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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

10 A meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Suffolk County
11 Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative
12 Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building,
13 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on
14 February 25, 2021.

15
16 **Members Present:**

17 **Legislator Tom Donnelly - Chairman**
18 **Legislator Bridget Fleming - Vice-Chair**
19 Legislator Kara Hahn
20 Legislator Leslie Kennedy
21 Legislator Susan Berland
22 Legislator Steven Flotteron
23 Legislator Rudy Sunderman
24 Legislator Samuel Gonzalez
25 **P.O. Robert Calarco - Ex Officio**

26
27 **Also in Attendance:**

28 **Legislator Al Krupski - District #1**
29 **Legislator Anthony Piccirillo - District #8**
30 **Legislator Kevin McCaffrey - District #14**
31 Sarah Simpson - Counsel/Suffolk County Legislature
32 Dan Dubois - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
33 Derek Stein - Aide to Presiding Officer Calarco
34 Bob Doering - Budget Review Office
35 Anthony Calandrillo - Lieutenant/Chief of Department's Office-SCPD
36 Mike Sharkey - Chief Deputy Sheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
37 Nicola Amendola-Director of Intergovernmental Relations/CE's Office
38 Steve Randazzo - School Bus Advisory Committee/Assistant Deputy
39 County Executive
40 Steven Skrynecki - School Bus Advisory Committee/Chief-Southampton
41 Town Police Department
42 John Ryan - School Bus Advisory Committee/Longwood Transportation
43 Coordinator & NYAPT Member
44 Frank Klein - Suffolk Bus Advisory Committee/Safety & Training
45 Operations
46 Richard Gallagher - Suffolk Bus Advisory Committee/Suffolk
47 Transportation-Director of Safety & Training Operations
48 Jean Souliere - Suffolk Bus Advisory Committee/CEO BusPatrol

49
50 **Minutes Taken By:**

51 Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

52
53 **Minutes Transcribed by:**

54 Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer
55 Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary

(*The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. *)

CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:

So, good morning, everybody, and welcome to this Thursday, February 25th meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature's Public Safety Committee. I'd ask you to all please rise for a salute to our flag led by our Vice-Chair, Legislator Bridget Fleming.

Salutation

Thank you. Be seated.

If we could just take a moment of silence, as we always do, in thoughtful prayer of all those men and women of our armed services who are serving both here and abroad, as well as all Public Safety First Responders on duty throughout our nation.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you.

Once again. Good morning to all and thank you for joining us this morning, this Thursday, February 25th meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature's Public Safety Committee.

Pursuant to the Governor's orders, this meeting is being conducted in hybrid fashion. Public comments will be permitted during this meeting via Zoom only. Sign up is available at www.scnyLegislature.us/CommitteePublicPortion. Speakers will be limited to three minutes. Speakers are also permitted to leave a three-minute phone message to the following number, 631-853-3685, or via e-mail to Clerk.Legislature@Suffolkcountyny.gov.

So we have two presentations this morning. We do not have any correspondence that have been sent to our committee.

Our first presentation is going to be a presentation by the School Bus Advisory Committee that's going to be led by Chief Steven Skrynecki, he's the Chief of the Southampton Police Department. And they're going to give us an overview and their recommendations on the implementation of the Suffolk County School Bus Camera Program. So, we'll let them give their presentation and then we will open it up to questions from the Legislature.

So, Chief, the floor is yours.

CHIEF SKRYNECKI:
(Inaudible).

CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:

I think you have to unmute yourself, Chief.

ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:

Legislator, can I share my screen? I'll be controlling the presentation for the Chief.

1 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

2 You may, Mr. Randazzo. And thank you for helping us with the
3 technology to do this presentation this morning. I know it's an
4 important initiative of the Administration, as well as Legislators
5 who've submitted their own resolutions on this, so having this
6 collaborative discussion is very important and I want to thank you
7 for helping to organize it.

8
9 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

10 Thanks, Legislator.

11
12 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

13 So, good morning, Legislator, good morning all. I believe we're
14 going to put the Power Point up on the screen. Okay.

15
16 So if we could just go to the next slide which has a -- which kind
17 of shows all of the stakeholders in the project; there we are.
18 So as you can see, the committee represented a -- by the logos on
19 the screen you can see the cross-section of stakeholders, wide
20 cross-section of stakeholders that were represented on the
21 committee. I thought it was very well put together, everybody that
22 had an interest in the program was included in several sessions of
23 discussion.

24
25 And if we go to the next slide, I'll actually introduce the members
26 of the committee to you. Starting with myself, Steve Skrynecki,
27 Chief of Police, Southampton Town Police Department; Robert Brown,
28 Chief of Patrol, Suffolk County Police Department; Ron Masera,
29 President, Suffolk School Superintendent Association; Lori Fontana,
30 President of Suffolk PTA Association; Noel DiGerolamo, President of
31 Suffolk County PBA; Dan Levler, President of Suffolk County AME;
32 Susan Lipman, Past President New York State PTA; David Christopher,
33 Executive Director of NYAPT; Carol Sicignano, Pat-Med
34 Transportation Coordinator and NYAPT Member. Next slide.

35 Ryan -- excuse me, John Ryan, Longwood Transportation Coordinator,
36 also a NYAPT member; Richard Gallagher, Bay Shore Transportation
37 Coordinator, NYAPT Member; Frank Klein, Suffolk Transportation,
38 Director of Safety & Training Operations; John Corlett, AAA
39 Northeast; Chuck Conroy, Suffolk Coordinator, Governor's Traffic
40 Safety Committee; Chelly Gordon, Deputy Executive Director, Suffolk
41 County TPVA; Debra Hagan, President, TWU Local 252; and Jean
42 Souliere, CEO of BusPatrol.

43
44 So after several meetings discussing several issues, the committee
45 is recommending a five-point plan; you see it on your screen right
46 now. The first point being a warning period of 60 days; second
47 point, road signage above and beyond statutory requirement; the
48 third, a school bus bumper sticker on County fleet; fourth, public
49 safety announcement campaign to include radio, TV, social media and
50 print; and lastly, a school bus-based outreach and student driver
51 education. If we move on the slide we'll delve into each one of
52 these a little bit.

53
54 Starting with the 60-day warning period, a lot of consideration and
55 a lot of conversation went into this particular bullet. We were
56 very, very cognisant of some failures, particularly in the Nassau

1 County -- I'm sure many of you remember the Nassau County School
2 Speed Zone Program that was poorly administered, rollout was not
3 well-received. We had many, many discussions about this, the
4 committee thought that transparency and education was a key
5 component to success. We debated quite a bit about a 30-day versus
6 a 60-day warning period or no warning period. Clearly, Vehicle &
7 Traffic Law states right now that you're not permitted to pass a
8 school bus. But nevertheless, with this new technology and with
9 this new program, we thought for acceptance and for the sake of
10 transparency and education it would be best to have a grace period
11 and we came to the final conclusion that 60 days would be the right
12 number to recommend to you.

09:41AM

13
14 During that 60-day period, if somebody were to pass a school bus
15 the program would initiate a warning mailing to the registered
16 owner of the vehicle. So there would be an additional education to
17 the other things we're going to talk about right now mailed to your
18 home to let you know that you passed a school bus, but in this case
19 you're getting a warning, not a fine.

09:42AM

20
21 We think this is a very significant component to the program and
22 this, coupled with other educational aspects, we think will allow
23 the messaging to come across that this is not designed to produce
24 revenue, this is not designed to gather fines, this is designed to
25 protect children. And that's the message that we believe you are
26 all behind and we think this is best way to get that message
27 across, among other things we'll discuss.

09:43AM

28
29 We'll go to the next slide. Interestingly, the State requirement
30 for this program regarding signage and advisory through signage
31 requires the County to only post signs at its borders, at the
32 jurisdictional borders. So, in essence, the County could, at
33 minimum, just put signs along major roadways that connect Nassau
34 County to Suffolk County or maybe consider the ferries that come
35 over from Connecticut advising motorists that this program is in
36 place.

09:43AM

37
38 The committee thought that this minimal requirement was not
39 sufficient to really get the message across; and again, with the
40 idea that we want to be educating people, we want to be
41 transparent. This is not about -- this is not a gotcha program,
42 this is designed to protect students and to gain compliance with
43 school bus regulations and vehicle and traffic regulations
44 regarding school buses.

09:44AM

45
46 The committee is recommending a much broader signage campaign to
47 include signage at identified areas of high-risk, identified areas
48 that the school districts think would be important for these signs
49 to be put up and identified areas by you Legislators yourself in
50 your various districts that you might think would be a wise place
51 to place the sign. Again, the idea is not to catch people off
52 guard, the idea is to gain compliance with the Vehicle & Traffic
53 Law.

1 Next slide. We even went so far as to consider essentially a
2 last-ditch opportunity to educate and notify motorists and that
3 would be right on the school bus itself. We thought about this and
4 said, you know, if we really want to be transparent, if we really
5 want to give people that opportunity to comply rather than receive
6 a ticket, why not put a sign on the school bus itself advising the
7 public that the bus is equipped with a camera and this bus is
8 participating in the program.

09:45AM

9
10 This was not a light lift. This took quite a bit of work to go
11 through Transportation, various levels of that control and regulate
12 school bus signage. The committee took that -- undertook that
13 effort and had to design a sign that would be compliant with a lot
14 of regulations. The sign that you see on this slide does comply
15 with all those regulations and specifications and we think that
16 that is a good thing. Again, it gives the driver of the car behind
17 the school bus that last opportunity to understand that this bus is
18 participating in a program and if you pass this bus you're going to
19 be on camera and you might receive a fine if you pass the bus.

09:45AM

20
21 Next slide. In a continuing effort to educate the community, the
22 committee is recommending a broad-based advertising campaign to
23 include all of the media that you see -- television, local papers,
24 News 12, CNN -- and also to make sure that we're covering this for
25 the Latino to advertise the program in Spanish local newspapers and
26 on Spanish local radio stations. Once again, the theme here is
27 education and compliance, not gotcha.

09:46AM

28
29 Next slide. This campaign we recommend to include -- because so
30 many people now are utilizing social media, we also recommend that
31 this campaign include digital advertisements on social media to
32 include on-line radio, connected TV, YouTube and etcetera. We can
33 put together and recommend putting together a digital campaign ad
34 for those different medias.

09:47AM

35
36 And finally, the committee is recommending -- again, all under the
37 banner of education and information and transparency -- that we
38 utilize the school communication networks that are already in
39 existence. As you all know, schools participate regularly with
40 school newsletters going to home, the PTA outreach with school
41 signage on the properties and school district website and social
42 media opportunities. So, we're recommending that we utilize those
43 avenues to communicate to the public as well as educating the
44 students themselves, providing materials for young drivers and
45 their education courses and interacting materials for early age
46 school children.

09:47AM

47
48 So that is a summary of our recommendations for the rollout. And
49 again, all of this is really focused on the idea of informing the
50 public, being transparent about the program, giving the public the
51 opportunity to get used to the program and adapt to the program
52 rather than just having it come out unexpectedly and catching
53 people off guard. We think that this will lend itself to
54 acceptance, we think that this will provide transparency for the
55 County and we think that the community will appreciate not having
56 this thrust upon them but rather doing it in this manner.

1 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**
2 Thank you, Chief. Is that the end of the presentation?

3
4 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**
5 Yes, sir.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**
8 Oh, my goodness, the hands are going up so fast (*laughter*).

9
09:48AM 10 Okay. So I'm just going to go in order here; we'll start with
11 Legislator Hahn.

12
13 **D.P.O. HAHN:**
14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Chief, for that
15 presentation, I agree with all that you're doing.

16
17 Two ideas or recommendations. The warning period, the 60 days,
18 that obviously you're doing lots of education outside of that, but
19 that gives extra education to the people who are -- have been
09:49AM 20 caught. Is it possible to also do weekly press releases, you know,
21 X number of warnings went out just as a way to educate everyone
22 else yet again that this is happening so that everyone has extra
23 piece?

24
25 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**
26 I would think that is possible, that's something we'd have to
27 probably talk to BusPatrol about accumulating that data and
28 releasing that data. But I certainly think it's a good idea and
29 worthy of taking a look at it, and my expectation is, yes, that
09:49AM 30 probably could be done.

31
32 **D.P.O. HAHN:**
33 Okay. And then the second item; I love the bumper stickers, just
34 wondering if they could also be in Spanish.

35
36 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**
37 That is also a good recommendation and I -- we will certainly look
38 at that, too. Yes, I don't see why not. As I mentioned, there are
39 a lot of regulations about what goes on the bus.

09:50AM 40
41 **D.P.O. HAHN:**
42 I know, yes.

43
44 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**
45 But since we got this far, I can't imagine that that would be an
46 obstacle that we can't overcome, so we will take a look at that as
47 well. That was a good recommendation.

48
49 **D.P.O. HAHN:**
09:50AM 50 Thank you. You guys have done a ton of work. It all seems, you
51 know, a really important way to educate the public about this and
52 it's important steps we're taking to protect our children, so thank
53 you.

54
55 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**
56 Thank you, Legislator Hahn. We'll go to Legislator Kennedy.

1 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

2 Thank you. Thank you, Chief and team, it was an excellent
3 presentation. I just want to clarify a couple of things.

4
5 SCAT buses and County buses will have signs on them but people are
6 not required to stop; correct?

7
8 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

9 Say that again, please? I'm sorry.

09:51AM

10
11 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

12 Suffolk County SCAT buses, the ones that take the senior citizens
13 and the handicapped and the County buses.

14
15 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

16 They will not be part of this. This is school --

17
18 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

19 They will not, right. Okay, I just wanted to clarify that.

09:51AM

20
21 Also, just a suggestion, Kara took one of mine. Can you include
22 the Smithtown Messenger Group in your advertising that covers the
23 north shore?

24
25 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

26 Absolutely.

27
28 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

29 And we -- another thing is, is there anything in the program that
30 will specifically address divided highways? Like Route 347 where
31 you have a median, an elevated median with plants on it, where in
32 some spots you can't see what's happening on the other side of the
33 road but you're still responsible for stopping if a bus stops on
34 the other side of the road. How is that going to be addressed or
35 can you put something in to address that?

09:51AM

36
37 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

38 That is a -- one piece of the program that we're still finalizing a
39 little bit. We're still testing the product itself to see how
40 capable it is of picking up people in a -- on the other side of a
41 divided highway, particularly if there are, you know, some type of
42 an obstruction, whether it's a barrier for protection of cross-over
43 vehicles or trees or some type of vegetation. So we're not to the
44 exact final point on that issue right now. As you know, the law
45 requires that you stop, even on a divided highway, and we're still
46 going to be working outm0 a few kinks to see exactly how much of
47 that would be picked up by the system.

09:52AM

48
49 So, I would say that the goal here would be to utilize the system
50 the same way that police are enforcing the traffic law today. You
51 know, the committee has had that discussion and it will depend on
52 the technology, the extent of the technology whether they're able
53 to pick up all of their traffic on the opposite side of a divided
54 highway.

09:53AM

1 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

2 The only thing that I can think of as a solution, once you get it
3 to pick up, is putting signs in the median so that people from both
4 sides can read it. Not signs on the side of the road where people
5 won't be looking, but elevated signs in the median.

6
7 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

8 That's an interesting thought and it's also -- you know, should be
9 incorporated into -- and we talked about incorporating that into
09:54AM 10 the education program once we make a final -- we come to a final
11 conclusion on whether someone will get a fine for that.

12
13 You know, it is possible, I'm just putting everything out there,
14 that we may not be sending notifications home on certain divided
15 highways like that only because of the technical complications
16 involved, but as I said, that's still something that's being worked
17 out. But that's an interesting and good suggestion as well, to
18 have some signage possibly on those divided -- in those divided
19 areas.

09:54AM 20
21 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

22 So we'll be notified when you make the decision whether that's
23 going to be included or not included; yes?

24
25 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

26 Yes.

27
28 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

29 Okay. All right, thank you very much.

09:54AM 30
31 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

32 Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Next will be Legislator Sunderman.

33
34 **LEG. SUNDERMAN:**

35 Chief, thank you for the presentation. I thought that was very
36 well organized and presented, but I do have a few questions.

37
38 So, Legislator Kennedy covered the center median. As you know, I
39 have William Floyd Parkway, so I'm concerned to say *maybe, if so,*
09:55AM 40 *what if.* Like, we need clarification because that can cause
41 problems with *do I stop, do I not stop,* and then we'll be having
42 more accidents. So we really have to come up with a clear answer.
43 To sit here and say *I don't know* just doesn't work for me. Because
44 what do I do when I'm on 347, what do I do when I'm on Sound
45 Avenue, what do I do when I'm on William Floyd Parkway? Just as a
46 driver, whether you're a new driver or a veteran driver, how do you
47 handle that? So I think we've got to have clarification; that's
48 number one.

49
09:55AM 50 Number two, I saw on the screen that said 60-day notice from
51 March 1st, so I'm really concerned now. So, I get a warning;
52 what's the percentage of school districts that have cameras on
53 right now?

54
55 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

56 I think that percentage is about 90 or above right now that are

1 participating. I don't know that they're all installed right at
2 this moment, but that's the -- that is the number that are signed
3 up to participate.

4
5 **LEG. SUNDERMAN:**

6 Okay, but the answer's not there. So if 90% signed up, out of the
7 90%, how many have cameras on them?

8
9 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

09:56AM 10 I think Steve Randazzo might be able to respond to that better than
11 I.

12
13 **LEG. SUNDERMAN:**

14 Steve?

15
16 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

17 Hey, Legislator. Every school district that has opted in thus far
18 has at least some cameras on their fleet, so we wanted to make sure
19 that before we launched the warning ticket program there was equity
09:56AM 20 and a sense of distribution across the County. So, you know, a lot
21 of that depends on access to lots and access to certain yards and
22 the weather has been an issue. But we believe we have a critical
23 mass right now to be able to launch the warning ticket program, and
24 part of that was the requirement that every district had some skin
25 in the game so that there will be a buzz around the County and
26 there will be a fair and equitable cross-section of all of the
27 districts having this camera technology in place for the warning
28 ticket period.

29
09:57AM 30 **LEG. SUNDERMAN:**

31 Now, Steve, I researched some of the districts. Within my own
32 Legislative District and others, and the buses that have them on
33 not necessarily are the big school buses, are some of the smaller
34 school buses. So you're not getting the majority of kids that
35 would be getting the stopped buses, if you get my point here. So
36 if small buses have the cameras and not the big buses, which are
37 the majority of the ones that are passed, this could be a concern.

38
39 So the average resident in the 3rd Legislative District would not
09:58AM 40 get the fair warning or the equity of another district that has the
41 full fleet. So my district will be targeted and wouldn't get the
42 full 60-day warning and education that another school district,
43 which I know another school district that's fully completed with
44 all their buses and they're going to get a fair chance to get
45 education and the 3rd Legislative District would not get the full
46 60-day education period.

47
48 I think we're way ahead of the schedule here by pushing this at
49 March 1st and more fleet needs to get cameras on. And I think you
09:58AM 50 need to provide the Legislature's staff with a list of every
51 company now that has fleet on it, school district, and what the
52 percentage of large buses and school buses. Because to come
53 forward with this project and not present to the Legislature on a
54 whole of every school district how many buses have it, how many
55 buses still need to get it, large verse small, is not a fair
56 equation being given here. And you're shortchanging my residents

1 the fair opportunity that other residents are getting the 60-day
2 education component. And this is just going to be revenue-driven
3 and not fair to the residents of the 3rd Legislative District.
4 And you're not being fair to me and I think that's something that
5 we should be standing together to get the proof here.

6
7 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

8 I'm happy to work with you, Legislator. I'm happy to provide you
9 with the data, I don't have it in front of me. This presentation
10 was truly meant to be the Safety and Implementation Committee's
11 recommendations to the County Executive for the implementation of
12 the program. So, we can talk about the installation schedule, I'm
13 happy to meet with you off-line or later today to get you that
14 data.

15
16 I do daily check-ins with the vendor about the installation
17 progress. My sense is many of the districts, the school districts
18 within your Legislative District do have quite a number of cameras
19 installed in them. But I want to get really deep into the data for
20 you to make sure that you're comfortable and I will do that with
21 you.

22
23 **LEG. SUNDERMAN:**

24 And why is the March 1st deadline? I'm just -- I just want to know
25 why we picked March 1st and not September when the school year has
26 started to give us an ample time to roll the program out. I'm
27 trying to figure this out.

28
29 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

30 Well, I mean, there are maybe -- let's just say 4,000 school buses
31 across the County, and by March 1st we will have, at minimum, 2,000
32 school buses across the County, across every district in the County
33 that has chosen to participate with cameras on them.

34
35 The data tells us that that to us is a critical mass, enough to be
36 able to begin the warning ticket program. Because, as you know,
37 our residents travel across the County for work to visit family and
38 friends, for other reasons, so there's a really strong
39 cross-section of the County community that has the cameras on them
40 already. And it's not that every single driver necessarily needs
41 to receive a warning ticket in the mail; I mean, God, I hope that
42 many people aren't breaking the law to begin with. It's really
43 about the buzz that it creates across the County, across the
44 community, people talking about the fact that they got one of these
45 in the mail as just one piece of the larger education program.

46
47 I mean, everyone knows that this is against the law. The 60 days
48 -- I mean, there are -- there was a diversity of opinion in our
49 Safety Committee where folks thought that we should just start
50 issuing monetary violations on day one. There are people in the
51 County, parents, PTA members, advocates who feel that way. There
52 are others who thought that there should be a longer grace period
53 and that's what the committee ultimately settled on. But there
54 comes a point in time where the recommendation was this program
55 should begin, and by that time the thought was there will be more
56 than sufficient education to the community to give them a heads up

1 that this is coming.

2

3 **LEG. SUNDERMAN:**

4 Okay. Well, we talked about education prior to issuing tickets and
5 that's what my concern is, that we didn't even start the education
6 component.

7

8 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

9 But that's what the warning period does. For 60 days, all you do
10 is if you actually violate the law for the next two months, you
11 still don't get a fine, you just get something in the mail that
12 maybe resembles a ticket but it says *warning* on it, you don't owe
13 anything to the County. I mean, that in and of itself is an
14 education component.

15

16 **LEG. SUNDERMAN:**

17 Okay. All right. I'd like to see that data, though, please.

18

19 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

20 Absolutely.

21

22 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

23 Thank you, Legislator Sunderman. Next up is going to be Legislator
24 Krupski.

25

26 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

27 Well, thank you, Chairman Donnelly. I appreciate the indulgence
28 here, I'm not on the committee. I appreciate the heads up that
29 this was on the agenda, this presentation. And I want to thank
30 Steve Randazzo for all the work you put into this. I know this has
31 been a long work product here and a lot of details.

32

33 I do have a question. Chief, you and I spoke about the divided
34 highway, I know Legislator Kennedy asked the question. So, and it
35 ties into the signage. I've got an awful lot of divided highway in
36 my district. So it just -- you know, the sooner we could know the
37 better.

38

39 And as far as the signage goes, when will the first signs be going
40 up and are there going to be criteria? Because obviously you don't
41 want a sign at every corner and -- like, who's going to help us
42 direct where the signage would be appropriate? You mentioned the
43 Cross Sound Ferry; there was a big issue out there a few years ago
44 when the State put up those massive signs in Orient. And if you
45 get off the ferry in Orient and you go west, there's so many signs
46 there now; if you put a sign up there, it's just lost in the
47 confusion, the sign pollution out there. So, how -- who's going to
48 help regulate the amount of signs and where they'll be effective?

49

50 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

51 I think that's a question for you to respond to, Steve?

52

53 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

54 Hey, Legislator. And thank you for the kind words.

55

56

1 It'll really be a joint effort, it'll be the County, of course,
2 DPW. But we really strongly -- and I agree with the committee's
3 recommendation, it really should be a broader solicitation and
4 input effort as well. Because you guys are some of the eyes and
5 ears of the community, so if you hear from school leaders or
6 community leaders that there's a route or a certain stop that
7 merits a sign, we would be right on it to install one there. We
8 would also be engaging directly and have already with the School
9 Superintendent's Association, so, you know, the school districts
10 know themselves which routes and stops are a bit troubling.

10:05AM

11
12 We also will have data accumulated over time, which is sort of a
13 benefit of the warning period because we'll sort of get a sense
14 over time of some of the trouble spots, so we would use that data
15 then to put signs in spots where the data leads us. So, we view it
16 as sort of an ongoing effort. You know, we've already sort of met
17 the minimum State requirement, so if you do happen to cross the
18 Nassau-Suffolk border, I'm sure like Legislator Richberg or
19 Legislator Berland and others may have seen some of them up
20 already. But over these next few months and beyond, we would be
21 taking solicitation from the Legislators, the school district
22 community and the broader public about where to put additional
23 signage.

10:06AM

24
25 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

26 All right, thank you. And then another question about the
27 outreach, and there was a slide up there and it went too quickly
28 for me to see the radio stations. WLNG is a -- is two stations,
29 there's one in Riverhead, WRIV, WLNG is a big station that reaches,
30 you know, both forks, and actually into Connecticut, and I was
31 wondering if those were considered. I didn't get a chance to see
32 the slide.

10:07AM

33
34 And then is this going to be a year-round program? I know the
35 regular school year is going to -- it's going to start and it's
36 going to end and we're going to be, you know, at the end of the
37 regular school year by the time this program is going to be up and
38 running. Is this program going to go throughout the Summer?
39 Because you see buses that, you know, are riding all Summer
40 sometimes, so is this just going to be a year-round program?

10:07AM

41
42 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

43 Yes, the answer to that is yes, Legislator. The -- there will be a
44 massive PSA effort with a pretty massive ad-spend at the kick-off
45 of the program and then over the period of the 60 days for the
46 warning period, and then there will be an ongoing yearly effort
47 where we continuously educate -- and we're going to be educating
48 people through the schools and the students, etcetera, and, you
49 know, lots of things, as you saw in the presentation, but then
50 there will be an additional ad-spend every August. Even though
51 there are some buses that ride along the Summer months, obviously,
52 with the start of the school year in September, that's when you see
53 a large influx of buses on the streets again.

10:08AM

54
55 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

56 No, I don't mean -- I don't mean the ad campaign throughout the

1 Summer, I mean will the school bus -- will our cameras be
2 operating -- operational all Summer long?

3
4 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

5 Yes, yes.

6
7 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

8 Okay.

9
10:08AM 10 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

11 And your question about the radio stations, and I just want to put
12 this out there to all the Legislators; those were just some
13 recommendations that we received from the committee and based on
14 just some analysis we did about listeners in the County. But if
15 any Legislator has a local paper or a radio station that he or she
16 would like to be included, we'll put that in, so.

17
18 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

19 Okay.

10:08AM 20
21 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

22 The ones that you saw there is not the final list by any stretch.

23
24 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

25 Great. Well, thank you. I appreciate all the work that went into
26 this, everybody who was involved, they did a tremendous amount --
27 there's a lot of details here, so thank you. And thank you,
28 Chairman Donnelly.

10:09AM 29
30 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

31 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Next up is going to be Legislator
32 Piccirillo.

33
34 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

35 Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Donnelly. I thank the members
36 of the committee. And thank you, Chief, for that presentation.

10:09AM 37
38 I do have serious concerns about this entire program. I hear some
39 of the same verbiage being used now that was used during the for
40 red light camera debate, that it's for the kids, for safety, and we
41 all know how that turned out. You can ask some of my more senior
42 colleagues here, but I think they used a school bus being hit by
43 someone running a red light before they voted on that program, and
44 now we know where we are with that program; accidents are up and it
45 has really nothing to do with safety.

10:10AM 46
47 So -- and I know, Chief, you don't have any red light cameras in
48 the East End. And that's not, you know, anything to do with you,
49 I appreciate your service, but if it was about safety they'd be
50 Island-wide.

51
52 So I just need to know that this isn't going to turn into another
53 Red Light Camera Program debacle where it turned into a money grab.
54 I heard that that's not the intention, but as we all know, the road
55 to hell is paved with good intention. So I'm just curious of how
56 we're going to make sure that this isn't going to turn into another

1 Red Light Camera Program; that's my first question.

2

3 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

4 If I could respond to that, Legislator.

5

6 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

7 Absolutely, Chief.

8

9 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

10:10AM 10 First and foremost, I think it's important for you all to recognize
11 the difficulty that exists in police enforcing this particular
12 section of the VTL. And we really don't know how often people go
13 past school buses, because even when we have, and we do this
14 annually, we have a one-week particular focus on this, it's very
15 difficult for us. We almost have to have officers in unmarked cars
16 tailing school buses or riding in a school bus with a chase car
17 affiliated with it to fine violators.

18

10:11AM 19 But during this committee process, I'll share with you an anecdotal
20 story that was related to the committee by somebody representing
21 the school bus drivers that kind of sent a chill through my spine,
22 maybe it will to yours as well. This particular lady was
23 describing an incident where she was pulled over on a little bit of
24 a rural two-lane highway; I kind of envisioned out in my area like
25 a Noyack Road, but there's plenty of other locations throughout the
26 County that resemble this. She stopped the school bus, the
27 oncoming traffic stopped and some traffic stopped behind her. She
28 was about to open the door to allow a student to step out and she
29 looked in her rearview mirror and saw a car pull to the right and
10:11AM 30 drive along the cars -- behind the bus on the right side, shooting
31 up that grass area and she had to slam the door shut to stop the
32 student from stepping out.

33

34 You know, I never really thought about it, you know, I never drove
35 a school bus, so I never really gave it that much thought that
36 that's happening, but apparently that is not as uncommon as we
37 would like to think. So, beside the fact that it's very difficult
38 for us to enforce, when you hear about situations like that, I
39 think that the program has a lot of merit.

10:12AM 40

41 I do recognize your concerns and I am aware of the criticism of the
42 Red Light Program, I've gotten a couple of those tickets myself, as
43 we probably all have. It's not a perfect program. But I think
44 this -- you know, when you look at a situation like I just
45 described, I think you have to weigh, you know, the -- you know,
46 the public -- there will be some criticism, there always is, but I
47 think you have to take into consideration the benefit of trying to
48 keep children safe and I do think it will have a safety effect, a
49 positive safety effect at the end of the day.

10:13AM 50

51 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

52 Thank you, Chief, I appreciate that.

53

54 My second question I guess is to Mr. Randazzo. As we've seen with
55 the Red Light Camera Program, Mr. Randazzo, it has
56 disproportionately affected minorities and the poor, especially in

1 areas like Brentwood, Central Islip and other areas throughout
2 Suffolk County. So what data have you collected that shows that
3 this won't do the same thing?
4

5 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

6 Well -- thanks for the question, Legislator. So the data collected
7 thus far is premature, and we have data from school bus driver
8 surveys, we have data from other states. But we will be the first
9 County in the State of New York launching this and, you know, I
10 would just say that there will be an ongoing sense of data
11 collection and transparency and sharing with the Legislature, with
12 community leaders, with school leaders, and we're happy to be
13 collaborative when it comes to sharing that data and making
14 informed decisions based on that data.
15

16 But we're -- every school district in the County -- well, I would
17 say we're at -- we're one district away from every school district
18 in the County opting into this program. And I'll tell you that
19 was, you know, a very lengthy and deliberative experience. Because
20 every school board had to vote for this program, right? Their
21 representative, their elected representatives from their respective
22 communities, so, I take that as buy-in and support for this
23 program. Every school board had to go follow that same process of
24 affirmatively opting into the County program through a Board
25 resolution, so I take that as a sign of encouragement that this
26 will be something that doesn't disproportionately affect one aspect
27 of the County over another because of the broad participation in
28 the program.
29

30 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

31 Okay. And Mr. Chairman, I just have one more question. Where will
32 these tickets be adjudicated, Mr. Randazzo; TPVA?
33

34 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

35 The violations that occur in western Suffolk, in the western five
36 towns will be adjudicated in Suffolk TPVA, and the violations that
37 occur in the East End towns and some of the villages within East
38 End towns that have police departments and their own traffic courts
39 will be adjudicated by those municipal entities, towns and
40 villages.
41

42 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

43 Thank you, Mr. Randazzo. And thank you, Chief, for answering
44 questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.
45

46 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

47 Thank you, Legislator Piccirillo. Next up is going to be
48 Vice-Chair, Legislator Bridget Fleming.
49

50 **LEG. FLEMING:**

51 Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Donnelly. Hi, Chief Skrynecki,
52 it's good to see you. Thank you for everything you do in keeping
53 our communities safe, and obviously a great leadership role here in
54 this effort.
55
56

1 I was glad to see the Safety & Implementation Committee includes a
2 representative of the bus drivers; I think Debbie Hagan served,
3 which is great to see. Chief, are you aware of any additional
4 responsibilities or any impact on the day-to-day lives and the job
5 descriptions of the bus drivers in the implementation of this
6 program?

7
8 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

9 No. I think this will have almost a zero impact, frankly, on the
10 bus driver. The bus is equipped with the technology, they go about
11 their daily activities as they normally would and the system is
12 automated.

13
14 So, there will be some additional work for the municipality.
15 The program does require a viewer to look at what appears to be an
16 infraction and certify that that is an infraction before a mailing
17 goes out to the registered owner of the vehicle. So, that is a
18 little bit of a component that has been discussed that could be --

19
20 **LEG. FLEMING:**

21 Is that happening in Justice Court or is that happening in Police
22 Department staff?

23
24 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

25 That will happen either in the Police Department or in some
26 component of the municipality. It does not have to be a police
27 officer doing that. In my case, my intention is to use a police
28 officer at least initially to see what the volume looks like, but a
29 civilian can be trained to do that and can certify that and then
30 send it back to the company which would send out the mailing.

31
32 **LEG. FLEMING:**

33 I assume that would be a sworn statement, that the person has
34 observed the film and confirms that the allegations are correct?

35
36 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

37 I don't know if it's at the level of a sworn statement but it would
38 be a confirmation, yes.

39
40 **LEG. FLEMING:**

41 Understood. By the way, can you share your slides with us, or
42 Steve? Can somebody get the slides to the members of the
43 committee? It would be helpful to have. And also, I would just
44 add, I don't know -- the slide went by quickly for me; CTV, LTV and
45 the Southampton Press News Group, you know, obviously would be
46 important, too, as advertising.

47
48 And just finally, I just wanted to respond to the concern that this
49 might be a revenue grab, or even that the red light camera is a
50 revenue grab. I mean, you know, I think it is universally known
51 that Long Island roads are deadly and when government is
52 undertaking safety measures to ensure that terrible outcomes don't
53 happen, I think a risk assessment has to involve both -- two
54 components: One, you know, the likelihood that a bad outcome is
55 going to happen; but secondly, the gravity of that outcome. And I
56 don't think there's any dispute that a driver who would endanger

1 the life or even, you know, the health and safety of a child is
2 someone who needs to be educated and prevented from taking that
3 kind of step.

4
5 The Chief's description of Noyack Road is an apt description and
6 there are many, many roads throughout the County that are narrow,
7 that are winding, that people go way too fast on, that have no
8 shoulders. This is an excellent program that meets both those
9 criteria. Is it likely to happen and if it happens, how bad is it
10 going to be. As my friend Al Krupski will say, if you -- this is a
11 voluntary -- if you think it's a revenue grab, if you think this is
12 a taxing program, well, it's a voluntary tax. If you don't want to
13 pay the fine, don't pass the bus in a dangerous way. And I really
14 applaud the efforts that are being made. Certainly we need
15 transparency and education, but I think those -- those boxes are
16 being checked here by this -- as is demonstrated by this careful
17 presentation.

18
19 So, kudos to you. I'm very supportive of the program and I
20 appreciate all the efforts that have been made to make it come to
21 fruition. Thank you. Thank you, Tom.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

24 Thank you, Legislator Fleming. Next up is going to be Legislator
25 Berland.

26
27 **LEG. BERLAND:**

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay, so I've got a number of things.

29
30 First, full disclosure, I drove a bus for ten years. So, I'm
31 coming at this from a, you know, different perspective. I still
32 have my CDL license, so keep that in mind if you need any help,
33 but -- okay.

34
35 So, first, I guess -- I think all the Legislators need to know
36 which districts. You said, Steve, that there's only one district
37 left. I know we've had conversations about, you know, districts
38 in -- school districts in the 16th LD. I think you really need to
39 give the Legislators either an e-mail that says, you know, *You're*
40 *set, all the school districts, all the school districts in your*
41 *Legislative District are on board*, or, you know, *here's the ones*
42 *that are not*, so that you can enlist our services to help with that
43 process if you're still missing some, because I think that that's
44 important for us to know. Okay, so that's my first point.

45
46 The second point, you had said, Chief, that there's going to be a
47 viewer on there, you know, to -- if somebody gets a ticket that
48 somebody's going to be viewing to make sure that it is, you know,
49 appropriate to issue that. And I know that, you know, that's --
50 I mean, I hear from constituents with the Red Light Program which
51 I, you know, support, but there is that, you know, subjectivity
52 sometimes with some of this. There are school bus drivers that do
53 wave cars on when their lights are on, you know, and -- because
54 they may be picking up or dropping off the kid on the right side of
55 the street, so they may be waving on, you know, drivers behind them
56 because the longer it takes for either the kid to get off the bus

1 or a kid to get on the bus, the more aggregated drivers get in both
2 directions.

3
4 So, I just want that to be, you know, in everybody's forefront,
5 that there's an education component for, you know, drivers, but
6 there also needs to be, you know, some additional education maybe
7 from bus drivers that maybe now that you have this -- you know,
8 these cameras, you are never to wave on a car, even if you think
9 it's okay.

10
11 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

12 That --

13
14 **LEG. BERLAND:**

15 But, you know -- I'm sorry, go ahead, Chief. You want to respond
16 to that?

17
18 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

19 I don't mean to interrupt you, but if I could respond to that
20 point. That was discussed in great detail by representatives who
21 drive buses, like you did, and it was disclosed that actually that
22 is not permitted under Vehicle & Traffic to wave somebody on when
23 you have lights on. But recognizing that that is prohibited, it
24 doesn't necessarily mean it doesn't happen.

25
26 So we all agreed that in addition to the education programs that we
27 discussed in that slide presentation, we need to have an internal
28 education process to educate bus drivers not to do that. So your
29 point is right on the money and well taken and has come under our
30 consideration and we will continue that. So thank you for that.

31
32 **LEG. BERLAND:**

33 Okay. Yeah, great. Look, I -- if it -- God forbid, you know,
34 waving somebody on results in, you know, an injury to a child,
35 that's like the last thing that anybody would want. But you kind
36 of have to balance if that -- you know, if that driver -- you know,
37 who's responsible at that point? And if there's no injury, if
38 there's evidence of the driver waving someone on then, you know,
39 you have to deal with that, you know, at the issuance of the ticket
40 or not, so.

41
42 **CHIEF SKRYNECKI:**

43 If I may, Legislator. We actually went so far in that discussion
44 to ask the vendor -- which is still under exploration, I believe --
45 if it's possible to capture that in the system itself, whether
46 there was a wave by the driver. I don't know if Steve could
47 comment on whether that is still being pursued, but this was a big
48 topic of discussion. And we did ask the vendor could -- I don't
49 think they immediately have the technology, but they thought that
50 it was worthy of them considering and maybe progressing the
51 technology to pick up as well.

52
53 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

54 The vendor is still exploring that. It's a fantastic point.

1 We're also, to the Chief's point, going to be working with the bus
2 operators. We also -- we have Frank Klein on the call who is the
3 director -- one of the directors over at Suffolk Transportation, so
4 he and his team are readily aware of this. So, you know, I think
5 it's going to involve an internal education effort among the
6 operators educating their staff that this is -- you know, frankly,
7 if you have your stop sign out, your stop arm out, you can't wave
8 drivers out anymore, that's going to be a new process. I mean --
9 and there will be a bit of a curve to that. But the fact of the
10 matter is that people do that now. You know, in the bus driver's
11 estimation, I'm sure they don't feel that it's a dangerous scenario
12 at the present time when they're waving drivers on, but
13 nonetheless, that likely needs to come to an end, that practice
14 likely needs to come to an end --

10:25AM

15
16 **LEG. BERLAND:**
17 Right.

18
19 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

20 -- we need to resolve that over a period of time.

10:25AM

21
22 **LEG. BERLAND:**

23 There's also another issue with that, because the smaller buses,
24 sometimes you can, you know -- you get the stop sign out but the
25 lights don't go on, or you put the lines on and you're not putting
26 the stop sign on. So, it's not all -- you know, it's not all
27 interconnected.

28
29 And it also depends on the fleet that the specific district has
30 whether, you know, all of those buses are updated and they are all
31 interconnected. Because, you know, when you talk about -- I think
32 it was Legislator Fleming who said, you know, are there extra
33 responsibilities for the bus drivers as a result of this. You
34 know, if you think about it, you know, if you're driving a bus that
35 it doesn't all go at the same time and you're pressing this button
36 and that button and the arm goes out for, you know, the door for
37 the stop sign, but you're not -- you know, you did the sign but you
38 didn't do the lights or you did the lights and you didn't do the
39 sign because cars are going all over the place. It's not like --
40 you know, you do have to multi-task when you're driving a bus
41 because it's not, you know, just like getting in and driving an
42 automatic car and going, it's more like driving, you know, the
43 stick shift where you have 17 things going on at the same time.

10:26AM

44
45 But I think we also have to make sure that the fleet of buses that
46 are getting these cameras are the ones that are going to do all of
47 these things simultaneously, and that you're not going to have some
48 buses that, you know, will work with this and some buses that
49 won't. So what is -- you know, has there been any push back from,
50 you know, the bus companies in terms of, you know, like maybe our
51 fleet isn't going to be impactful with this.

10:26AM

52
53 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

54 Legislator, I have the CEO of our camera vendor on. I know that
55 he -- because they've done this nationwide, really, they have great
56 experience doing this across really North America. So I think he

10:27AM

1 has an answer to your question, if I could just ask him to respond.

2
3 **MR. SOULIERE:**

4 Yeah, absolutely. Thank you for the question.

5
6 **LEG. BERLAND:**

7 Oh, I saw like you chomping at the bit, so I figured -- *(laughter)*

8
9 **MR. SOULIERE:**

10 I am chomping at the bit! I'm a tech geek, right, so I hear these
11 things and the lights literally go off in my head. So I can
12 explain how the lights get managed on the bus.

13
14 So our system is actually plugged into the telemetry of the bus.
15 So, the amber light signal is picked up, then the red light signal
16 is picked up and the stop arm deployment is picked up. So we're --
17 irrespective, independently of what system is on the bus, we know
18 when those signals are activated. So that we even provide that
19 data to law enforcement so that they have the context of time, so
20 they will see the amber light flash on their video and then they'll
21 see the red light, they'll see the stop arm deploy. And then the
22 officers approving the ticket, or law enforcement technicians will
23 be able to make the determination of was the person properly
24 notified and did they have enough time to stop.

25
26 And so it's that kind of rigor and that kind of quality evidence
27 that's being put in front of the people with the authority to
28 approve. So, technologically speaking, we've handled that problem
29 quite effectively.

30
31 **LEG. BERLAND:**

32 Oh, that's great. That's great to hear, thank you. Thank you for
33 that.

34
35 **MR. SOULIERE:**

36 No problem. My pleasure.

37
38 **LEG. BERLAND:**

39 So I just have two more quick points. In the 16th District as well
40 as the 17th, which is Legislator Donnelly, we have Deer Park Avenue
41 which is, you know, four lanes, a very large, you know, divider.
42 Invariably, I seem to be the only person who stops on the other
43 side of the street when the buses are coming and, you know, you
44 take -- you really are taking your life in your hands. Because
45 most people are not stopping on, you know, the far side of Deer
46 Park Avenue when the bus is on the other side of Deer Park Avenue.

47
48 So, you know, I think at some point it probably is going to need
49 some concerted effort, the State, you know, legislatively to
50 differentiate between, like, larger four-lane divided highways.
51 So, you know, but until then, I think that really has to be an
52 intense education aspect of this because people, you know, are
53 really -- I think, you know, don't get that. So, I just don't --
54 I know everybody is saying it, but I just really don't want that to
55 get lost in the process because we all seem to have, you know,
56 those kind of roads in our district. So I think that's -- that's a

1 really big thing and I think you have to, you know, put a picture,
2 because I think a picture says a thousand words with these things,
3 you have to put the picture of that highway and that particular
4 road.

5
6 And I think part of this is when you -- when you're dealing with
7 the districts, a lot of the school districts, they have the virtual
8 backpacks. So it's -- for what are the other pieces about getting
9 the word out and the education, not necessarily just the local
10:30AM 10 newspapers, but a flier that, you know, you send to the districts,
11 to the Superintendents which then they send out through the virtual
12 backpacks to all of the kids in the district so every parent will
13 get one. So, I don't know, I didn't see that on the, you know,
14 dissemination of information and part of it. But I think that's
15 really important, especially since you have, you know, the
16 President of the Superintendents on this Board, that's really
17 important. Because I know in -- I think I have like eight school
18 districts in -- you know, in my district and some have the virtual
19 backpacks, some don't, some, you know, want copies, some don't.
10:31AM 20 But part of it may be tailoring these handouts to the specific
21 districts you're dealing with. Because in Half Hollow Hills, if
22 you send a picture out to people and put *Look at Deer Park Avenue*
23 *on this picture* and, you know, show the stopped school bus on the
24 one side and show the car has to stop on the other and you put that
25 visual, I think that goes, you know, a long way.

26
27 So there should be one generic flier that's going to go out to
28 every single school and then there should be some part of the
29 committee that's going to tailor specific -- specific types of that
10:32AM 30 flier with the various Legislators to really make the point in the
31 district given the streets that, you know, are unique to their all
32 districts.

33
34 So I think we -- you know, we need to go go down a level, not just
35 the big generic education, but really go down a level with each of
36 the Legislators and help each Legislator design a specific type of
37 flier that works with their streets. So, that would be my only
38 other suggestion, so. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10:32AM 39
40 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

41 Thank you, Legislator Berland. And it looks like Legislator Hahn
42 wants to come back on again for a couple of more questions.
43 Legislator Hahn?

44
45 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

46 Thank you, Chairman Donnelly. Just one more to the person who can
47 answer the questions about the cameras, and maybe two more.

48
49 How many cameras did you say there were per bus? And then the
10:33AM 50 Chief described a very frightening scenario where the car was
51 passing on the right; will the camera pick that up, that scenario
52 up?

53
54 **MR. SOULIERE:**

55 Yeah, so I can answer both your questions. So absolutely, we do
56 have a side-loading camera that is capturing the right side so we

1 can -- we can see that happen.

2
3 And secondly, we have an AI camera. So Ava is our AI engine and
4 she's the one that's kind of monitoring around the bus; that's one
5 camera. And then we have four other cameras that are plate capture
6 cameras, and those cameras are designed to be able to give coverage
7 of the entire roadway, both sides of the road. So, our system is
8 really sophisticated. And the resolution of the plate capture
9 camera is 4K in resolution, so we're talking about kind of the
10 latest and greatest AI and camera technology.

11
12 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

13 Oh, you just made me think of another one. Unfortunately, there is
14 a "laws don't apply to me" mentality out there, and people are
15 putting plate covers, reflectors on top of their license plates.
16 Chief Cameron has said that the department is making a concerted
17 effort in patrol, you know, against that, but I'm just curious if
18 those 4K cameras can, you know, get some of that --

19
20 **MR. SOULIERE:**

21 It's a great --

22
23 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

24 Those reflector things on top of them.

25
26 **MR. SOULIERE:**

27 It's a great question, and I can confirm that BusPatrol is subject
28 to the laws of physics just like everyone else is. However, we do
29 test our cameras to be able to capture plates through those
30 screens.

31
32 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

33 Oh, thank you.

34
35 **MR. SOULIERE:**

36 So we have like really robust testing and so far every time
37 someone's trying to throw some new kind of screen device we've been
38 able to beat it. But it's kind of like everyone tries to one-up
39 each other through time. So, we're pretty crafty but we'll try
40 keep and ahead of that curve.

41
42 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

43 Those things are a particular pet peeve of myself and the Chief.
44 Clearly people are planning to break the law when they put those on
45 top of their license plates, and it's a despicable practice and,
46 you know, I'm glad to hear that this will, you know, get those
47 folks if they put our children in jeopardy in this manner by
48 passing a school bus. So thank you.

49
50 **MR. SOULIERE:**

51 My pleasure.

52
53 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

54 Thank you, Legislator Hahn. Legislator McCaffrey has a question,
55 he has called in by phone. Legislator McCaffrey?

1 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I joined on late. I don't
3 know if the question was asked, I know Legislator Berland touched
4 on it briefly, and that is the question of the divided highways.
5 And in previous discussions I gave the example of, say, the service
6 road of Sunrise Highway. The State law, and the last answer I got
7 was unclear as to whether or not if a school bus stops on the
8 service road of Sunrise Highway, would the express lane of Sunrise
9 Highway be required to stop.

10:36AM 10

11 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

12 So -- hey, Legislator, it's Steve Randazzo. So, yes, the letter of
13 the law is that there is a requirement to stop. We actually have a
14 few families -- through our committee meetings, learned that there
15 actually are a few families who live directly on Sunrise Highway
16 towards the Patchogue-Medford area. So, there will be a massive
17 education component to this where we educate people about that
18 aspect of the law.

10:37AM 20

21 Also, as we go through the warning period and collect data, it's
22 going to inform our decision making a little bit more about where
23 we ultimately come down on that. But also --

24 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

25 Okay. Wait, Steve, if I can stop you. Are we seriously
26 considering telling people that if there's a stopped school bus on
27 the Service Road, that the expressway portion needs to stop?

10:37AM 30

29 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

30 If you're asking me personally, I don't find that to be reasonable
31 to ask people to stop there. It's not what people do --

33 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

34 Right.

36 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

37 -- it's not what people know. And I would just -- if I could just
38 add, we've already engaged with our State delegation on this issue
39 and that's why -- you know, it's tough to say, you know, right here
40 and now, *Hey, everyone, break the law; you know, it's a State law*
41 *but break it.* So, we are -- we are truly trying to be proactive
42 about this in engaging with our State delegation to study this and
43 potentially look into a change in the law. Because again --

10:38AM 40

45 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

46 But in the meantime, in the meantime, let's be realistic here.
47 You're going to have similar to an -- and Legislator Piccirillo
48 brought this up before in terms of, you know, some of the overreach
49 and the safety issues that we've encountered from the Red Light
50 Camera Program where some people are stopping short because they
51 don't want to get a ticket and the people behind them are not
52 because they feel that they could get through; and they probably
53 could, but because people are stopping at the yellow lights that
54 normally would not. If you have the expressway portion of Sunrise
55 Highway, you have some people that are stopping when they're doing
56 at the minimum 55 miles an hour, and we can't expect everybody else

10:38AM 50

1 to either see that stopped school bus on the side of the road that
2 may be obstructed by a fence or trees or shrubbery and then have
3 the injuries that would be caused and the accidents and the
4 potential death would be more substantial of anything we could have
5 by the stopped school buses, you know, people passing stopped
6 school buses. I mean, I don't know how we could support that until
7 we have an answer to that question. I mean, I -- I just -- am I
8 the only one that's concerned about this?

9
10 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

11 You're right, Legislator. We agree with you, the Administration
12 agrees with you, you know, the committee agrees with you, you know,
13 through what I gathered from the many discussions we had.

14
15 So, again, this is not -- this is something we will be very
16 deliberate about this aspect. So this is not something that on day
17 one everyone on the other side of Sunrise Highway, just ticket,
18 ticket, ticket; that's not going to happen.

19
20 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

21 No, no, no, no, no. It's not a worry about ticket, ticket, I'm
22 talking about bang, crash, bang, bang, bang and people dying.
23 Because if you have some people stopping because they think --
24 they're not sure or the letter of the law says that they should and
25 you have other people who don't understand the law. And I don't
26 care how many PSAs you do, etcetera, there are people that aren't
27 going to be aware of that. And you can -- we can be causing
28 accidents. And until the time that we have clarification on that
29 State law, I think it's truly irresponsible of us to implement this
30 program until the time that that occurs.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

33 Thank you.

34
35 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

36 Can anyone else envision this happening where some people are
37 stopping doing 75 miles an hour, people doing 75 miles an hour on
38 the express portion of Sunrise Highway, or another roadway, and
39 then on the service road where someone may not even see a stopped
40 school bus, that some people stop and others won't, and that we
41 could cause some very, very serious accidents due to that?

42
43 *(No Response)*

44
45 I don't know. I mean, am I the only one concerned about that?

46
47 **MS. SIMPSON:**

48 If I may? I know this isn't my presentation, but Legislator
49 McCaffrey, if this eases your mind, I know Legislator Cilmi had
50 asked me to research this question late last year and I ended up
51 speaking with the General Counsel of the State DMV and he indicated
52 that parallel roads would not be applicable. So if the service
53 road is a separate road from Sunrise Highway, then you would only
54 be stopping traffic on the service road, not on the highway itself.

1 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

2 That was -- I hope we could -- that's the first clarification I
3 have on that. And I think if that is the case and we agree that
4 that is the case, then I think that that is going to be as much a
5 part of the public service announcements as are the importance of
6 stopping for school buses so we don't cause more accidents and
7 injuries than trying to prevent. That's my district and I see it;
8 a school bus stops on the service road of Sunrise Highway in West
9 Babylon, I see them all the time. I can only imagine as I'm going
10 by stopping for it. So unless that's perfectly clear, and I hope
11 that we can get something other than just some guidance from
12 somebody that -- I think we really need to make sure that that's
13 clear and make that clear to motorists out there that they don't
14 have to stop.

10:42AM

15
16 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

17 Anything else, Legislator McCaffrey?

18
19 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

20 I'll wait for the guidance of that and clarification on that.

10:42AM

21
22 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

23 Any other questions, Legislator McCaffrey?

24
25 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

26 No, that's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

29 You're welcome. You're welcome. It looks like Legislator Krupski
30 wants to come back on again for a second round.

10:43AM

31
32 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

33 Thank you, Legislator Donnelly. I have a question to the vendor,
34 and it goes to what Legislator McCaffrey was saying. So you've got
35 this divided highway and I'm thinking, you know, I've got William
36 Floyd Parkway, or North Road certainly has a lot of homes on it.
37 How far over does your technology read? Like if a school bus is on
38 the right-hand lane of one, will it read the right-hand car on the
39 opposite lane coming in the opposite direction?

10:43AM

40
41 **MR. SOULIERE:**

42 It's not just a question of distance, sir, it's also the
43 obstructions that are in the way of the cameras being able to get
44 clean plates. So --

45
46 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

47 No, I mean -- I'm sorry; there's no obstruction, it's wide open.

48
49 **MR. SOULIERE:**

50 Our technology can cover up to eight lanes of traffic.

10:43AM

51
52 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

53 How many feet does that cover? Because there's a vegetative
54 center, you know, for drainage, so does that -- I don't know how
55 many lanes that is.

1 **MR. SOULIERE:**

2 Yeah. So if no -- I would say the distance of a lane. So if
3 that -- let's just say that median was as wide as four lanes, which
4 there are examples of that; that would mean that we would not be
5 able to get like all of those lanes all the way past that. They
6 would count in the distance.

7
8 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

9 Okay.

10
11 **MR. SOULIERE:**

12 So, yeah -- and that's kind of the point here, is that many of the,
13 call it divided highways with large medians and vegetations and
14 fences and all of those things, it'll be technologically impossible
15 for us to get all the way across to those other lanes. There is
16 some that have been like a hundred feet, let's say. So in that
17 case, even if we wanted to, I don't think we could issue a citation
18 because of the technological limitations.

19
20 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

21 Thanks. And I just -- I mean, just to echo what Legislator
22 McCaffrey was saying, and I brought this up before to numerous
23 people. If some drivers think they have to stop and some don't,
24 that's when you're going to have a lot of conflict.

25
26 **MR. SOULIERE:**

27 And if it -- if I may. The data -- we've been running these
28 programs since 2017, and the data doesn't support an increase in
29 accidents because of stop arm programs, whether they be across the
30 other side. And people's knowledge of the law is also varied
31 across all of these communities that we serve, so not everyone
32 knows that they have to stop when they're coming from the other
33 direction. So we have not seen in our, you know, call it hundreds
34 of thousands of stop arm events on any kind of correlation to an
35 increase in accidents on the road, separate and apart from the stop
36 arm infraction itself.

37
38 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

39 Thank you.

40
41 **MR. SOULIERE:**

42 No problem.

43
44 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

48 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. I don't see anybody else.
49 I'll just do one more pass-thru; nobody else? Okay.

50
51 I'm just going to -- I don't really have any questions, Steve. I
52 just have two notes here that I made for myself. I know that the
53 Presiding Officer has been jumping on and off, he's had some other
54 duties in his office, but we do have the Deputy PO on as well.

1 The one thing that I did pick up from today's presentation is that,
2 you know, we have 18 Legislative Districts within the County, all
3 have unique geographical issues. I think outreach is going to be
4 critical to all 18 Legislative Districts in terms of -- you know,
5 Legislator Berland brought it up, Legislator McCaffrey, Legislator
6 Piccirillo about, you know, the messaging and the outreach. You
7 know, Legislators kind of serve as the front lines, so to speak,
8 you know, in coordinating with the local school districts, so the
9 message has to be very important, I would think; I don't know if
10 Deputy Presiding Officer Hahn wants to comment on that. But I
11 think in fairness to all 18 Legislators, having the information
12 available is going to be critical.

10:46AM

13
14 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

15 And it also might be good to know, if this is even possible, you
16 know, how many instances of bus -- school bus stops there are on
17 divided highways; you know, I don't know if that's a question or a
18 data point that you have. But -- or if it's possible to get that,
19 but -- you know, I was trying to think of where it could be. I
20 actually e-mailed my Superintendent where it could be in the
21 district I live in and, you know, so I think that would be good to
22 know.

10:47AM

23
24 But it's good -- I think if our Counsel could, you know, put in
25 writing or get that in writing what she found out from the State,
26 that would be helpful. And, you know, this piece is difficult, but
27 if in the end it's, you know -- I agree with Tom, I think just
28 outreach to all of our offices will be important as we roll this
29 out.

10:48AM

30
31 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

32 Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer Hahn.

33
34 And then lastly, Steve, I just wanted to compliment the entire
35 committee. I know a lot of work went into this, it's, you know, a
36 great collaborative effort. It's all about school bus safety and
37 it's about children safety which is, you know, the most precious
38 thing that we can work on collaboratively. So I want to thank you,
39 Steve, thank my staff and certainly, once again, our IT folks for
40 their help in getting this presentation together for the Public
41 Safety Committee. So, thank you.

10:48AM

42
43 Anything else, Steve, before we conclude this presentation?

44
45 **ASST. DEPUTY C.E. RANDAZZO:**

46 No. Thank you so much, Chairman Donnelly. And to all the
47 Legislators who asked questions or had feedback, I will be -- I'll
48 reach out to you personally to get you that information. And if
49 anyone has additional input on either local papers or local radio
50 stations, please reach out to me so we can get that included in the
51 PSA program.

10:49AM

52
53 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

54 Thank you, Steve. And thank you to all on the committee who took
55 part in today's discussion, very much appreciative.

1 (*The following testimony was taken by Alison Mahoney,
2 Court Stenographer & was transcribed by
3 Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary*)
4

5 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

6 So we're going to move on to our second presentation now.
7 Lieutenant Calandrillo is on deck and waiting. I know that we have
8 several Legislators who want to ask questions about staffing and
9 some COVID issues at the 911 Call Center. So what I'll do is I
10 think we'll let Lieutenant Calandrillo just open up, maybe give us
11 a little bit of an update from his end and then we can open it up
12 for questions, if that works with the committee. So, Lieutenant
13 Calandrillo, the floor is yours, sir.
14

15 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

16 Thank you, sir. Good morning, Mr. Chair and Members of the
17 committee. The topic of Communications staffing first came up at
18 the July, 2020, Public Safety meeting, so this morning I just want
19 to recap what we discussed in July. I'll give you an overview of
20 what's happened since July and a snapshot of where we are at today.
21

22 So back in July we -- well, first of all, there are five job titles
23 in the Communications Section: Emergency Complaint Operator,
24 commonly referred to as ECO; Emergency Complaint Operator
25 Spanish-Speaking; Public Safety Dispatcher I, commonly referred to
26 as PSD; Public Safety Dispatcher II; and Public Safety Dispatcher
27 III. So back in July when we discussed this we had a reporting
28 threshold to the Legislature any time any of those titles rose
29 above 10% in terms of vacancies, we were required to report it to
30 the Presiding Officer of the Legislature. For the first time, we
31 had risen above 10% vacancy in one title and that was the Public
32 Safety Dispatcher I title. At the time we had nine vacancies and
33 our reporting threshold was seven, seven or more. And it was -- it
34 was -- there were some factors that contributed to that. We had
35 five recent trainee resignations at that time and we were having a
36 problem hiring. There was a delay in hiring because of COVID-19.
37 Medical examinations for Civil Service employees had been shut down
38 at the time so we couldn't get medical examinations completed for
39 the candidates, and psychological exams, the appointments were
40 reduced by 50%, so we also had trouble scheduling candidates for
41 psychological exams.
42

43 At the time we also discussed our transition to a one title
44 Communication Center, and we were doing that through retirements
45 and resignations, and that transition had begun in 2019. After
46 July's meeting we had -- we did a few things to try to get staffing
47 moving, hire some PSDs, and Chief Cameron and the County
48 Executive's office worked to get medical and psychological exams
49 opened up for the PSD candidates.
50

51 In addition to that, the Legislature reduced the reporting
52 threshold through resolution to anything above 5% vacancies.
53 And internally we revised some procedures to make sure that we were
54 reporting timely to the Legislature when employees left the unit.
55 And after that we had a series of conference calls in the Fall of
56 2020 with Members of the Legislature. Some of the participants in

1 those conference calls from our end included Chief Gerry McCarthy,
2 he's the Chief of Operations; Deputy Chief Rob Waring, he's also in
3 Operations. We had John Blosser, he's Deputy Inspector Commanding
4 Officer of Communications and Records Bureau; and we had Captain
5 Peter Ervolina, who is the Commanding Officer of the
6 Communications Section. The last conference call we also had Chief
7 Cameron on, and I know various members of the committee
8 participated in those conference calls.

9
10:54AM 10 During those calls we discussed a variety of topics. One was the
11 transition to the one title Communication Center. Another was the
12 length of training for the PSD Program, the training attrition
13 rates, which I know we had discussed in July, the average around
14 33%, but they had been higher recently. We discussed mandated
15 overtime, employee morale, and Civil Service testing, mainly
16 whether we were going to continue to give ECO tests.

17
18 In addition to those concerns, we -- I know Chief McCarthy gave a
19 historical overview of the Communications Section. He discussed
10:54AM 20 job duties and descriptions and the transition to the one title
21 center was further explained. We reiterated that there would be no
22 job loss as a result of this transition, and any current ECO may
23 remain in that title until they ended employment with the County.

24
25 And then -- so since July, I'm just going to go through the
26 staffing changes that we had here in this unit. We hired eight new
27 PSD trainees between October and December. Five of those are still
28 with us. They've been retained and they are expected to complete
29 their training in the near future. Also since July, in terms of
10:55AM 30 employee separations, we had nine PSDs leave the department; we had
31 five ECOs separate from service; and we had one PSD revert back to
32 their previous title of ECO.

33
34 So -- but in addition to the staffing changes, the biggest
35 challenge we faced recently had to do with COVID-19. Between the
36 end of November and January we saw a significant increase in the
37 COVID-19 cases and related absences. And we saw that throughout
38 the department but, you know, it had a far greater impact and
39 strain on the Communications Unit than it did in the Spring of
10:56AM 40 2020. We had 60 employees, which is roughly 40% of the unit, miss
41 time during that time period for COVID related reasons. Now, that
42 is despite having the same stringent safety protocols in place and
43 adding in-house testing, which helped identify some of the cases
44 sooner than they might have been had we not gotten that testing.
45 Now, this rise was consistent with community trends.

46
47 Now, since January things have gotten better. There's a
48 significant decline in COVID-19 cases and related absences. In
49 February we've only had four employees absent from the unit for
10:57AM 50 COVID-19 related reasons. That decline is favorable to what we're
51 seeing in the community. It's even -- it's down even more than the
52 community percentages, and over 50% of the Communications Section
53 has now been vaccinated. So the strain on the unit has eased
54 significantly from its peak in December and January.

1 So what does it look like now. So the current snapshot, now, we
2 had reduced, like I said before, the reporting threshold is now 5%.
3 Any time a job title has a 5% vacancy we now have to report that to
4 the Legislature. So in July when it was 10% we only had one job
5 title meet that threshold; we now have four job titles meet that
6 threshold. But two of those job titles, if we're down one employee
7 it meets the 5%, and so the Emergency Complaint Operator
8 Spanish-Speaking we have one vacancy right now. Now, that is the
9 result of a transition from one position from ECO to ECO Spanish,
10 and that transition of that title occurred on February 17th, so we
11 haven't even had a chance to certify that list until that position,
12 but we intend to do that. We have one Public Safety Dispatcher II
13 that's open, that's a supervisory position. But the main point of
14 this that we're trying to get on top of, we have five Emergency
15 Complaint Operator positions that are open and 12 Public Safety
16 Dispatcher positions that are open. So the PSD vacancies are three
17 higher than July, the ECO vacancies are two higher than July.

10:58AM

18
19 At this point, the -- just a couple of other things that have
20 occurred recently. The Communications Command staff met with AME
21 representation of the unit. They've also met with the AME Board
22 and Police Commissioner Hart also met with the AME. And they --
23 there was an agreement reached to pause the transition to the one
24 title Communication Center for the next round of hiring due to
25 staffing concerns. So in addition to that, we reclaimed three ECOs
26 from the 311 Center and Chaplain Steve Unger is working to create a
27 peer support team for the Communication Section.

10:59AM

28
29 So now as far as hiring efforts, the County helped us out when they
30 authorized the use of six additional PSD SCINS to be used for
31 trainees because of the recent high trainee attrition rate. So now
32 -- right now we are budgeted 70 PSD positions. We can actually
33 hire up to 76 provided those six are in the trainee program due to
34 the attrition rate. That should help us stay ahead of the curve
35 now.

10:59AM

36
37 Right now we have 18 signed SCINS for PSDs, we have five signed
38 SCINS for ECOs, and we have one SCIN approved for a Spanish
39 speaking ECO. So we are working to hire both Public Safety
40 Dispatchers and ECO candidates at this time. We have seven PSD
41 applicants in the process and we have eight ECO applicants in the
42 process of hiring.

11:00AM

43
44 That's all I have as far as the presentation piece of it is, but
45 I'll take any questions.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

48 Thank you, Lieutenant Calandrillo. So we'll start with Legislator
49 Hahn.

11:01AM

50
51 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

52 Thank you. Thank you, Chairman Donnelly. I know the committee
53 knows how important this issue has been to me and so many of our --
54 my colleagues. You know, we've heard testimony for years about the
55 working conditions and the morale and the high turnover rates and
56 mandated, you know, overtime and we continue to be frustrated that

1 -- I'm saying the same things over and over again. But I am
2 pleased to hear one of the new procedures that you mentioned, the
3 new trainee positions. So can you just explain that one more time?
4 I want to make sure I fully understand how that's working and that,
5 you know, I want to feel good that that will make a difference.
6

7 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

8 In the past we could only hire up to our budgeted number of PSDs.
9 Right now that budgeted number is 70. So I'll give you an example.
10 The last group we hired, we hired a group of eight. We only have
11 five of those left, and those eight were hired between October and
12 December, so we lost three during training. We expect the other
13 five to get through training and become fully functional PSDs in
14 the near future. So these positions now allow us to go above our
15 budgeted number. I believe these were SCINS that -- I don't know,
16 they were pulled from somewhere else, it's not going to affect the
17 overall budget. So these were SCINS that were pulled so we can now
18 hire up to 76 budgeted positions. So we can --
19

20 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

21 And that's excellent. I like where you're going with this. But
22 there's a difference between can and shall, so right now all these
23 SCINS that you have (*Laughter*). You know, I hope you understand my
24 question.
25

26 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

27 We intend to -- we have 18 approved SCINS. We intend to try to
28 fill them all, but we are at the end of the -- pretty much at the
29 end of the Civil Service list, at the end of the run on this list,
30 and the list has been fully canvassed and we do have seven
31 applicants in process. We can recanvas the list, see if we can
32 find some additional applicants that didn't take the job initially
33 that may be interested. I guess the next step to fill these 18
34 might be to hire provisionally, because at this point we do not
35 have another test scheduled and we do not know, you know, with
36 Civil Service restrictions right now during COVID-19, we don't know
37 when things are going to open up and these tests can start taking
38 place regularly again.
39

40 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

41 Okay. So the provisional is an option because of these extreme
42 circumstances and you intend to use that.
43

44 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

45 That's being discussed, I'm not going to say we intend to go that
46 route. I think we, again, we have seven in the works, we have 18
47 SCINS approved. I believe we have to recanvas the list before we
48 can consider that, so I'm not sure we're at that point yet, but we
49 all have a common goal and that goal is to get these positions
50 filled.
51

52 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

53 Okay. And so 18 signed SCINS, only seven of those 18 are in
54 process.
55
56

1 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

2 Yes.

3
4 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

5 And that's because you reached out and that's all that were
6 interested or that met qualifications or you only asked seven of
7 interested?

8
9 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

10 No, at this point I believe we went -- we canvassed the remaining
11 candidates on the list and we have seven in process.

12
13 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

14 Okay, so you really do have to move on to get the rest of those 18,
15 because seven is not even half of 18.

16
17 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

18 Yes. But it will -- it will help that we have agreed to pause the
19 transition to one title, and we are going to hire some ECOs and
20 that --

21
22 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

23 Right.

24
25 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

26 So we are working the ECO list and although we only have five SCINS
27 approved for ECO, we have five vacancies and we have eight
28 applicants in process.

29
30 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

31 Excellent, okay. And then the test scheduling, you know, what --
32 what can be done to make that happen.

33
34 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

35 I think that would be, you know, that would be tough for me to
36 speak on. That's really -- that would be a matter of Civil Service
37 would have to address that.

38
39 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

40 Okay, so we need to get someone to speak on that. And then what
41 are you doing to improve the implementation and the time line of in
42 process? Like have you had, you know, management review of like
43 the hiring of and where delays occur in the hiring process for this
44 particular, you know, these particular titles?

45
46 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

47 Again, you know, there were extreme circumstances last year. We
48 had never gone above that 10% vacancy rate since the resolution was
49 implemented. It was last year when medical examinations were
50 shutdown, psychological examinations were cut by 50%, that it
51 really delayed the process and set us back.

52
53 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

54 And they're all back open.

1 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

2 They are back open. The County had -- the County Executive's
3 office, Chief Cameron, they've addressed that.

4
5 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

6 But regardless off -- okay, no, that's a good sign, but regardless
7 of the fact that they're back open we're still, you know, short 12
8 plus five is 17, 18, 19 total. We're still short where you have
9 seven in process. You know, how can we speed up the in process?
10 Obviously certain things take time, but like, you know, do you have
11 red flags that pop up when, you know, the psychological evaluation
12 comes back and the this and that, you know, like -- or does it sit
13 on someone's desk while they're out for vacation. You know, is
14 somebody really in charge of getting these things through the
15 process so that regular delays don't hold them up because, you
16 know, so and so chose to go on vacation or is out on a COVID, you
17 know, whatever, quarantine, and it's not happening.

18
19 I just want to -- I want to feel good that it's, you know, truly a
20 priority because, again, we don't normally get into this
21 nitty-gritty, but clearly we have to look at more and more
22 nitty-gritty because we are ten years into this issue for me as a
23 Legislator, that this is not solved, and I'm trying to, you know,
24 maintain (*Laughter*), keep from dropping an F-bomb on this issue.
25 You know, I understand the special things that happened this year,
26 the extreme circumstances, but we still need to get it done. These
27 are critical workers and, you know, there are serious problems that
28 continue in terms of hiring and in terms of, you know, staffing
29 levels. So is there someone who is on top of getting the in
30 processes completed with all due haste?

31
32 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

33 The hiring for Communications remains a priority. We've internally
34 -- we have asked Applicant Investigations to prioritize these
35 applicants, to try to complete their backgrounds ahead of any other
36 employee. They've done a good job of speeding these up. We -- you
37 know, as far as the process there are steps that still have to be
38 done outside the department, like medical and psychological, and we
39 do have to wait for those results before we can move forward. But
40 internally everything we -- you know, this is a priority and we are
41 not delaying on it.

42
43 In terms of one thing I forgot to mention, of the seven applicants
44 that we have in process, those -- we actually had ten come to
45 orientation, so we did have ten candidates off the list that
46 expressed interest. Ten came to orientation, only seven showed up
47 for their interviews after. So, you know, we're doing everything
48 we can to try to get as many of those 18 in and as fast as we can
49 and, you know, it is a priority, absolutely it is a priority.

50
51 **DIRECTOR AMENDOLA:**

52 Can I also add just really quick, sorry to interject. I just
53 wanted to make sure that everyone was also aware that we actually
54 issued a new SOP at the end of last month regarding these titles to
55 make sure that the Police Department was able to automatically
56 backfill these positions. I'm happy to share that new SOP with

1 everybody, but it is a priority of not only the Police Department
2 but of the County Executive's office to make sure that these
3 positions are filled and, you know, staffed correctly.

4
5 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

6 I appreciate that. Is there, Lieutenant Calandrillo or Nicole, is
7 there anything that we can do to speed the medical evaluation and
8 the, you know, psychiatric checks? You said that's outside of the
9 department's jurisdiction, but who -- where does it fall? Is that
10 a contractor, is that a -- is it Health Department staff? I guess
11 I don't know enough about that.

12
13 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

14 I'm sorry, can you repeat that question?

15
16 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

17 The medial evaluations and the psychiatric evaluations, yeah. You
18 said that that's outside of the department obviously.

19
20 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

21 Yes.

22
23 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

24 Is it Health Department personnel that conducts those or is it an
25 outside contractor?

26
27 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

28 I believe they're County employees. I believe it's Health
29 Department personnel. I don't know if they use an outside
30 contractor, but it's definitely done through our Department of
31 Health.

32
33 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

34 Okay. And so the question to Nicole, then, is are those
35 prioritized within the Department of Health, the medical
36 evaluations for these ECOs and PSDs, these titles? Are they
37 prioritized in the Department of Health to get those done?

38
39 **DIRECTOR AMENDOLA:**

40 I can't confirm a hundred percent, but I want to say, yes, they
41 should be prioritized, so I will get confirmation on that. I just
42 don't know offhand.

43
44 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

45 Yeah, yeah, thank you. And then my final question -- thank you,
46 Chairman Donnelly and the committee for the time and Lieutenant
47 Calandrillo, has to do with the COVID protocols. Chief Cameron
48 responded to my questions. I did get an offer from our Parks
49 Department, and being Chair of the Environment, Parks & Agriculture
50 Committee, our Parks Department talked about how they have staff
51 that helped frame plexiglass dividers in other situations, and so I
52 know it's a big area. I've toured the Communications Section. I
53 can't remember exactly how many dividers would be needed, but there
54 was that offer that if we had enough plexiglass the Parks
55 Department could make those dividers for the section. You know, I
56 just want that on the record that that's been offered. You know,

1 maybe just want to, again, suggest that for those that continue to
2 be concerned, you know, that's an option.

3
4 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

5 Thank you. I did see that offer and thank you for reaching out on
6 that. Right now some of the safety protocols have been in place
7 since March. One of the things Chief Cameron did right away, he
8 realized the importance of this unit, and one of the first things
9 he did was mandate face coverings in that unit and implement safety
10 protocols almost immediately, and that was back in March. So
11 they've been wearing face coverings since March. They go through
12 daily temperature checks, disinfecting of work station between
13 tours. They don't allow any discretionary visitors in the unit and
14 anyone on official business that enters the unit absolutely must
15 have a face covering on.

16
17 One of the more recent developments was we added in-house testing
18 through Applied DNA. That has helped us significantly. We're
19 getting test results back now in 24-hours where some of these
20 employees had to wait five, seven, even nine days we saw in some
21 cases, so that's been -- that's helped us tremendously. And then
22 --

23
24 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

25 Just quickly, the face coverings that you provide. Are they
26 medical grade and N-95, whatever the one is, or is it just a
27 cotton, white cotton.

28
29 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

30 I believe the employee has the choice. We do offer the N-95s,
31 absolutely.

32
33 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

34 Okay.

35
36 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

37 We have them in stock. They're offered to the employees, but it's
38 a long day.

39
40 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

41 Yes.

42
43 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

44 It's an eight-hour tour and they're talking all day. Not all
45 employees choose to wear the N-95s, but they do all have face
46 coverings.

47
48 And, you know, one of the other things in that unit, and I believe
49 you've seen the inside of it, the cubicle walls are very high.

50 They're actually -- when an employee sits down the wall is at
51 least a foot higher from where they -- so you almost have dividers
52 in place without plexiglass.

53
54 But one last point, as far as vaccinations go, we offered
55 vaccinations to that unit the first chance, the first opportunity
56 we had, and over 50% of the unit has now been vaccinated. So we're

1 seeing the --

2

3 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

4 Are the rest choosing not to or they just haven't had an
5 opportunity for a time slot yet.

6

7 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

8 Well, I think everybody has been offered. Some by choice probably
9 do not want to take the vaccine, that is a possibility, but a lot
10 of the others had COVID in that unit and may have had COVID
11 recently. And it's been recommended to a lot of employees if you
12 just had COVID, you don't want to get the shot within the first
13 90-days because of the possible side effects.

11:15AM

14
15 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

16 Right.

17

18 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

19 So some employees in that unit --

11:16AM

20
21 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

22 They're just waiting.

23

24 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

25 They might just be waiting --

26

27 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

28 Okay.

29

30 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

31 -- for those 90 days. But we're seeing the positive impact of all
32 of this, especially with the Applied DNA testing, the vaccinations.
33 In February, you know, we only had four employees out for COVID
34 related reasons, and I believe only two tested positive, and that's
35 out of 150 in a unit and that's far better --

36

37 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

38 Yeah, I would just knowing physics of air motion and air flow and
39 spread and how tight it seems and feels, you know, to consider the
40 plexiglass option. If those dividers are tall the plexiglass won't
41 need to be as large and the cost might come down. So I just, you
42 know, I would seriously -- I would give it serious consideration if
43 things -- if the labor can be done in-house and that's all I ask.

11:16AM

44

45 Thank you so much for the indulgence of all that time for me.
46 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47

48 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

49 Thank you, Legislator Hahn. Next up is going to be Legislator
50 Kennedy.

11:17AM

51

52 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

53 Thank you, Legislator Donnelly. And also thank you, Nicole, for
54 talking about the SOP for backfill. Could you -- I have a request.
55 Could you speak to Civil Service and ask that the list that has
56 been exhausted be reissued. Nicole?

1 **DIRECTOR AMENDOLA:**

2 Yes, I can -- sorry (*Laughter*).

3
4 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

5 That's okay.

6
7 **DIRECTOR AMENDOLA:**

8 I can speak with Civil Service. I'm not sure if it's really a
9 local Civil Service issue, it might actually be a State issue
10 because of -- in terms of being able to reissue a test with
11 everything that's going on with COVID, but I will definitely speak
12 with Tom Melito and see what our options are.

13
14 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

15 Okay. Kara named almost everything that I was going to bring up,
16 but while she was speaking I thought the plexiglass dividers are
17 made not only by Parks, but DPW has made some. But if we can't do
18 that, yesterday all of our offices, or some of them are still in
19 the process, of getting what in nursing we used to call spit
20 shields, these shields that go on your forehead and go -- are
21 plastic and go down. Even that might help with the mask underneath
22 for these ladies and gentlemen to not have such -- it's such tight
23 quarters. And, yeah, the sides are high, but they're not high
24 enough to prevent viral infections and bacteria from going around.
25 So if we could give them something temporarily to keep them
26 healthier. With all the stress going on their cortisol levels are
27 at the ceiling I'm sure, just something. That might be an idea,
28 too, until we can get them some maybe permanent plexiglass, because
29 it doesn't look to me like it's an infection -- it looks to me like
30 it may be an infection control nightmare with them all that close.

31
32 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

33 You know, if the -- you know, if the large number of cases was just
34 in that unit we'd be more concerned, but it's very consistent with
35 what we saw in the community, especially after Thanksgiving and the
36 Christmas holiday, and we saw this in other units within the
37 department, too. And I'm sure some of the other County agencies
38 have experienced the same increase in the number of cases during
39 that time frame.

40
41 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

42 Okay. Your retention rate does not seem great. Why do you think
43 that is?

44
45 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

46 Well, you know, one of the things we talked about in July, it's a
47 stressful job and that job's not for everybody and some people
48 handle stress better than others. And, you know, they get into
49 this trainee program, some realize pretty quickly that maybe the
50 job's not for them, maybe it's too overwhelming, there's too much
51 demand, whereas others can learn it and rise up and meet that
52 demand.

53
54 On top of the normal stress that goes into it, you know, there's no
55 doubt COVID-19 has added some additional stress, and I think it's
56 added some additional stress in many jobs but, you know, especially

1 in this area having to wear a mask all day and in tight quarters
2 and worried about COVID-19. So the attrition rate has been a
3 little higher in the past year than we had seen, but on average
4 it's around 33%. It's been a little higher with the last two
5 trainee groups, but this is a -- like I said, this is a difficult
6 job, it's a stressful job and, you know, some trainees it's for
7 them and others, you know, it's overwhelming.

8
9 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

11:21AM 10 Okay. So then let's go back to the overtime that Kara discussed.
11 There's some rule that they can only be mandated to do two shifts
12 or has that changed? Two mandations during a week period, has that
13 changed?

14
15 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

16 I'm not -- I don't know the particulars on how many shifts they can
17 be mandated to do. I believe that might have been discussed on one
18 of the conference calls, but I don't have the exact number.

19
20 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

21 Okay. I wasn't on any of the conference calls, so I don't know.

22
23 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

24 I can certainly get you that number if you'd like. I can ask
25 Communication staff and get back to you.

26
27 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

28 Right. What about as a suggestion doing what medicine does, they
29 hire people on-call. They're trained and their job is on-call.
11:22AM 30 They don't have scheduled shifts or you can give them a shift or
31 two during the week. Maybe that should be contemplated in there.
32 Not that I would ever want to take away overtime for people, but
33 they're doing a tremendous amount of overtime, and in a stressful
34 job that's not good to have too much overtime. And one of the
35 people that had sent the letter out said if you have a doctor's
36 appointment after work you have to put in for overtime in the
37 morning, otherwise there's a 90% chance you're going to get called
38 and have to cancel your doctor's appointment. That's not healthy,
39 you know, one way or the other. So maybe you should contemplate
11:22AM 40 doing an on-call position in there.

41
42 And everything else was said. I think you need to fill it up.
43 These are difficult times and in stressful jobs people call in sick
44 more than in, you know, regular times and it's going to be
45 stressful for a long time, and this job itself is a stressful job.
46 So you need to have more staff than you need. That's just my
47 opinion from working in a hospital setting for a lot of years. We
48 had a pool of on-call staff.

49
11:23AM 50 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

51 The on-call staff is an idea that has come up in that unit, and I
52 believe they had talked about exploring possibly hiring retirees
53 from that unit as part-timers and have them on-call. That is
54 something that was discussed. I don't know where it's at that this
55 point or if it's going to get beyond discussion, but that was an
56 idea that came up and it's certainly one that's worth looking into.

1 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
2 Okay. Thank you.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**
5 Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Next up is Legislator Krupski.

6
7 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
8 Thank you, Chairman Donnelly. You have an action-packed committee
9 here, I tell you, this is something, and you're doing a great job,
10 so thank you for providing all this information.

11:24AM

11
12 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**
13 I just watch Rob, that's all.

14
15 *(*Laughter*)*

16
17 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
18 Lieutenant Calandrillo, I just want to say thank you for the
19 attention you're paying to this position, the attention to detail.
20 This is an extremely important position in public safety and as you
21 just mentioned, very stressful, so thank you for your work here.
22 And if you could pass on to Chief Cameron, I heard on the radio
23 today that he was -- this is his 36-year anniversary of service?

11:24AM

24
25 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
26 Yeah, today is his 36th anniversary.

27
28 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
29 If you can just pass that on to him and thank him for all that
30 work, hard work. So he started when he was eight, I think, that's
31 what the story said.

11:24AM

32
33 *(*Laughter*)*

34
35 But Thank you.

36
37 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
38 I'll pass it along. Thank you for that, Legislator Krupski.

39
40 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**
41 Thank you, Chairman Donnelly. I appreciate it.

11:25AM

42
43 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**
44 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Next up is Legislator Piccirillo.

45
46 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
47 Thank you, Chairman Donnelly. Good morning, Lieutenant. How are
48 you doing? I don't know if you can answer this or maybe the
49 Administration, but I did receive a message two days ago from a
50 Communications worker. I don't want to give their name up, but
51 their concern was X days, that there was a lawsuit that the County
52 lost because of these set X days, and they're still being scheduled
53 to work these X days according to this person. First, is that
54 true, they're still being scheduled to work, and my concern if the
55 answer is yes, is that the County would be opened up to yet another
56 lawsuit that we have the potential of losing because the same thing

11:25AM

1 is going on. So I'm wondering if that's still happening, number
2 one, and number two, what are we going to do to correct that so we
3 don't open ourselves up to another lawsuit.

4
5 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

6 I really can't speak on that topic. That is a Labor Relations
7 issue and it would probably have to be Legal or Labor Relations
8 that gets a little more into that. So, you know, especially
9 publicly here I'm not at will to say anything at this point.

11:26AM 10

11 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

12 I understand. Thank you, Lieutenant. Nicole, do you -- can you
13 maybe get me an answer in writing from Labor Relations?
14

15 **DIRECTOR AMENDOLA:**

16 Yeah, I was going to say I don't have the particulars about that,
17 too. I am aware of that lawsuit and the X day issue, but I, yeah,
18 I can get you guys an answer on that as well.
19

11:26AM 20

21 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

22 Yeah, I appreciate it. I just don't want to see the taxpayers in
23 Suffolk County have to go back into their pocket for a situation
24 that should have been corrected after the first lawsuit. Thank
25 you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

26 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

27 Thank you, Legislator Piccirillo. I don't see anyone else's hand
28 raised. Anyone else have a question for Lieutenant Calandrillo?
29 I'll just take a point just to acknowledge Lieutenant Calandrillo.

11:26AM 30

31 We appreciate the update. I want to thank Legislators Kennedy,
32 Hahn and Sunderman, who have been very passionate about this issue
33 over the last six-months to a year, ensuring that the staffing is
34 adequate and the health and safety of our 911 Dispatchers. And
35 lastly, also thank Nicole Amendola, who looks like she's performing
36 double-duty right now working at one of the vaccination PODS. So
37 God bless, Nicole, and thank you for helping us put this program
38 together. So that's the end of our presentations.

39 We'll move along to our **Tabled Resolutions**. We have Tabled
40 Resolution Number **1830(-20) - Adopting Local Law No. -2020, A Local
41 Law to ensure the safety of bicyclists in Suffolk County (Hahn)**.
42

11:27AM 40

43 Legislator Hahn, your preference?
44

45 **MS. SIMPSON:**

46 The public hearing --
47

48 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

49 That needs to be tabled for public hearing, so I'll make a motion
50 to table.
51

11:27AM 50

52 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

53 So we have a motion to table, seconded by Legislator Berland. Roll
54 call.
55
56

Public Safety Committee - February 25, 2021

(*Roll Called by Mr. Dubois - Chief Deputy Clerk*)

1
2
3 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

4 Yes.

5
6 **LEG. BERLAND:**

7 Yes.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

10 Yes.

11
12 **LEG. FLEMING:**

13 Yes.

14
15 **LEG. SUNDERMAN:**

16 Yes.

17
18 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

19 (Not Present)

20
21 **LEG. FLOTTERON:**

22 Yes.

23
24 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

25 Yes.

26
27 **P.O. CALARCO:**

28 Yes.

29
30 **MR. DUBOIS:**

31 Eight.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

34 Thank you. The resolution is tabled. (*VOTE: 8-0-0-1*)

35
36 We'll move along to **Introductory Resolutions**. We have Introductory
37 Resolution Number *1031 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal*
38 *Grant Funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice for Minor*
39 *Victims of Sex Trafficking Project to the Suffolk County Department*
40 *of Probation with 85% support (Co. Exec.)*.

41
42 I'll take a motion from Legislator Kennedy, seconded by Legislator
43 Fleming. Roll call.

44
45 (*Roll Called by Mr. Dubois - Chief Deputy Clerk*)

46
47 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

48 Yes.

49
50 **LEG. FLEMING:**

51 Yes.

52
53 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

54 Yes.

1 LEG. SUNDERMAN:

2 Yes.

3

4 D.P.O. HAHN:

5 Yes.

6

7 LEG. GONZALEZ:

8 (Not Present)

9

11:29AM 10 LEG. FLOTTERON:

11 Yes.

12

13 LEG. BERLAND:

14 Yes.

15

16 P.O. CALARCO:

17 Yes.

18

19 MR. DUBOIS:

11:29AM 20 Eight.

21

22 CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:

23 Resolution is passed to the General Meeting. (VOTE: 8-0-0-1)

24

25 Introductory Resolution Number **1034 - Accepting and appropriating**
26 **Federal funding in the amount of \$50,000 from the United States**
27 **Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, for the**
28 **Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the IRS STEPP**
29 **2021 (Suffolk-Treasury Enhanced Prosecution Program) program with**
30 **78.89% Support (Co. Exec.).**

31

32 Make a motion from Legislator Kennedy to place on the Consent
33 Calendar, seconded by Legislator Sunderman. Roll call.

34

35 (*Roll Called by Mr. Dubois - Chief Deputy Clerk*)

36

37 LEG. KENNEDY:

38 Yes.

39

11:29AM 40 LEG. SUNDERMAN:

41 Yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:

44 Yes.

45

46 LEG. FLEMING:

47 Yes.

48

49 D.P.O. HAHN:

11:29AM 50 Yes.

51

52 LEG. GONZALEZ:

53 (Not Present)

54

55 LEG. FLOTTERON:

56 Yes.

1 **LEG. BERLAND:**

2 Yes.

3

4 **P.O. CALARCO:**

5 Yes.

6

7 **MR. DUBOIS:**

8 Eight.

9

11:30AM

10 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

11 Resolution is passed. (*VOTE: 8-0-0-1*)

12

13 Resolution Number *1052 - Appropriating funds in connection with*
14 *Renovations at the Yaphank Correctional Facility - Specialized*
15 *Secure Detention Facility (CP 3009) (Co. Exec).*

16

17 I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Fleming.
18 And it looks like we have a couple of questions on this resolution.
19 I just want to make sure we have somebody from the Sheriff's
20 Office. They are in the meeting so we'll start with Legislator
21 Krupski.

11:30AM

22

23 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

24 Thank you, Chairman Donnelly. I just wanted to compliment, you
25 know, Sheriff Toulon and his staff. I read that report that was
26 mandated by the State on the Reform Plan and I thought that was a
27 very comprehensive report. I liked how he started with a history
28 of the office and kind of brought it home by saying that, you know,
29 they're doing this not because it's a mandate, because they're
30 really proud of the work that they're doing there. I thought that
31 was a great statement and for them to continue the good work. It
32 should be -- and in so many functions this should be required
33 reading for everyone, elected or not, just because they do a lot of
34 -- an awful lot of work there for the County. So I just wanted to
35 mention that. Thank you.

11:31AM

36

37 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

38 Thank you, Legislator Krupski. Anybody else with a question to the
39 Sheriff's Office? I don't see any hand raised. I'll just kind of
40 make a point of personal privilege on this resolution, as well as
41 on Legislators Krupski's comments. Sheriff Toulon's report, his
42 Reform Report pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order, was
43 incredibly professional. Hat's off to the entire staff of the
44 Sheriff's Office and the community engagement that worked on that.
45 I'm sure we're going to be having a number of discussions in coming
46 weeks pursuant to the Governor's Order, but I did want to also echo
47 Legislator Krupski's comments on the professional job that the
48 Sheriff's Office did on that.

11:31AM

49

11:32AM

50 So we have a motion and a second, Mr. Clerk, on Resolution Number
51 1052? Roll call.

52

53 (**Roll Called by Mr. Dubois - Chief Deputy Clerk**)

54

55 **CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:**

56 Yes.

1 LEG. FLEMING:

2 Yes.

3

4 LEG. SUNDERMAN:

5 Yes.

6

7 D.P.O. HAHN:

8 Yes.

9

11:32AM

10 LEG. GONZALEZ:

11 (Not Present)

12

13 LEG. FLOTTERON:

14 Yes.

15

16 LEG. KENNEDY:

17 Yes.

18

19 LEG. BERLAND:

11:32AM

20 Yes.

21

22 P.O. CALARCO:

23 Yes.

24

25 MR. DUBOIS:

26 Eight.

27

28 CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:

29 Resolution is passed. (VOTE: 8-0-0-1)

11:32AM

30

31 We do not have any Procedural Motions, we have no Executive
32 Session. I'll just defer to the Presiding Officer if there's any
33 other business to be attend to at this morning's Public Safety
34 Committee.

35

36 P.O. CALARCO:

37 Nope, you did an excellent job. Thank you, Legislator Donnelly.

38

39 CHAIRMAN DONNELLY:

11:32AM

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. I think that concludes our
42 meeting. I'll take a motion from Legislator Kennedy, seconded by
43 Legislator Hahn, to adjourn. And once again, thank you to all for
44 your cooperation and certainly to the Presiding Officer's staff for
45 making this hybrid version of our committees work so well. So we
46 have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? This meeting
47 is concluded. Thank you all.

47

48 (**The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.**)

49

50 **Voicemail Submissions**

51

52 Good morning. The name is John Stinton, S-T-I-N-T-O-N. I reside at
53 Birchwood at Spring Lake (*Address Redacted*). Calling in support of
54 Resolution 1767 and I give strong support to passing that
55 resolution. Thank you.

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