'm getting jobs, I'm getting interviews, I'm making connection. And so once it's learning the language that -- once they teach -- the person that learns the language and they teach it to the group, the group then uses the language to move forward, and the principles to move forward.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Okay. Only because I would be a little worried if the person is not able to grasp that language. As an educator, not everybody can be a teacher, you know. So whoever is put in this position, not only has to mandate the resource into the jobs program, you know, part of the youth center, any evidence-based being collected, you know. So I just want to make sure that whoever does come in is able to execute this properly and that no liabilities would take place because this person was not

able to grasp that complete language.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I don't think there are any more questions. We certainly appreciate you coming in. And again, maybe next time try to allow -- a typical Public Safety, it could run for two to three hours, so, especially when we have presentations. So, you know, if we do ever ask you to come in, make sure you try to allot that amount of time.

But anyway, with that, I appreciate you coming in, and I'm sure we'll be in touch. Certainly, if you could keep us updated because, you know, I will definitely work to get to a COTA meeting in my district and, you know, I'd appreciate and I'm sure everyone would, to kind of keep us up-to-date with whatever programs or anything that you have going on in our communities.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Well, I would appreciate it. I would really love to have the Bellport COTA doing well and I would hope that maybe you and I could sit down and talk about maybe some of the things that that resource center needs so that we can have more outreach.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Absolutely.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MENTION-LEWIS:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Have a good day. And with that, there is no more on the agenda. I'll make a motion to adjourn. Second, Legislator Hahn.
All in favor? Opposed? We are adjourned.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 PM*)