

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 Maxine S. Postal Legislative Auditorium of the Evans K. Griffing Building, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York on Thursday, September 29th, 2016 at 9:30 am.

Members Present:

Legislator Kate Browning - Chairperson

Legislator Robert Calarco - Vice-Chair

Legislator Kara Hahn

Legislator Bridget Fleming

Legislator Monica Martinez

Legislator Leslie Kennedy

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory

Members Not Present:

Legislator Tom Cilmi - Excused

Legislator William Spencer - Excused

Also In Attendance:

Legislator Robert Trotta - District No. 13

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature

Sarah Simpson - Assistant Counsel to the Legislature

Amy Ellis - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

John Ortiz - Senior Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office

Janice Lawlor - Budget Review Office

Josh Slaughter - Aide to Legislator Browning

Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory

Ray Donnelly - Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory

Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn

Liz Alexander - Aide to Legislator Spencer

Elizabeth Sutton - Aide to Legislator Fleming

Eva Greguski - Aide to D.P.O. Calarco

Katie Horst - Director-Intergovernmental Relations/CE's Office

Kerri Suoto - County Executive Assistant

Jason Hann - County Executive Assistant

James Cerone - Sergeant/Chief of Department's Office - SCPD

Anthony Papparatto - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

Robert Holley - Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy

Ed Johnston - Deputy Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy

Joel Vetter - Coordinator of Emergency Medical Services/FRES

Schneyer - Director of Emergency Preparedness/FRES

Anthony LaFerrera - Chairman/Suffolk County FRES Commission

Lou Tutone - 1st Vice-President/Suffolk County Police Benevolent Assoc

Jim Roddin - Trustee/Superior Officer's Association

Patrice Dishopolsky - Director/Suffolk County Probation Department

Matt Porter - President/Probation Officer's Association

Joe Callari - Vice-President/SC Association of Municipal Employees

Dennis Whittam - Nominee/SC Vocational, Education and Extension Board

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Michael Mulcahy - President/Long Island Alarm Association
Brent Mele - Vice-President/Long Island Alarm Association
Michael Sokoly - Secretary/Long Island Alarm Association
Larry Huff - Long Island Alarm Association
Karen Behr - Long Island Alarm Association
Robert Spetta - President/Alarm Tech Central Service, Inc.
Gene Demers - Resident of East Islip/Alarm Permit Law
Christopher Gagliano - Public Safety Dispatcher/SCPD & President/Police Emergency Unit - AME
John L. Cushman - SAFE/Sportsmen's Association for Firearms Education
& Regional Director/New York State Rifle & Pistol Association
Pete Pappas - SAFE/Sportsmen's Association for Firearms Education
James Saccardi - Acting Chair-SCOPE/Shooters Committee on Political Education
John Guadagno - SCOPE/Shooters Committee on Political Education
Vincent Rasulo - SCOPE/Shooters Committee on Political Education
Carol Ann Bauker - SCOPE/SAFE/CSA/Tea Party Patriots, Oath Keepers
Jeffrey Greenside - Resident of Islip Terrace/Gun Storage
Gary Reiber - Resident of Lindenhurst/Gun Storage
Robert Vallance - Resident of Holtsville/Gun Storage
Peter Ouzounian - Resident of East Setauket/Gun Storage
Harold Maskowitz - Resident of Holtsville/Gun Storage
Michael Stein - Resident of Smithtown/Gun Storage
H.C. Martarello - Resident of Patchogue/Gun Storage
Michael Rizzo - Resident of North Babylon/Gun Storage
Robert Vallance - Resident of Holtsville/Gun Storage
Stephen Ruth Jr. - Resident of Centereach/Gun Storage
Kenneth Barley - Resident of Hauppauge/Gun Storage
Nicholas Sarro - Resident of East Islip/Gun Storage
Kim Adamo - Resident of Patchogue/Gun Storage
Heather Georgiou - Resident of Patchogue/Gun Storage
William Raab - Resident of Bay Shore/Gun Storage
Kenneth Kratochvil - Resident of Nesconset/Gun Storage
Sherman Kearns - Resident of Ridge/Gun Storage
Pam Farino - Resident of Smithtown/Gun Storage
Albert Marnell - Resident of Copiague/Gun Storage
Edward Newman - Resident of Bay Shore/Gun Storage
Ron Bracca - Resident of Melville/Red Light Cameras
Jan Williams - Resident of Nesconset/Gun Storage
Bill Ian Jerow - Resident of Greenlawn/Gun Storage
Gary Hartman - Resident of Centereach/Gun Storage
Gregory Langstrand - Resident of West Babylon/Gun Storage
Rich Ogden - Gun Storage Bill
John & Natalie Allegato - Residents of Hauppauge
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M. *)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good morning. Sorry for the delay. We will -- if everyone would please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Trotta.

Salutation

And please remain standing for a moment of silence for the four young people who passed away in Brentwood, who were murdered; Kayla Cuevas, Nisa Mickens, Oscar Acosta, Miguel Garcia Moran. And also for the men and women who defend our country at home and abroad.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you. Okay, we do have a number of cards. I am going to ask the committee to take out of order -- we do have a gentleman who does need to get out of here, he's not going to be able to sit through the public portion. So I did not see anyone else in the office. I know that the other positions are reappointments; are they in the room? No, okay. So I will ask the committee, and I'd make a motion to take out of order **1775(-16), Appointing Dennis Whittam as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education, and Extension Board (Hahn).**

LEG. HAHN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, it's out of order. And Legislator Hahn makes a motion to approve 1775. I'll second that. And Dennis, if you'd like to come up and introduce yourself to everyone. I'm sure many of us already know you.

MR. WHITTAM:

Good morning. I'm Dennis Whittam. I've been in the fire service for 25 years, I have been an educator for 33 years, and thank you for appointing me to the position at the Suffolk Fire Academy.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Does anyone have any questions? No? Dennis, I think I've known you for the past 10, 11 years, so I know you live, eat and breath this.

MR. WHITTAM:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

The fire service, so it's certainly going to be a pleasure to have you, and also being an educator representing the educators on the board. So I would like to congratulate you. But there was a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).** You don't have to come on Wednesday.

MR. WHITTAM:

Great. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So, congratulations. It's going to be a pleasure to see you at meetings.

MR. WHITTAM:

Great. I look forward to working with you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Dennis.

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LEG. HAHN:

And thank you for all your years of service as a firefighter.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And before I forget and call the cards, Legislator Cilmi does have an excused absence. Legislator Spencer called me this morning, he is not well at all, so he will not be in for the day at all. So we wish him well, I hope he feels better.

But with that, I don't see -- I think Patrice Dlhopsky, our Probation Director is running a little behind. Does anyone have any questions for any of the --

DIRECTOR DLHOPOLSKY:

I'm here. I'm too small.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, she is here. See, Patrice? (*Laughter*). Again! Good to see you. But we'll start with the cards. The first card is John Cushman. And just so everyone knows, I know John and I just talked, everyone is aware, you have three minutes to speak. And John, I have two cards for you.

MR. CUSHMAN:

Yes, you do.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But you can only speak once. And it's on the same issue?

MR. CUSHMAN:

Yes, Ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, okay.

MR. CUSHMAN:

Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good morning.

MR. CUSHMAN:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you again. I've been doing this for a number of years. Some of you are familiar faces, some you have not seen me; the reason is you haven't done anything that I thought you needed to be -- we needed help with. So, but now I think you need help, so here I am again.

My name is John Cushman, I'm the President of the Sportsman's Association for Firearms Education. I'm also the Regional Director for the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association. I am an NRA instructor for 38 years. Recently, or in the past 14 years, my organization, SAFE, has trained over 2,000 women on the safe, responsible handling of firearms. We've never had a problem. We've also trained thousands of children.

I'm speaking directly to 1777-16, I'm opposed to this legislation and we're opposed to it on just some basic principles. Those principles are, basically, the WHEREAS' are hard to understand because we don't see how they were justified. For example, "*Legislature finds and determines*

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injuries, fatalities attributed to unsecured or improperly stored firearms are a serious threat"; when was that study done? Who did it? When was it done? What people were involved in it? Were these licensed individuals? Were these criminal homes? We have no documentation to show where this all came from.

Second one, *"Legislature finds and determines regional regulation of storage of firearms is necessary and proper to enhance safety"*; that's not a true statement. But again, this is based on what study? We have studies from every state in the United States and most states don't have any such rule or regulation, they leave it up to the good judgment of the people who have been legally licensed and have had their background check done. These are people who have acted responsibly, reasonably their entire lives. Now they have a firearm, there's no reason to expect that they will act any other way but reasonable and responsible, and it's up to the individuals, myself and my family. When my children were home, I safeguarded my firearms in a certain way. My children are now grown, my son is a Colonel in the US Army, my daughter is married with a child. I don't have any children in my home anymore, so the security is different than it was 30 years ago, and I would ask that you know that.

"Unintentioned shootings or impulsive acts, domestic violence, self-inflicted harm are significantly increased in households where firearms are unsecured"; again, this is based on what? What study was done? Where was it done? Who was it done with? These are things that, if you're going to pass legislation, should actually justify what you're proposing, and I don't believe that you have the studies or the proof that this is necessary or justified as follows. The storage of firearms. Again, we refer to it as a health issue. I'm sorry, it's not a health issue. It's not a germ, it's not a bad thing, it's something that we have to do.

(Timer Sounded)

I know, my time is just about up. Okay, let me end it with we're opposed to the legislation as written because it doesn't really resolve a problem. It doesn't solve a problem. There may be cases isolated, but you already have existing laws that will address those issues, such as negligent statutes, the poor handling of children. If you really want to do something, help us pass legislation that would require every school go through the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program; it's used in 14 states.

Applause

And over 41 million children in the United States have gone through the program and not a single incident have these children been involved in the wrongful use of a firearm. Thank you for your time. I know other people I hope will bring up other issues, but three minutes doesn't give you a lot of time. Thank you again.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, we have plenty of cards. Next speaker is Jeffrey Greenside; and after that is John Guadagno, I believe.

MR. GREENSIDE:

Hi. My name is Jeff Greenside, I have lived in Suffolk County since 1974. I have had a pistol license for over 30 years now. I've owned an alarm company, a limousine company, and I also have a license to carry in 26 states concealed. I'm opposed to this legislation or 1776 -- 1777-16. I mean, I live in the United States, I own my own house, I feel that's my domain. And for somebody to tell me how to safeguard something that I've done all my life with my children and everything, I

find that incorrect. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you.

Applause

Next speaker, John -- I hope I'm correct -- Guadagno; is that correct?

MR. GUADAGNO:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And after that will be Gary Reiber.

MR. GUADAGNO:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is John Guadagno, I'm a resident of Suffolk County. I've lived in Suffolk County for the majority of my adult life. The reason that I'm here today is that I've reviewed this proposed legislation and I actually have a couple of questions for the Legislature; in particular, DuWayne Gregory. Are you able to provide any information statistically as to how many children have been killed by firearms in homes in Suffolk County? Is that a factor, is that anything you looked into before you created this law? Is there any factual basis behind this push to limit our ability to exercise our Second Amendment rights to self-defense within our homes?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Just so you know, this is time for you to testify and we're not permitted to answer questions.

MR. GUADAGNO:

Okay. So there's no answers to be provided about how many children have been killed by firearms in homes in the past ten years in Suffolk County.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, you've asked the question. What I will --

MR. GUADAGNO:

I'll move on to my second thing now that no questions can be answered.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, go ahead.

MR. GUADAGNO:

Let's look back to Storm Sandy a few years ago, and I'll share a brief experience with you. I had my first child and he was in the hospital very ill. My wife had to live in Ronald McDonald house at the time and I was home all alone for three weeks with no power. In my neighborhood there were criminals going around in the middle of the night stealing people's generators and gas tanks out of their backyards. There have been numerous home invasions in the area of Huntington in the past five years. How does this law make law-abiding citizens any safer in their own homes? If someone kicks in the door and tries to come in and kill me or my family, how am I going to secure -- how am I going to defend myself with this law?

And my last thing is -- it's a question, then I'm done -- how do you intend to enforce this? Are you going to create some secret police to come into people's homes to make sure that they comply with this vague law? This law is an abomination and it's ridiculous, and if you pass it it's a shame and a

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violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Next speaker is Gary Reiber; and after Gary is Carol Ann Bauker.

MR. REIBER:

Hi. I'm nowhere near as articulate as everybody else. It's stupid. It's colossally stupid!

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Well, thank you for your brevity. Carol Ann Bauker; and after that, Vincent Rasulo.

MS. BAUKER:

Ditto. My name is Carol Ann Bauker. First of all, this law reads like a very weak newspaper article. I represent a lot of -- I represent SCOPE, I represent SAFE, I represent Oath Keepers, I represent CSA, I represent Tea Party Patriots; I represent most of the grassroots organizations on Long Island. Most of all, I represent myself.

This is totally against the Second Amendment, like the person before me stated. The Second Amendment was made to defend myself from tyranny, basically. If this comes about and I have to protect my life, there is no way I'm going to be able to do that if I have to run to my safe, open my safe, take a lock off my gun, load it and then defend myself. I'm dead, I'm dead. This is not Detroit, this is not Baltimore, this is not Chicago. Suffolk County is a law-abiding County. We have crime here, four were murdered yesterday, probably by guns. How does this law protect us from the criminals? How are you going to enforce the criminals to obey this law?

I also was going to mention about the Fourth Amendment. Are you going to get warrants to come into my house to check if my guns and my weapons are safely stored? I was in the gun business in my youth. I'm 74 years old and I've been involved with guns since I was 21. I had a son and I brought him up. He -- we did not have a problem, he respected -- this boy could break a gun down at the age of four and put it together, and he never touched it, never touched it.

Applause

So how are you going to -- how are you going to apply this? I know there's no questions. I have so many things here, but there are so many people that are going to speak that are probably going to bring it up. My question, too, was where do you get the stats? It's my understanding -- I didn't fully investigate it, but it's my understanding, like this bill reads *determined, understanding, no facts*. So it's my determination and my understanding that I don't know of a single case where a child got a gun and hurt anybody accidentally in Suffolk County. That's my understanding, that's my determination. I'm -- I thought I could speak a whole three minutes, but I guess not. No, this is not a health issue. A gun, a firearm is not a germ, it's not a bacteria, it's an inanimate object that cannot hurt anybody until some human being picks it up and uses it.

(Timer Sounded)

I have two pressure cookers; anybody want to come and take that from me? Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Vincent Rasulo; and after Vincent Rasulo is Robert Vallance.

MR. RASULO:

Good morning. I'm speaking here as a resident of Suffolk County and as the secretary of the Suffolk County Chapter of SCOPE, your firearm safety, education organization. I don't want to take up everyone's time, so I'll simply say I oppose this bill, I think it's poorly written. I think your stats are unfounded and I don't believe that placing more restrictions on the law-abiding are ever going to force the criminals to follow the law. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Robert Vallance? And James Saccardi is after that.

MR. VALLANCE:

Good morning. My name's Robert. I've been a resident of Suffolk County since I believe 1969. You folks do not give me my rights to defend myself, my Creator gave me that.

Applause

The Constitution of the United States, specifically the Second Amendment, gives me the teeth to defend myself. You will not come in and invade my privacy, you will not take away my rights, it's unconstitutional.

I have two daughters, grown daughters who grew up around guns. They're both very familiar with it, they both know the safety aspects of it, they know how to operate them. They also know that it's for defense and it's a tool, it's not a toy, all right? You have us lock these things up, you're taking our right to defense away. All right? I'm more interested in why aren't we concentrating on what's going on in the neighborhoods in this County. Brentwood; four people were killed in Brentwood, we're finding bodies in the woods. Let's concentrate on knocking these gangs down.

Applause

Let's knock down these guns that shouldn't be in their hands. We've done everything the right way. We follow the laws, as insane as they are we follow them, and you continue to put more bad laws in front of us, make us the felons. We're not the felons, we're the good guys. You don't want to hear it? We're the good guys.

Applause

Putting more restrictions on the good guys does not help the situation. We want to help. You guys don't want to help us do it. Have a nice day.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. James Saccardi? And after that is Peter -- oh.

MR. SACCARDI:

James Saccardi, I'm the Acting Chair of Suffolk County SCOPE Chapter. I'd like to say that this law makes no sense. You are not going to accomplish anything. If you want to accomplish something, require legislation that would require children to be educated on the proper use of firearms.

Applause

That will be the way you prevent injuries. I have nothing else to say.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. And I hope I don't destroy this one; Peter Ouzounlan.

MR. OUZOUNIAN:

That's good enough.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Close? And after that is Harold Moskowitz.

MR. OUZOUNIAN:

I'm Peter Ouzounian, I've been in Suffolk over 20 years. I just -- I never realized everybody would have so much to say and I agree with all of them, and these type laws are draconian. You would never say that you want to do something or limit what I do in my bedroom, but you don't want the safety of my bedroom. Thank you.

Applause

MR. MOSKOWITZ:

Good morning to everybody. Is resolution 1777 really a good idea for this County? Section 1 offers general observations referring to the nation in general, not specifically to our County. Since only County residents are to be burdened, endangered and potentially penalized by this bill, the residents are entitled to conclusive proof of necessity, relevant to our County and covering a significant period of time, not nearly a time snapshot. Has there been a crisis in fatalities resulting from unsecured, legally registered firearms in our County? The Supreme Court has recognized that individuals have the right to self-defense in life-threatening situations. This bill undermines that right by requiring valuable time for unsecuring a defensive weapon.

What would the members of this Legislature say to a woman who has been raped at home, or to the family of a woman murdered by a former boyfriend who violated a protection order because these women did not have time to unsecure their firearms? Is this County, in its present dire financial condition, prepared for the legal expenses and settlements resulting from such situations? What about legal challenges from large gun rights organizations? Certainly County finances could be better used in helping our residents. If enacted, how would this law be enforced? What shall constitute probable cause for a search warrant? Are we to witness SCPD and Sheriff Deputies executing potentially dangerous, warrantless searches in violation of the Fourth Amendment?

This bill is an example of government overreach into the private decision making of individual residents. The vast majority of legal gun owners already take steps to prevent theft, unauthorized use and access by children. So why is this bill being put forth at this time, when there are significant causes of fatalities in our County which might better be addressed such as fentanyl-based laced {advowin}, distracted driving and gang related murders with illegal guns. This bill is unenforceable and would cause more problems than it purports to solve, including lawsuits and legal challenges. At best, it is politically-motivated legislation in an election year. At worst, it is --

Applause

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At worst, it is an attempt to make legal, responsible firearm ownership more expensive and problematic. I urge this committee not to vote for this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Next is Gary Hartman, and after that is Gene Demers. Gary Hartman?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

He got ill and had to leave.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Gary Hartman's not in the room? Okay, Gene Demers.

MR. DEMERS:

Although I'm in favor of the previous speakers, everything that they said, this is -- I'm here to speak about the alarm law. I would like to read to you something out of the newspaper, just a couple of short paragraphs.

"Suffolk County would hike Police District taxes by nearly 4%, institute a new \$300 mortgage fee and borrow up to 30 million for police retirement costs under a proposed 2017 budget released yesterday by County Executive Steve Bellone." Next paragraph; "Police District taxes would increase 3.86% to raise 20.2 million, that would cost \$43 more for the average homeowner who pays a 1,164 a year for police service, on average, house." Last paragraph; "The County will ask State lawmakers for authority to borrow 60 million over 2017 and 2018 to pay police retirement costs for unused vacation and sick time. The County projects 240 officers will leave over the next two years."

You tell me why the Police Department needs \$110 million. Obviously that's a rhetorical question. They don't need it, they want it.

I don't know if you all remember that program that was on TV, Taxi. There was one episode where Louie had something on one of the other taxi drivers and he was going to really destroy them and Alex Rieger told him that it was wrong to do, and Louie, being the nasty person that he was, said he was going to do it anyway. Rieger insisted that he shouldn't. So Louie he asked him, "Give me one good reason why I shouldn't do this," and after all the things that Alex had told him, all he could come up with is, "Because you shouldn't." And Louie said, "I shouldn't do it because I shouldn't; that's your reason," and he said, "Yeah, because you shouldn't do it," and Louie didn't do it because he had a conscience. Get rid of this law, this alarm law; it's wrong, you know it's wrong.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Next speaker is Michael Stein.

MR. STEIN:

Good morning. My name is Michael Stein. I'm a lifelong resident of Suffolk County, graduate of Northport High School and a current resident of Smithtown. I have a 15-year old son that attends Smithtown High School West. I have been a Little League coach, I have been a Den Leader and a Cub Master of Pack 340 in Smithtown, I'm currently an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 75 in Kings Park and I am a law-abiding citizen and a gun owner and a Suffolk County pistol permit license holder. I'm here to speak against the proposed safe storage law.

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As we all know, the United States Bill of Rights was put in place to protect natural law rights. We know that the Second Amendment was put in place to guarantee our right of self-defense. The Bill of Rights prohibits the Federal Government from making any law that infringes on our right to keep and bear arms; it is subordinate only to the Tenth Amendments.

I took the opportunity to also review our State Constitution. I did notice that while the right to bear arms was not present in our State Constitution, it was also written into the New York Civil Rights Law, Article 2, Section 4. It reads almost verbatim to the Second Amendment; "*The right of the people to keep and bear arms cannot be infringed.*" I'm here to say that this is both a violation of my Constitutional Rights and my New York State Civil Rights.

As a pistol license holder, it took me nine months to get a license. I cannot get a carry permit in Suffolk County; I believe this is a violation of my rights. I am permitted to possess --

Applause

-- a gun in my home to defend my family. I am entitled to the protection of life, liberty and property. Having had the opportunity to call Suffolk Police Department when two men were sneaking into my backyard, I did have the experience that it took 45 minutes for the Suffolk County Police Department to respond to that. If someone were to break in my home, I would have no ability to quickly defend my family. The safe storage law restricts that ability. There is a misunderstanding in government that our government officials are our leaders; they are not our leaders, they are our representatives.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Amen.

Applause

MR. STEIN:

This is not representative of me. I do not authorize this.

Common sense gun law, New York SAFE, these are things enacted in the middle of the night without public opinion. Right now this meeting is being held at 9:30 in the morning where law-abiding citizens are working currently to take care of their families. Look around, there aren't criminals here, these are law-abiding citizens. You're looking to restrict law-abiding citizens.

Applause

I have a right to protect my family in my home. And as a licensed pistol owner, I am also a responsible gun owner and I do not think that this is constitutional or it is conducive to my New York State Civil Rights.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. And I think I should make mention that this bill will not be voted on today. It now has to go to the General Meeting for the public hearings, and the public hearings start at 2:30, so you do have an opportunity to come again. But moving right along, we have a HC --

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

What date would that meeting be?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

That's next Wednesday, on the 5th.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Another day off from work.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Next speaker is HC Martarello. I think I'm correct, yes?

MS. MARTARELLO:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, okay, good. And Michael Rizzo is after that.

MS. MARTARELLO:

Hi. My name is Heather Martarello. For the record, I would like to state that I am 100% opposed to the death of anyone by accident or suicide, and 100% unequivocally opposed to the death of children by any means. That being said, by our government's own statistics, safe storage laws have no impact on accidental gun deaths or un-totaled suicide rates. The only consistent impact of safe storage laws is to raise rape, robbery and burglary rates and those effects are very large. Conservative estimates show that safe storage laws resulted in 3,738 more rapes, 21,000 more robberies and 49,733 more burglaries annually in the 15 states with these laws. More realistic estimates indicate across-the-board increase in violent and property crimes. During the five full years after the passage of safe storage laws, those 15 states faced an annual average increase of 309 more murders, 3,860 more rapes, 24,650 more robberies and over 25,000 more aggravated assaults.

A study by the General Accounting Office claims that mechanical locks, like the ones proposed in this bill, only provide reliable protections for children under age seven. Gun locks have their own set of problems such as -- as many people have pointed out, the reduced effectiveness of using the gun defensively. A former Maryland Governor who had held a press conference to generate support for his gun lock proposals, he wanted to demonstrate how easy it was to work a gun lock, but one newspaper described him as struggling numerous times to remove the gun lock. He eventually got it after returning to the podium to try a few more times; indeed, he received the help of several police officers in removing the lock. As one State Legislator noted after the press conference, *"Imagine what kind of trouble he'd have if he were staring down some intruder in the dark."*

Applause

Now, if the true purpose of this bill is to have a real effect on accidental deaths, it would be more -- a more reasonable approach to pass a law mandating that bathtubs be kept in a separate, locked room and/or that all water faucets in a house should have either key and/or combination locks on them, because accidental deaths by drowning occurs six times as often for people under the age of 19 as firearm related deaths and three and a half times more often for people age 20 and over. The total number of deaths from other causes than guns, 50 times -- it's 50 times as often caused by reasons other than guns in people age 19 and younger and over 56 times as often from causes other than guns in people age 20 and over. So what's the real purpose of this bill? Is it just window dressing?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Yes.

MS. MARTARELLO:

You know, I'm sorry, obviously this is a very, very stupid law.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Next speaker is Michael Rizzo; and after Michael Rizzo is Richard Ogden.

Applause

MR. RIZZO:

Good morning. My name is Michael Rizzo. I am not a representative of any organization, any large group of people. I am a 40-year resident of Suffolk County and I am entering my fifth year as a father. I find it very disingenuous that we're wasting the time and the efforts of this County on protecting my child. It's not your duty to protect my child, it's my duty to protect my children.

Applause

I didn't come on with a large amount of stats because I didn't -- you know, I only found out about this issue yesterday. I have not ever felt the need to address the Legislature, but I have to say that as a life-long resident of this County and someone whose parents moved here to provide a better life for their children, I'm very disappointed in the state of the County. We're, as far as I know, in deep budget turmoil, Moody's is looking to downgrade us on our debt. We are the second -- according to Market Watch, the second most expensive place in the entire country to raise a family. These, I feel, are issues that the Legislature should be focusing their efforts on.

If the idea is to protect children in some ways; as a father, I would feel that the County's efforts could be much better put to work in bringing in some sort of mandatory safe gun training such as the Eddie Eagle Program so that children could know what they're supposed to do. The issues that I've read, and I'm an avid news junkie, the issues that I've read with children injuring themselves or others have generally occurred in homes where the guns were legal.

Applause

So these laws will have absolutely no effect on how someone like myself, who has past background checks, who has been investigated, who has spent the money to secure his firearms in a reasonable fashion, inside his home for the circumstances; these laws are not going to have any effect on the safety of our children such as something like a mandatory training program will. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Rich Ogden; and after Rich Ogden is Stephen Ruth.

MR. OGDEN:

Good morning. I won't take much of your time. I think this is an overreach of government into individuals lives and I think Suffolk County has better things to do with its time than to give its law-abiding citizens problems. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Stephen Ruth. After Stephen Ruth is Christopher Gagliano.

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MR. RUTH JR:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I'd like to thank God for allowing us all the opportunity to be here together. And I want to start by saying that when I hear a loud bang at nighttime, the first thing I do is jump out of bed and grab a shotgun. Now, if someone's breaking into my house, kicking down my door or trying to pry into my house, I can't try and get into my safe. I sent \$3,000 on a gun safe, it's made by Liberty Safe Company. I cannot spend time trying to get into a gun safe to then attempt to protect my family, as by that time I will be tied up and gagged and will be forced to watch my son and my girlfriend be tortured. That is not fair to me as an American, it's an intrusion on my constitutional rights.

I think that every American has the right to defend themselves. And I also think that this is a publicity stunt by DuWayne Gregory who is running for Congress.

Applause

I also think it's an ethics violation, it's definitely an ethics violation, and I think it needs to be addressed by every one of us. We all have to make an ethics complaint against DuWayne Gregory who is a corrupt politician and we all know it, and you're not going anywhere in Congress.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

MR. RUTH JR:

And we're all going to remember that you cost us this day off from work.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You are out of order.

MR. RUTH JR:

And every one of us has a right to defend ourselves.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You are out of order. It is not appropriate to call anyone --

MR. RUTH JR:

It doesn't make a difference. What he did --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

It is not appropriate to call anyone corrupt.

MR. RUTH JR:

-- is unconstitutional and that's not appropriate! You are out of order and so is DuWayne Gregory!

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

It's very disrespectful.

MR. RUTH JR:

There's only two politicians here who we know are good politicians, Leslie Kennedy and Rob Trotta. They're the only ones that have our best interest at heart and want us to be able to defend our families.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You're very disrespectful.

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MR. RUTH JR:

Thank you very much. That's an honor coming from you!

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You're out of order. And it's out of order to put --

MR. RUTH JR:

God bless you all and God bless America.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

It's out of order to put a Legislator's address encouraging them to go to their home and cause trouble; that's out of order, also. So next speaker is Greg Gagliano.

MR. GAGLIANO:

Good morning, Legislators. My name is Christopher Gagliano and I work in the Communication Section of the Suffolk County Police department. I'm a civilian Public Safety Dispatcher and the President of the Police Emergency Unit in AME. I'm here to talk this morning briefly about two issues that I believe need your attention.

We know this is the time of year that you're considering the budget for next year and these two issues should be taken into consideration with planning. The first issue is our staffing levels. We've been in this room before speaking before the Legislature to illustrate the staffing problems that we have. At the current moment we are painfully understaffed. Some of our employees are working 12-hour days, five days in a row, and this type of work schedule has been affecting our personal lives and our health. We have had employees suffer heart attacks and strokes in recent months. It's merely impossible to plan anything in your life when you don't know how long you'll be at work every single day. This has been one of the worst summers on record in terms of staffing levels and mandated overtime. We have had new employees hired a couple of months ago, but they're not ready to work yet, and when they are ready to work, they'll only put a dent instead in shortage we already had.

The main reason I say this needs to be taken into consideration for the future is because the next five years or so there are also going to be roughly 20 to 25 employees leaving our job due to retirement alone. This needs to be planned for now to prevent the staffing shortage that this current one will pale in comparison to. We will need new employees to be hired to bring us up to staffing levels that we need, and we have to develop a way to replace employees who leave our workplace in a timely fashion. Our unit board is currently working with AME to set up a meeting with the County, the Legislature and our Police Department in order to plan for this and prevent it from becoming a massive problem. I just wanted to stress the importance of this because a mass exodus in employees in the next few years will have a significant negative impact on all of us. It will effect our lives, our health and the safety of this County, because a significant lack of employees can lead to the potential collapse of the 911 system.

The second issue I want to bring up is the grade increase for our employees who did not get one at the last hearing. Last time around our PSDs and PSD IIs were lucky enough to receive a grade increase, however our POAs, ECOs and PSD IIIs did not. The people in these titles work very hard every day doing a very difficult job. Beyond that, the responsibilities have changed drastically since their current grade was instituted. Their current grades are not consistent with the work they perform. And we are aware that we have to go through the process of filing for an increase and speaking at a hearing, but I feel it's necessary to speak with you today because any increase would impact a planned budget.

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When it comes down to it, these employees are the first people that someone talks to when they call 911. When it comes down to it, they are essential to the functioning of the Suffolk Police Department and they're crucial to public safety in this County. In short, your constituents depend on these employees. A grade increase for these employees would show that their hard work is not going unnoticed and they would be compensated properly for the important work they do day-in and day-out. And this is most definitely a budgetary item that needs to be taken into consideration. I'd like to thank you for your time this morning and your efforts in helping us in the past, the present and the future. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. And just so you know, I know that your union has organized to meet with various Legislators.

MR. GAGLIANO:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I will be meeting with them. You know, I was at the FRES meeting last night talking about the dispatchers, so we respect what you guys do. Sometimes the civilians in the Police Department don't always get the respect they deserve. But thank you.

MR. GAGLIANO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Kenneth Bartley.

MR. BARTLEY:

Good morning. My name is Kenneth Bartley, I've been a resident of Suffolk County since the mid 1980s. I'm here to urge the Legislature today not to pass this frivolous legislation. I'd like to give you two experiences that I've had in my time here in Suffolk County. On a Friday night at 9 PM in 1990 I had the misfortune of coming face-to-face with two men kicking in my kitchen door. I don't know if any of you know what that feels like. What I did was I reached for a phone, dialed 911, and then I went in and I retrieved my legally licensed handgun and I sat in my living room for 22 minutes before a uniformed Suffolk County Police Officer arrived at my door; 22 minutes in fear of my life, not knowing what was going to happen. The last thing I needed to do was to have to fumble with a key for a trigger lock or a combination for a trigger lock or a combination on a safe.

I live by myself. I don't have any children, my firearms are secured. The last thing I need is for the Legislature to impose more restrictions on me. And just this past January we had another rash of burglaries in my neighborhood. What happened was we had a young lady that would come to our door, ring the door bell -- and I know this because it happened to me -- and she would make an inquiry; *"Would you like to have solar panels installed on the roof of your house?" "No thank you."* This is how they cased the neighborhood. And what they did was two doors down, my neighbor who's gone from nine in the morning till 10:30 at night, they cleaned his house out. I shutter to think what might have happened to me had I not answered that door that day and they chose to break in, and I would have come face-to-face with criminals again.

So what I urge the Legislature to do is focus their energy, resources and direction towards supplying the Suffolk County Police Department with what they need to do their job and give them the direction to focus on criminals and crime such as the murders in Brentwood, thinking of the Gilgo Beach murders, rather than going after hard-working, law-abiding taxpayers such as myself. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Next speaker is Nicholas Sarro. Nicholas Sarro? I think I'm -- oh, okay. And after Nicholas is Kim Adamo.

MR. SARRO:

Good morning. My name is Nick Sarro, I live in East Islip. I've been a member, living in Suffolk County since I was three years old. You were talking before about Brentwood and the incidents that have happened there. I went to Brentwood Schools K-12, went to college, came back and taught there as a secondary educator for over 30 years, I just retired in 2006. I know only too well what's going on in the places and the types of violence and things with gangs that's going on. And I have to say -- also, I've been a member of the NRA since I was old enough to shoot a BB gun, I was in elementary school. I am now a life member, I'm also a trained instructor in firearms, rifle and shotgun. So I know what I'm talking about.

As far as law-abiding, decent firearms owners, this Legislative Intent is moot. Every one of these points is a moot point; it doesn't address the real problem. You're preaching to the choir. If I had time I'd go over each one of these and explain why it's a farce. I mean, nobody denies that we should do something. Something needs to be done, obviously, steady as you go is just not working. But you're barking up the wrong tree. None of this is going to make one bit of difference.

When it comes to this domestic violence; well, there's domestic violence, you fill out a report, a Police report, that person is banned from owning a firearm. If he did have a firearm, they would confiscate it. If he's going to go out and get another firearm illegally, he already broke a major law. If he's going there to cause harm with that firearm, it's a bigger law. You think he's going to stop and buy a trigger lock or a gun safe on his way?

Applause

The 70% of the child shooting deaths; where are you getting this from? I don't see where it's cited. It hasn't been Suffolk County. So are we going to pass this because it's going to save somebody in New York City? New York City already has some of the strictest firearm laws on record. Most of the time when we hear about these things, it's coming from the news media, and where does 90% of our news media come from? Or I'll even go down to 70%, New York City, and when they bring in a firearm and it goes off and something happens, that's their problem and they already have stricter laws and they don't work anyway.

When it comes to suicide increases. Yes, sometimes people will use a firearm. Take away that firearm, they can still stab themselves, overdose, jump off a high -- throw themselves in front of a train. I went to a seminar from the Long Island Railroad about people, an engineer spoke about what it's like when somebody just throws himself in front of the train and how he knows he can't stop in time. I mean, there's so many other ways. Again, it's a moot point. And what about knives? I mean, if you have knives in the house, are you saying that you're 70% more likely to die of a suicide because of the knife that's in your house; remove all the knives?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Don't give him any ideas.

MR. SARRO:

Well (*laughter*). I'd rather see them use anything else other than a gun. So more laws that are -- again, it was brought up, I'm not going to have to say it again.

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(Timer Sounded)

If you're going to follow all these very strict laws about locking up your firearms, it's just going to delay the inevitable. Would you make a law where if you had nothing to defend yourself but your two fists, would you write a law that says, *Well, you must keep one behind your back to defend yourself because we don't want you using too much force against all these thugs that are coming in with God knows what kind of weapons.*

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I'm sorry, your time is up.

MR. SARRO:

My time is up? All right. Thank you very much.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Kim Adamo? And after Kim Adamo is Karen Behr.

MS. ADAMO:

Good morning. I've been a Suffolk County resident my whole life. I am a gun owner, and in 2012, it was Thanksgiving Eve, a man tried to break into our home; it was approximately 4:40 in the morning. And if it wasn't Thanksgiving Eve, my husband would have been at work. At that time my children were four and two, and my husband was able to hold his body up against the door with a shotgun in his hand while I called the Police. The Suffolk County Police got there in about 18 minutes and luckily my husband was able to hold up against the door until the police arrived. If it was any other night, I would have been home alone; that man would have gotten into my home and me and my two beautiful daughters might not be here.

I did some research into this and I couldn't find who made the complaint. Where is the report on this? I called the Suffolk County Police Department, I talked to the Statistics Department, Legal, Firearms; according to them, zero, zero children have been harmed in Suffolk County. If there's any other statistics out there, it would be nice. If we are going to have a hearing on Wednesday at 2:30, it would be nice if we can have the statistics, these reports before then. I don't know how we could get that or how this could happen, but this is about the kids, this is about the women and this is about protecting them. And these laws, we already have too many that take away our protection. And thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Karen Behr; and after that is Heather Georgiou.

MS. BEHR:

Hi. My name is Karen Behr and I'm here for the terminate the alarm registration fee. I'm coming from a different aspect, I'm a distributor. I sell security equipment to all the installation companies, and I've noticed a dramatic drop-off in our sales of burglar alarms since the institution of this alarm permit fee. Ever since Suffolk County instituted it, our sales have dropped off by about 5%, and I think it's going to go even higher. The law not only effects the alarm installers installing the equipment, it also effects the individuals and industries associated with the life safety industry.

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Under current economic conditions, every dollar counts in order to try to make our business succeed. Due to high taxes, Long Island is already one of the hardest locations to do business in the United States. The simple fact is if we sell less equipment, we generate less revenue and, you know, if that keeps up we'll all be out of business. I'm not a political person by nature, but it seems to me the only group directly benefitting from this legislation is the Suffolk County Police Department, as Gene Demers mentioned earlier. All those millions of dollars that are not helping anybody but the Police Department. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Heather Georgiou; and after Heather is Larry Huff.

MS. GEORGIOU:

Hello. My name is Heather Georgiou, I'm a Registered Nurse, I have a Master's Degree in Public Health. And bear with me, this is a very personal issue to me, so this is very emotional for me.

I'm speaking about 1777-16. I can only imagine what it would be like to have someone forcibly enter my home and invade my home, but unfortunately I don't have to imagine that my elected representatives would invade my home and jeopardize my Second Amendment rights, my privacy and the safety of my kids.

Now, speaking of kids, I'm a mother, okay, so I take this very personally. You're telling me that I don't know how to keep my kids safe. My kids have had access to firearms their whole lives; they have access right now. And they know how to break down a gun, they know how to clean it, they know how to handle it safely, they know how to fire it; they know what a gun is and what's it's like. And I don't know if any of you guys have had the experience where you're having trouble with your phone or your computer and you go to your kid and you say, *Hey, can you help me out with this?* Well, I have a piece of information for you; kids know how to open locks, they know how to do combinations. This law only makes it harder for us to protect ourselves. Parents that are responsible parents are already doing what needs to be done, there's not a need for this. Please, please.

You guys, I saw you took -- I saw you say the Pledge of Allegiance. I know you've taken oaths to protect the Constitution; please uphold that oath. This is our Second Amendment rights that you're infringing on. Please, please don't put this law through. I mean, I'm really just begging you guys to consider what this is about. This is about our privacy in our homes, our Second Amendment rights. You know, we're law-abiding citizens, we don't need to be punished like this. The fact that we have to go through all of these hoops and struggles and unnecessary procedures just to get a handgun is just mind-bogglingly, insanely wrong. There shouldn't be any such thing as, you know, making us beg for a permit to own a handgun. What's the purpose of that? And so you're going to even go one step further --

Applause

-- and come into our homes and tell us how to store them? We already know how to store them, we already know. And I've heard people say about the mandatory Eddie Eagle. Eddie Eagle is great, I totally support it, it's awesome, but I don't think there needs to be anything mandatory. Like someone else said, you know, we have so many other things going on in Suffolk County with it being the second highest cost of living here, you know, these kinds of things are what's important to people. This is what we need you guys to work on and to help us to be able to live better lives here, not come into our homes and effect the safety of our homes. I mean, I'm -- like I said, I have a degree in public health, I understand it looks like a public health issue when you have these

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statistics about deaths and this, that and the other thing, but restricting people's Second Amendment rights is not the way to go about it. This is a very, very unnecessary burden on the people when you're doing something like that.

So please consider other options. Please let our Second Amendment rights stand as they are in our homes and our privacy. You know, please, please don't pass this, don't even consider passing 1770 -- or what is it, 1777-16. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Larry Huff? And after Larry is Michael Sokoly.

MR. HUFF:

Good morning. How are you?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good morning.

MR. HUFF:

I'm here on behalf of the alarm registration permit fee. I think it's wrong. Over the past several weeks I've heard public officials state that the -- since its implementation, a number of false alarms have been reduced. The question we should ask them is why has it reduced? Working for a central station, I can give a couple of factors that I think are contributing to that reduction of false alarms. The number of end users that have terminated service and the number of end users that eliminated the Police Department response altogether. I don't think this is the end result the committee or our representatives wish for this permit fee to result in, and I think it should be overturned. And as a resident of Suffolk County, why do I pay Police Department fees in my property tax and then I have to pay another fee to have them respond to my home? Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Michael Sokoly? And after Michael is Pete Pappas.

MR. SOKOLY:

Good morning. My name is Mike Sokoly and I'm an owner of an alarm company, MES Security in Suffolk County and current secretary of the Long Island Alarm Association.

In a world of country swing music is a well-known Texas group, the name of the group is Asleep at the Wheel. It seems to me that this Legislature, at some point, maybe all of you or some of you were members of that group. It's appalling and outrageous that you did no or little due diligence in investigation when you originally passed the Suffolk County alarm registration law. I guess you took a page from the Obama Care playbook; you've got to pass it before you read it.

The shame is on your shoulders to not police and let this legislation that you allowed and write a blank check to Steve Bellone and Suffolk PD for \$7.5 million. No regard was taken to where this money would be spent. It's outrageous that PD collects, deposits, disburses these fees from this legislation and uses them for their personal use for pension funds. Nothing goes from this money to address false alarm issues, nothing from this money goes to any education whatsoever of the public or any of the alarm dealers. But why would it? The revenue stream would go down if they educated people.

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As a resident, business owner, taxpayer, I urge that you think about amending and considering Legislator Trotta's amendment to this tax grab. Remember, you were elected by us, the residents of Suffolk County, to serve us. Your personal opinions, connections, sympathies, family interests are not to be considered. We don't even think a dime about them. Be assured that when your terms are up, you who voted for this legislation, I will do everything in my power in my district to make sure that the opponent receives as much of this information as possible to terminate your term of office. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Pete Pappas? And after Pete is William Raab.

MR. PAPPAS:

Good morning. My name's Pete Pappas, I'm a long-time resident of Suffolk County. I've been in Amityville most of my life. I've got several issues with 1777-16, starting with the fact that it is unconstitutional, it has been shown unconstitutional under Heller v. D.C. in 2008. Under Heller, the Court held that the amendment guarantees an individual's right to possess firearms for home defense, in the home for self-defense, and struck down the self-storage requirement. That has also been upheld by a recent case Colaiacovo vs Nassau County where the Judge cited the Heller case as a reason why the safe storage requirement is unconstitutional.

As far as other people have mentioned, the fact that there are none, if any, incidents of these accidental shootings that you're claiming are such a problem. I searched, I couldn't find any. The last one I'm aware of is from 1974. It just goes on and on.

I grew up with a shotgun standing in the kitchen. That shotgun now stands in the corner of my bedroom; 50 years that gun's been standing there. It hasn't hurt anybody unintentionally, and it won't for another 50 years.

Applause

Your bill will do nothing except for make criminals out of law-abiding citizens. Why do you want to do that?

MR. PAPPAS:

The responsible thing to do is withdraw this bill here, now and today, so we don't have to take another day off from work and lose another day's pay on this ridiculous bill.

Applause

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Motion to remove the bill.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Can we have some order, please?

MR. PAPPAS:

I think that's all I have for today. Please, do the responsible thing and withdraw this bill. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. William Raab? And after Mr. Raab is Robert Spetta.

MR. RAAB:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen of the committee. About 1777, a lot of points have already been made. The Legislative Intent I find completely bogus. The availability of a firearm is crucial to the ability to defend oneself and one's family against those who would do them harm. I have, unfortunately, been on both ends of a firearm where things weren't going very well and was much better to be able to have that ability than not. If I did not have that ability, well, I wouldn't be standing here today. So that's pretty much where I go.

I grew up in a house, my father carried a gun every day, I knew where it was, I could see it any time I wanted just for the asking. I never went and looked at it myself without my father. And yet nothing happened. Education is the key. Instead of mystifying it and hiding it and trying to demonize it, education.

All right, the sources, etcetera, for all these things, I find that there are none. The studies that I have looked at from the GAO to Suffolk County PD and everything else find no substantiation for the 'WHEREAS', the Legislative Intent of this bill. You're rewriting law because your definition of firearm is in direct contradiction with the Penal Law; that's interesting. I wonder, are (*sic*) the Suffolk Legislature going to be responsible for the people who are intentionally harmed because they are deprived of the ability to protect themselves?

Applause

Are you ready for those lawsuits? Because as far as -- what was it, Warren vs D.C. Metro, the police have no duty to protect me unless they have given specific intent. So I'm responsible for protecting myself. I want the best means to protect myself. Back when I was a lot younger I didn't care, I would just jump in, it would fly. I am a lot more reasonable these days and also a lot older and suffered the mileage, so I need the best intent and the best means to protect myself and those that I care about.

Okay, we talked about the Supreme Court, the State of New York, *Chwick v. Mulvey* New York State has the sole -- has a preemption in firearms law, New York State does, and that's right here, I could submit this to whoever would like to take it. Also, the case that was mentioned earlier, *Colaiaacovo*, that was right here in Suffolk County; it was not in Nassau, it was right here in Suffolk County. So you can have a copy of that also, which found that as per *Heller*, safe storage was ruled unconstitutional.

Now, as far as trigger locks go, there was a demonstration before this body -- some of you may have been here but most of you were not -- where it was shown that firearms could be fired with trigger locks in place and that that was a false sense of security. So to me, a trigger lock is a bogus thing.

I'm a NRA firearms instructor training counselor, I train instructors as well as students. I also work with the Scouts, I have a venturing crew that does shooting sports, so I work with youth all the time. Education is the key. I will put any one of those kids up against a kid who knows nothing about firearms to do the right thing and not have a problem. By constantly hiding things and demonizing them, we are absolutely creating a climate of things that you fear, and yet this seems to be just one side of a campaign handout and nothing more, so I'm very disappointed. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Robert Spetta? And after Mr. Spetta is Brent Mele.

MR. SPETTA:

Good morning. My name is Robert Spetta, I'm President of Alarm Tech Central Service and a past president of the Long Island Alarm Association. I want to speak to the legislation concerning the alarm legislation that is enacted at present. And I want to go -- I'm going to provide the Legislators with a typical scenario of what's happening with this law as it stands right now.

I'm an older woman, I have an alarm in my home which an alarm goes off as a result of someone trying to enter my home through the back door, but the perpetrator runs away due to the alarm going off. I don't see the perpetrator and there's no clear evidence of the break-in. After an hour of waiting for the police officer to finally show up at my home, the police officer determines that the alarm was false and currently informs me that my alarm system is not registered with the County, a law of which I'm not aware of. I have to pay a \$150 fine. The police officer tells me I have to go to the Suffolk County website to register my alarm system. Upon going to the website, I can see that I can appeal the alarm and I have 60 days to do it. The poorly planned website fails to provide me with any forms or means to appeal that fine that I feel is unfounded, nor does it explain that if I wish, I can further pursue the injustice in a court of law, thereby providing me my right of due process. Upon looking at the website, I notice that my alarm fines can go as high as \$500 per incident. I decide I don't want to risk another fine so I decide to cancel my alarm monitoring agreement. My monitoring company loses a customer that provides income for 32 people that are employed in Suffolk County, my installation company loses a customer for 20 people that they employ in Suffolk County, my alarm distribution company that employs ten Suffolk County residents loses money. And guess what? And this is the most shocking part of it all; Suffolk County loses monitoring sales tax revenue that it would normally receive every month.

If I cancel my life safety system, the flood that occurs in my home will no longer be monitored, nor will the low temperature signal that would have normally told me when my pipes were going to freeze, I would not be told that my carbon monoxide sensor was going off when I was sleeping, or about the fire that can be called into the fire department before my helm burns down. I get angry about this and I see the funds for my permits go directly to Suffolk County Police. I see Suffolk County has a three-year projected \$186 million budget deficit, yet still gives a 4% raise of money they don't have to the Suffolk County Police. I see that by 2018, the average Detective salary in Suffolk County will be \$227,000 per year; by comparison, the Governor of New York State only earns \$179,000 per year.

(Timer Sounded)

I ask myself, why can't the Legislators get to the root of the problem? Why -- rather than burden me with another tax in the system that's already one of the highest tax places in the nation. The question is what do you think the alarm law does to help the reputation of Suffolk County Police and Suffolk County Legislators? Time and time again I have come to this body and been told that Nassau County alarm -- about the alarm permit law. So why doesn't Suffolk County do the same? Why doesn't -- why doesn't Suffolk County freeze police salaries for four years like Nassau County did?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Mr. Spetta, your time is up.

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MR. SPETTA:

Save hundreds of millions of dollars. The question --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Mr. Spetta?

MR. SPETTA:

-- is what the County Legislators want their legacy to be. Do they want the 2500 Suffolk County Police Officers --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Mr. Spetta, there's a question for you.

MR. SPETTA:

-- to profit or does the County want to provide the 1.3 million citizens the Suffolk County Police --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Mr. Spetta, I think you heard me, your time is up.

LEG. TROTТА:

I have question.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

We do have one question for you.

MR. SPETTA:

Yes?

LEG. TROTТА:

Over here. So you own an alarm company?

MR. SPETTA:

Yes.

LEG. TROTТА:

How many customers have you lost, do you think?

MR. SPETTA:

Well, I'm in the central station portion of this, but I would say we're losing about 5% of the customers that we have here. The customers have chosen -- they just don't want to deal with this, they've had it.

LEG. TROTТА:

Have you had customers calling you up and saying, *Listen, don't call the police anymore, just call me?*

MR. SPETTA:

Absolutely.

LEG. TROTТА:

How many of those have you had?

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MR. SPETTA:

That has increased by at least 10%.

LEG. TROTТА:

Okay. So --

MR. SPETTA:

We no longer call the police. You know, they're just taking that out of the mix entirely.

LEG. TROTТА:

So now we're having people respond to their own alarms.

MR. SPETTA:

That's correct. That's correct.

LEG. TROTТА:

So is it your opinion -- I mean, I think you would agree with me. If the alarm's going off let's say five times a year, that's a problem. We shouldn't have the cops coming to -- there should be a fine for that. I mean --

MR. SPETTA:

No one has a problem with the fines. No one has any problem with any of the -- with the fines if they were reasonable, and if the alarm keeps going off. The real root of this problem is the permit fees.

LEG. TROTТА:

The registration.

MR. SPETTA:

The registration fees. Why should someone who already pays property taxes and already pays sales tax --

LEG. TROTТА:

But -- and I don't want to stop you, but you have all the information on the people's house because they're paying you every day -- every week or every month.

MR. STRETTA:

Uh-huh.

LEG. TROTТА:

And that you know who they are and you can give that information to the Police Department and provide them with every detail.

MR. SPETTA:

Absolutely.

LEG. TROTТА:

So what you're saying is the burden of the reoccurring revenue of charging these people every year is the problem?

MR. SPETTA:

Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:

Thank you.

MR. SPETTA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Next speaker, Brent Mell, Mele? I'm sorry.

MR. MELE:

Good morning. My name's Brent Mele. I'm an owner of a Suffolk County alarm company, also the Vice-President, current Vice-President of the Long Island Alarm Association.

I am here today to express the opinions on behalf of my customers who have been calling my office regularly complaining about the fees and fines they have received from the Suffolk County Police Department. Even though all of my Suffolk County clients have received e-mails and letters from us explaining what they need to do to be compliant, many of them say that they never heard of this new law or they refuse to take action. The common theme I hear from my clients are *Why did no one tell me about this new law? Why is Suffolk County taxing me again for police services that we already are taxed for?* I am -- and they say, *I am not sure if I'm going to continue having my security system monitored.* Okay? And like Bob Spetta said, approximately 5% of our customers now have left due to this and now they're not being monitored by our services.

In my overall opinion, this new tax that will increase -- it will increase crime, it will increase property damage and possibly deaths due to home invasions and fire. The reason for this is now people do not have their systems monitored, the alarm system won't go off, there won't be a police response in a reasonable amount of time, someone has to pick up the phone now and call 911 even if they -- they might not even get to the phone. And a fire system; house is on fire, the fire department's not going to be called, the neighbor who sees the fire will call, maybe the people in the house are overcome with smoke and they all pass away.

My personal feelings is that this new tax law is an additional tax burden on our -- on your constituents. You personally agreed to take millions of dollars annually out of the taxpayers' hands and fund another bureaucracy. This will decrease the amount of many -- money that people have in their pockets to spend on the local economy. Many residents are seeking to move out of Long Island to lower tax states and eventually there'll be less people to tax and less money to fund this government. The collapse and decrease of all public services will start by you guys taxing, overtaxing every single resident in Suffolk County.

Maybe instead of taxing security owners, you might give a tax break incentive to businesses and homeowners to install alarm systems and security -- video surveillance systems. Video surveillance systems and security systems have been proven to decrease crime and to solve crimes much faster. Just like parenting, positive reinforcement works better than negative reinforcement. My clients and I are opposed to this new law and we want it all abolished. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. And again, I hope I don't destroy this one; Kenneth Kratochvil? Am I close, I hope?

MR. KRATOCHVIL:

Close enough.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, see?

MR. NOLAN:

The accent was on the wrong side.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, accent in the wrong place. Thank you.

MR. KRATOCHVIL:

Thank you and thank the Legislature for having us here today. My name is Ken Kratochvil, I've been a Suffolk County resident on and off since 1967. I'm currently a father and resident of Nesconset, New York, and I came today to speak about bill 1777.

I kind of feel like I know most of you, reading about you in the papers and seeing you on TV. And as it goes on the radio program, I'm kind of a longtime listener, first time caller, so.

*(*Laughter*)*

What got me out of the house today was I got notification on this and I started thinking about our community. Recently we had several high profile deaths of young people in Brentwood, which you gave respect to this morning, and something like that gets people thinking about their home security. People want to know that they have the ability to defend themselves. As a police officer, I've been a police officer outside of Suffolk County for 22 years, people often come to me with questions, *What should I do? How should I handle things*, and stuff like that, and things like that. People feel having a gun in their house will help make them safe. In my 22 years of doing this, I've never had a problem with a registered handgun owner. Legal guns, I can't say nobody's ever been a problem, but it is very minimal there.

Your entire staff here I'm sure is hard working and I'm sure there was a purpose to this, but doing something like this which doesn't seem to have a lot of basis or a clear goal in mind, may do a lot to breed distrust between government and residents and by effect between police in their community. It's been a big topic lately and in order for police officers to enforce things smoothly, it helps if there's public support behind what's happening and there's good reason for the laws in place. I'd like to everybody for their time and I just hope you give it some thought.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Next one is Sherman Kearns. Sherman Kearns? And Michael Mulcahy is after Sherman.

MR. KEARNS:

Hi. My name is Sherman Kearns, I'm a resident of Suffolk County since 1969 and I'm here today for Resolution 1777. I find this to be arbitrary legislation. It's clearly in violation of multiple sections of the Constitution, making the taxpayers of this County on the hook for lawsuits against the County. I find fault with the Legislative Intent as outlined in Section 1. First and foremost, Section 1, Legislative Intent, clause four; where is the Legislature getting its 70% figure from? Where is the Legislature getting its pediatric health crisis determination from? And what are the Legislators' expertise in save gun storage?

I feel that the County's resources would be better served to teach safe firearm practices to students at an early age. How does the Legislature plan on enforcing this law? According to the State data that I could find, for Suffolk County violent crimes related to firearms is down over 25% in 2015 to

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2016 and over 15% for the last five years. I feel there is no crisis, there is no threat, there is no pediatric health crisis. This is political grandstanding in an election year and we don't need a nanny state.

Applause

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, Michael Mulcahy.

MR. MULCAHY:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Michael Mulcahy, I'm the President of the Long Island Alarm Association and I'm here to speak to the alarm registration law. I will try not to repeat everything my former -- my fellow members have said. As Brent said, we've been getting a lot of complaints. I've heard from a lot of alarm companies that their membership is angry and quitting or considering quitting. To that end, we have distributed a copy of the law to all our members, along with the names and addresses of all the Legislators and how you voted on that law and they are distributing that to their clients so that they'll know how you all voted.

We fully support Legislator Trotta's legislation to terminate registration fees. I think it would be unfair not to mention Legislator Browning's amended law that she tried to put in. She asked for our input on it, my membership wasn't totally happy with it. And since Mr. Bellone threatened to veto it, I'm sure he wasn't totally happy with it, but to me that's what a compromise is supposed to be. But that one's gone now and Legislator Trotta's is up, so that's the one we're behind.

I'd also like to quickly mention, Chief Cameron has quoted the rate of false alarms, which is very high, and we work tirelessly to educate our customers on reducing false alarms. Mr. Spetta, who spoke earlier, owns a central station and I'd just like to share that recently an alarm went off in a house, his central station received the call, they called the house and got no answer, they called Suffolk County PD and dispatched. Immediately after that, the homeowner called, said it was a false alarm, gave the proper password. Mr. Spetta's operator recalled Suffolk County dispatch and was informed by dispatch that they would give the message to the police car, but it was up to the police officer to decide whether or not he was going to respond. So if we're really concerned about reducing false alarms, why would the officer, when he's now been informed that it's a totally false alarm, have the discretion to decide whether he's going to go or not? It doesn't make any sense to me. Thank you all for your time.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I just want to confirm with you that on Wednesday, at the next meeting, my bill is not gone. It was tabled, so it's still up for a vote again at the Wednesday meeting.

MR. MULCAHY:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But thank you for working with me.

MR. MULCAHY:

I'm very happy to hear that, Kate. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Next speaker is Pam Farino. Okay, is Pam Farino in the room? No? Oh, there you are.

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MS. FARINO:

Good morning; it still is morning. I'm here, actually, to discuss 1777 and 1771. When you first opened today's Legislative meeting -- my name is Pam Farino, I'm from Smithtown, lifetime resident. When you opened the meeting today, I really took offense to it because we've actually had six children in our community whose bodies were either found or murdered since September 3rd. The two that you were missing is Janelle and Dave from Bay Shore, because they were murdered by gang violence on September 3rd. I believe Maria spoke last night, she was on News 12.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you for that.

MS. FARINO:

So that being said, my daughter is actually in the New York State prison system as a Corrections Officer. She is not up there taking care of law-abiding members that hold their guns to the strictest of safety standards. She is up there guarding felons who have been found guilty of gun violations, usually for illegal guns in our New York State prison system. That is who she is guarding right now today in New York State. These are felons that came from Long Island, these are felons that had illegal guns. We know where those illegal guns are, we know what communities, we know what streets, we know what houses. We need to go after the gangs, because they're also bringing in the drugs that are killing our kids as well.

Applause

They are bringing in the heroin. A lot of these kids we don't have proper documentation for; we know this because eventually it is posted on our State Webcrim System. So that being said, this law needs to be put to bed, it needs to be withdrawn, 1777-16.

Now, 1771 that was introduced by Legislator Trotta. We actually are one of those clients that actually stopped using our alarm system. Meanwhile, the felon that broke into our house will be released on good behavior in March of 2017. So now what I'm doing is I'm not having my alarm system work because I'm fearful that I've got to keep paying damn -- another revenue enhancement, I guess is the best way to put it. All right, so I've got to pay that. I've got to now lock my gun and put a lock on it and put it in a gun safe. I have no young children under the age of 18 in my home.

Applause

I've got a felon that's about to get released from prison and you're telling me you want to ding me for my alarm, you want to tell me I shouldn't have a right to bear arms within my own home the way that I feel is most appropriate for all of the adults living in my home. You're way off-base. We need to go after the gangs, we need to go after the gang violence, we need to go after the illegal guns. And I'd like to know how many guns were actually taken care of the other day in Patchogue with the gun buy-back and how many were legal and how many were illegal? Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Next speaker is Albert Marnell. Albert Marnell?

MR. MARNELL:

Yeah, I'm here. Before I start, I just want to say I realize you're all good at heart. I was just trying to address before what I would call crypto-disrespect, kind of the pot calling the kettle black. I think it was something that needed to be said.

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I don't really -- I'm not here to talk about guns, I think enough people have said enough about that, and I've got enough time. One thing I'll mention, too, if you -- some of you may be aware of the concept of the banality of evil, it goes back to the Adolf Eichmann trial when people in power -- people in -- people in charge in law stop thinking and you become bureaucratically on overdrive and don't -- it can happen. I'm not pointing fingers at anybody, and earlier I didn't mean any disrespect to anyone, I was just trying to point something out.

So what I wanted to bring up here is something -- it will be a little bit surprising when I start, but I totally agree with the PBA President DiGerolamo that law enforcement is entitled to earn a fair living and retire with dignity. The problem is it's gone beyond a fair living. It's gone -- and retirement. It's gone to an extravagant living. And no one ever brings up the reality of the two government paycheck family. I've seen it all the time. I'll make this quick, I had a friend in Melville, he was a licensed funeral director, he took me around his neighborhood. He would point out to all the houses that were in disarray. He'd say, *You see that house? Police officer, school teacher, husband and wife; good condition. See this house? Two school teachers, good condition. See this house? Two patent attorneys, a wreck,* and we did this over and over and over again. Many of my friends are leaving. They have property tax bills of \$17,000, one of my friends out in Miller Place; all of our friends, they're leaving. I don't know where you're going to get the tax money from.

And again, I think teachers, government workers earn -- they're entitled to a fair retirement, but it's gone for decades already, it's gone into the realm of extravagance and you have to do something about it. It's already -- we're in collapse already. How low you want to go? I can't control it. Most of my family has left. I mean, of course some have died because of my age, you know, but a lot of them, I'd say at least 50% of them, more than that, have left the state, they've left the state. And they were affluent people, a lot of them; they just didn't want to be fleeced anymore. Anyway, thank you for letting me speak.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Next speaker is Edward Newman. Edward Newman? And after Edward is Ron Bracco.

MR. NEWMAN:

Good morning. My name is Edward Newman, I'm a lifelong resident of Suffolk County. I'm here to speak today on 1777. Statistics; according to the United States Department of Justice, there are roughly one million household member present burglaries in the U.S. annually. These are also known as home invasions, of which 266,560 were violent. The average occupied home burglary provides only seconds, too short of a time to retrieve a secured firearm.

The latest addition of the National Vital Statistics Report, Volume 65, No. 4, shows that 50 -- five zero -- children died from accidental discharge of a firearm in 2014, the last year for statistics. In comparison, for the same period, 647, or almost 13 times as many drowned, mostly in swimming pools. Bicycles and tricycles resulted in 67 deaths, poisoning 68. Do we need a safe kitchens act? How about automobile accidents; 1,365. Based on populations, we would expect one such death in Suffolk County every five years, and safe storage does not guarantee elimination of this.

The recent occurrence in Suffolk County was an off-duty law enforcement officer who had a negligent discharge while cleaning his duty weapon. This resulted in injury to himself and his child. I could not find any data on a death of a child in Suffolk County. Neither this nor any other safe storage law would have changed that.

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Legal, District of Columbia et al v. Heller, Docket No. 07-290, argued March 18th, 2008, decided June 26th, 2008. The Supreme Court of the United States struck down the safe storage law that was in place in Washington D.C., and I quote the late Justice Scalia; *"The requirement that any lawful firearm in the home be disassembled or bound by a trigger lock makes it impossible for citizens to use arms for the core, lawful purpose of self-defense and is, hence, unconstitutional."*

Applause

The Supreme Court of the United States ruling has mandatory authority, it is binding on all levels. It is no different than this Legislator pro -- Legislative body proposing a law that prohibits gay marriage in Suffolk County, prohibits women from voting in Suffolk County, or requires African-Americans to use a separate bathroom. It is deplorable that we are even here to discuss this today.

Legislator Gregory, I challenge you, based on what you have heard today from the people that this body represents, to withdraw this bill from consideration; and if not, I urge the Legislature to vote no on this bill. Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Next speaker, Ron Bracco. Thank you. And after Ron Bracco, is Jan Williams.

MR. BRACCO:

Good morning, everyone. It's no secret that nationwide our Constitution has been coming under attack quite often lately. Some of you might have heard that a popular TV show, Dr. Drew Pinsky lost his show for attacking one of the candidates running for President -- not for attacking, just for mentioning a health condition. Soon thereafter, a popular columnist with the Huffington Post had his column removed from the web and he was fired for also mentioning the health of a political -- a certain political candidate. And just most recently, a day or two ago, the number one -- the number two talk show in the nation was pulled from the air live, while it was occurring, because this person dared to mention the health of one of the political candidates running for President. Pulled live, the number two show in the nation, perhaps the number two show in the world, and that's just a blatant attack on our Constitution.

Here in Suffolk County our Constitution has come under attack with the red light traps. Now we have new gun legislation that you're proposing another attack on the Constitution, this time the Second Amendment. Every time a new law is enacted, we lose a little bit more of our freedoms. We're already mired in an intricate web of laws that we can't extricate ourselves from. It's just getting ridiculous, law on top of law on top of law. When does it end? Does it ever end?

It's no secret that our government wants to take away -- our Federal government wants to take away our guns. Perhaps you're acting, you're trying to be reactionary, you're being proactive and you're saying, *let's get a head start on them. They're trying to get our guns, so why don't we go for it right away?* I don't even understand why this even came up. Did someone pull it out -- the straw out of the air and just said, *Let's go for their guns next, we need another law.* Well, it's no secret that our government has been using all these mass shootings around the country that occur. Every time one occurs they try to enact more and more laws until the point -- it's going to get to the point where you can't even have a gun.

Does our government belong in people's homes? How are people going to protect themselves if they don't have guns in their homes? At least people who wish to protect themselves in that way. And shouldn't people have the right to determine how what goes in their home and how to protect their

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own children without having it legislated from the government? Our Second Amendment was put in place to protect us against the rogue government, which you can certainly tell we have right now in this country.

Applause

We definitely have a rogue government. I could give you a hundred examples, but I only have nine seconds left. Just most recently I just noticed that there are UN vehicles all around the nation, military, militarized UN vehicles all around the nation. You cite school violence as a reason --

(Timer Sounded)

-- but are there statistics to back this up, that school deaths are actually on the rise? Our own FBI has said there were no deaths at Sandy Hook; so who do we believe? Anyway, I do realize my time is up. Thank you so much for listening.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Jan Williams? Is Jan Williams in the room? I hope I --

MS. WILLIAMS:

Coming, right here.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yep. Jan Williams? Okay.

MS. WILLIAMS:

Good morning. My name is Jan Williams, I am a resident, property owner in Nesconset, the Town of Smithtown, County of Suffolk, State of New York and a United States citizen. Thank you.

I'm here as another voice in opposition to 1777-16. I am really thankful today that there is such an outpouring of points that I didn't have to come prepared to actually speak. I agree 99.9% with the speakers beforehand on this issue. It has come to my knowledge that several days ago there was not -- two-and-a-half, three miles from this point that I am speaking there was a home invasion, an armed home invasion north of here. Luckily, thank God, the people were not -- they were harmed, they were robbed from, their car was stolen, left burning in the Brookhaven Town parking lot at Lake Ronkonkoma Town Park. I don't know if the knowledge is that they had a firearm in the house, etcetera. But just look if it was, I think it was even in broad daylight; we don't have the statistics on it. But imagine having a lock on something and trying to get to something to defend your home and property in a situation like this? I mean, wow. This is an unconstitutional law by -- past before and has been pointed out to you. I can only see this as the introducer -- I mean, there's no stats on this, there's no statistics. These people have come here before you to ask for their part in education, which they have already been doing, not to pass a law that hinders the legal -- the rightful possession and quick acumen, a quick ability to have in defense of their property and home. But this law does do that, it ties their hands. I mean, I was going to come here and I could say a lot of things. I mean, I know I wouldn't -- because this law is unenforceable, unless somebody says something, but in an inquisition or something like that and the question was asked, which would be kind of idiotic to say something like that. But I don't believe it's an enforceable law, it's an unconstitutional law.

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And I can't help but say it's introduced by Mr. Gregory and I think it's a political football for his side to show that he's doing something. I'm sorry, Mr. Gregory, it looks that way. I just learned, I forgot that you were running for Congress. I'll give you a plug; you're running for Congress against your area.

Applause

(Timer Sounded)

But as they said, there's too many -- my time is up?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yes.

MR. WILLIAMS:

That's a shame. And I tried to talk slow because I'm paying for this podium, right. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You're welcome to come back. Bill Ian Jurow.

MR. JUROW:

Good morning. My name's Bill Ian Jurow, I'm an attorney. I moved to Suffolk County in 1952 and love this place. I'm here -- most of my -- I didn't plan on being here today. I do represent the Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen on many occasions. I told -- everybody knew I wasn't available today, I started meetings this morning at four o'clock.

Most of my legal arguments, thank goodness, were already put forth by Bill Raab, and they were wonderful. If you read the statutes, you'll find that this particular law couldn't pass muster in any court. It's already been ruled against in several cases; in Suffolk County Supreme Court alone. Maybe somebody could just do an Article 78 and stop this from even going forward. Anybody could, the law's already been determined in Suffolk County, in the Supreme Court, and also in the U.S. Supreme Court. So I ask these people to please look at the cases that were given to you, as they already control the law in Suffolk County and New York State -- and therefore hopefully all of New York State.

Bill Raab also reminded me of another important thing and that is from Kleck & Gertz article, that Armed Resistance To Crime: The Prevalence and Nature of Self-Defense With a Gun. In the United States, almost 2.2 million people defend themselves with their own guns. It's important to let them have them. He handed me that article and I'll hand it up to you and suggest you look at page 164 where that number exists, or you can go to page 159 which takes a different perspective and only talks about 600 to 800,000 people who just pull guns. Now, the last time I read, I think it was Mr. {Lott's} article, was decades ago and he was only citing 250,000 people. I don't care; every one of those people was saved by having a gun on them and being able to pull it in the moment. So let's look at that.

You know, you wouldn't take a gun away from a man in uniform, would any of you? Well, guess what? Every man in this country and every man under New York State Law is in the unorganized militia.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Amen.

Applause

MR. JUROW:

They are supposed to have a gun to carry; that gun has to be available. And by the way, the law does not require any of us to retire when we hit 40, so 19 to 40 -- only men, unfortunately, in this law -- are required to carry and have their own weapon and show up with it. Don't take my gun away from me. Don't take my gun away from any other person if I hand it to them if I go down.

All right. Besides that, this law's in contradiction to other statutes. Let's see, what happens if I hand my 13-year old daughter who I taught and I teach people --

(Timer Sounded)

-- all teenagers in May and June how to handle firearms. I teach women only in October. You have a statute -- there's a statute that says they can go hunting at age 12, according to Mr. Raab, and as soon as she comes home with a gun she will have broken your law. Are you going to make my child a criminal because she comes home, puts the gun down and walks away from it to go to the bathroom or anything else? This law is ridiculous.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Mr. Jerow, your time is up.

MR. JEROW:

Well, I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you.

MR. JEROW:

And I think education is the answer to all of this.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you.

MR. JEROW:

I took my class at age 11, in junior high school.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. There was a Gary Hartman, I called his name earlier; is he in the room? Gary Hartman is not here.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

He went home sick.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I hope he feels better.

There are no more cards. Is there anyone in the room who has not spoken who would like to speak? If you want to come forward; state your name, please, and we'll give you a card to fill out.

MR. LANGSTRAND:

Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good morning.

MR. LANGSTRAND:

My name is Gregory Langstrand. I'm a Suffolk County resident, and I thank you for allowing me to speak right now.

I came here for the first time to support some of my fellow Second Amendment folks and to just listen and to see what was being said. And then there's some folks from the alarm companies and some private citizens and I'm putting something together here. Just with the alarm controversy, I have a friend of mine who has an alarm, he's stopped the monitoring; this is great for the criminals. Now he's a licensed firearm owner and he's going to be restricted in his own home on how he can protect himself. This is great for the criminals.

Earlier one of the guests --

Applause

Earlier one of the guests had said, *You're our representatives, not our leaders.* A thought to ponder; who are you representing? Thank you.

Applause

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. So there are -- anyone else in the room, as I said, anyone who has not spoken who would like to speak? No? Okay.

I don't know if Patrice is still in the room. Is there anything that -- I don't think there's anything on the agenda necessarily that she has any questions about. I see FRES is not -- oh, FRES is here. Are there any items for FRES? No.

MR. VETTER:

There's the --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You need to come up to the mic.

MS. HORST:

They have two resolutions on the agenda today, they're here to answer any questions.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTТА:

I just have a request I want to put on the record. I got a call from someone and I'd like to know what the police overtime and the FRES overtime was last year for the marathon. If someone could get me that? In terms of -- I know the police overtime. If someone was moved from one precinct to another and the overtime occurred in the precinct; I'd like to know what that number was also.

MS. HORST:

What was that last part?

LEG. TROTТА:

A lot of times we put people on overtime. If you take someone out of, let's say, the 1st Precinct and put them on the marathon and they hire someone on overtime in the 1st Precinct, I want that included. So I want to know what the total cost of the Police and FRES overtime, and any other costs associated with the marathon. Because, you know, I got a caller saying, you know, it actually costs us money to put this on, I just want to make sure that's not true.

MS. HORST:

Understood. Well get that to you.

LEG. TROTТА:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay? And I'm trying to think, I don't think there's anyone else in the room. Okay, so we'll start with the agenda.

Tabled Resolutions

1755-16 - Appointing Edmund Densieski as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education, and Extension Board (Krupski). The sponsor wants it tabled at this time, so I'll make a motion to table.

D.P.O. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled (**VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer**).

IR 1758-16 - Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Local Law to prohibit unregulated synthetic opioids in Suffolk County (Stern). Is that a public hearing still?

MR. NOLAN:

It's closed.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, it's closed. Didn't he want it tabled? Okay, I believe the sponsor --

D.P.O. CALARCO:

(Inaudible)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I believe the sponsor wants it tabled at this time, so I'll --

LEG. HAHN:

No, I think he wants it --

D.P.O. CALARCO:

He's ready to go with it? Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So Legislator Calarco has made a motion to approve. Is there a second?

LEG. FLEMING:

I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator Fleming. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 – Not Present: Legislator Cilmi & Spencer).**

Introductory Resolutions

1771-16 - Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Local Law to terminate alarm system registration fee (Trotta). I'll make that motion to table for a public hearing. Second -- who was that? Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? So it will be a public hearing on Wednesday (**VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer**).

1775 -- oh, we did that.

1776-16 - Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Local Law to ensure fair employment in Suffolk County (Presiding Officer Gregory). I'll make a motion to table for public hearing.

LEG. HAHN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It's tabled for public hearing (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).**

1777-16 - Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Local Law to require safe storage of firearms (Presiding Officer Gregory). I guess same motion, same second, same vote; is that good for everybody? Okay. So if there's anyone left in the room, again, Wednesday, 2:30 the public hearings start. I can only assume it's going to take a while. But it's Wednesday here in Hauppauge -- thank you, John. Yes, Wednesday here in Hauppauge, the first public hearing starts at 2:30, there are a number of them. So I'm assuming that would be at the end of the agenda, right? Probably?

MR. NOLAN:

Towards the end.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, it'll be towards the end of the agenda in the public hearings, so I wouldn't say it's going to actually start at 2:30. So I believe we had same motion, same second, same vote on 1777, right? (**Tabled for Public Hearing- VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer**).

1778-16 - Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to the County Correctional Facility C – 141 - Riverhead (CP 3014)(County Executive). I'll make that motion. You said a motion?

D.P.O. CALARCO:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve by Legislator Calarco. I'll second it. No question? Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).***

1782-16 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal grant funds passed through the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee in the amount of \$59,000 for the New York State Highway Safety Program for the Suffolk County Office of the Medical Examiner, Toxicology Laboratory and to execute grant related agreements (County Executive).

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar by Legislator Hahn. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved and placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).***

1791-16 - Accepting and appropriating 50% Federal pass-through grant funds from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in the amount of \$564,390 for the "Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) FY2016" administered by the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).***

1816-16 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$137,025 in Federal pass-through funding from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to provide enhanced enforcement of motor vehicle and traffic laws and regulations with 79.6% support (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Hahn. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).***

1817-16 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$20,500 in Federal pass-through funding from the State of New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, for the Suffolk County Police Department's Motorcycle Safety Enforcement and Education Program with 79.8% support (County Executive). Same motion, same second, same vote. ***(Approved - VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).*** Is that good; you got that?

MS. ELLIS:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

1820-16 - Transferring 100% grant funding in the amount of \$1,000 awarded by the US Department of Justice to the Suffolk County Probation Department (County Executive).

D.P.O. CALARCO:

A State grant. Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar. A thousand dollars? They could have been more generous than that (*Laughter*).

MS. HORST:

It's left over from another grant that they are able --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, okay (*laughter*). Thank you.

LEG. FLEMING:

I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So there was a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? And it's on the Concept Calendar **(Approved and placed on the Consent Calendar - VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).**

1831-16 - Approving the reappointment of Rabbi Dr. Steven A. Moss as Chair of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Calarco. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).**

1832-16 - Approving the reappointment of Augustus G. Mantia, M.D. to the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive).

LEG. FLEMING:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion by Legislator Fleming. Second, Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).**

1833-16 - Approving the reappointment of Mark J. Epstein, Esq. To the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive). I'll do same motion, same second, same vote. **(Approved - VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).**

And **1834-16 - Approving the reappointment of Dr. Yu-Wan Wang to the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission (County Executive).** Can we do same motion, same second, same vote? **(Approved - VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).**

1837-16 - Accepting and appropriating a supplemental award of Federal funding in the amount of \$16,500 from the Department of Homeland Security, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the ICE El Dorado Task Force with 79.4% support (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Fleming. Second -- I'll second it. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).**

1839-16 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$173,900 from the United States Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the IRS STEPP (Suffolk-Treasury Enhanced Prosecution Program) Program with 86.07% support (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).**

1840-16 - Accepting and appropriating an award of Federal funding in the amount of \$15,678 from the United States Department of Justice, U.S. Marshals Service, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in Operation Safe Summer 2016 with 79.39% support (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It's approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).**

1841-16 - Accepting and appropriating grant funds in the amount of \$424,975 from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, for a dedicated Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enforcement Project with 80% support (County Executive). Motion by --

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion.

D.P.O. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator -- sorry, our Presiding Officer Gregory. Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It is approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).***

1843-16 - Donating surplus emergency Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) to recognize not-for-profit entities providing relief to Suffolk County residents in need (County Executive). Same motion, same second, same vote. ***(Approved - VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).***

1850-16 - Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Local Law to amend Section A13-10 of the Suffolk County Administrative Code to authorize the use of property held by the Police Property Bureau in law enforcement operations (County Executive).

MR. NOLAN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to table by for public hearing by Legislator Hahn.

LEG. FLEMING:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And second, Legislator Fleming. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It is tabled for public hearing (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).***

1875-16 - Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Local Law to improve the County Alarm Permitting Process (Hahn). Motion to table by Legislator Hahn for public hearing. Second, Legislator Fleming. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It is tabled (VOTE: 7-0-0-2 - Not Present: Legislators Cilmi & Spencer).***

And with that, we have nothing more on the agenda, so we are adjourned.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 A.M. *)

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically.