

1 FIRE, RESCUE, & EMERGENCY SERVICES and PREPAREDNESS

2
3 COMMITTEE MEETING

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5
6 **MINUTES**

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8 A meeting of the Fire, Rescue, & Emergency Services Committee of
9 the Suffolk County Legislature was held hybrid in the Rose Y.
10 Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers
11 Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New
12 York on May 4, 2021 via in-person and through Zoom participation.
13

14 **Members Present:**

15 Legislator Tom Cilmi - Chairman
16 Legislator Tom Donnelly - Vice Chairman
17 Legislator Susan A. Berland
18 Legislator Leslie Kennedy
19 Legislator Kara Hahn
20 Legislator Samuel Gonzalez
21 Legislator Rudolph A. Sunderman
22

23 **Also in Attendance:**

24 Presiding Officer Robert Calarco
25 Sarah Simpson - Counsel to the Legislature
26 Patrick Beckley - Commissioner of FRES
27 Dan DuBois - Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
28 Derek Stein - Aide to Presiding Officer Calarco
29 Bob Braun - County Attorney's Office
30 All Other Interested Parties
31

32 **Minutes Taken By:**

33 Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer
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1 (The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.)

2

3

CHAIRMAN CILMI:

4

Welcome to the June 15 meeting of the Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Preparedness Committee. If I could ask everybody to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Gonzalez.

7

8

9

(Pledge of Allegiance)

10

11

Thank you all very much. If we could remain standing for a brief moment of silence in recognition for all of those first responders that serve our county day in and day out and all of those lost during the Covid pandemic and always. Thank you.

14

15

16

(Moment of Silence Observed)

17

18

Thank you all very much. Okay. We are holding this meeting in hybrid fashion, and I hope to see you all back at the legislature at our next committee. But in the meanwhile, we will make due online. We do not have any public speakers for public portion today nor do we have any correspondence today. We do have one appointment today, which we will do now.

22

23

24

IR 1424, Reappointing William J. Sanok as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education, and Extension Board. (Krupski). I'll take a motion by Legislator Donnelly. Seconded by Legislator Gonzalez. Any discussion? Hearing or seeing none, Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

29

30

(The roll was called by Mr. DuBois.)

31

32

LEG. DONNELLY:

33

Yes.

34

35

LEG. GONZALEZ:

36

Yes.

37

38

LEG. CILMI:

39

Yes.

40

41

LEG. HAHN:

42

Yes.

43

44

LEG. KENNEDY:

45

Yes.

46

47

LEG. BERLAND:

48

Yes.

49

50

MR. DUBOIS:

51

Six.

52

53

CHAIRMAN CILMI:

54

Motion passes. We have no presentation for today. We have no tabled resolutions. While we breeze past the presentation portion,

55

56

1 I know we have Commissioner Jordan in the room with us.
2 Commissioner, do you have anything to share with the committee?
3

4 **COMMISSIONER JORDAN:**

5 No, sir. I'm just here to answer any questions you have on the
6 introductory resolutions.
7

8 **CHAIRMAN CILMI:**

9 We always appreciate that. Moving right on to Introductory
10 Resolutions, then.
11

12 **IR 1437, Authorizing the County Executive to execute grant-related**
13 **agreements for all reoccurring New York State Homeland Security**
14 **Grants administered by the Suffolk County Department of Fire,**
15 **Rescue and Emergency Services. (Co. Exec.) I'll take a motion by**
16 **Legislator Gonzalez and second by Legislator Hahn. Was that a**
17 **raise your hand to ask a question or to second?**
18

19 **D.P.O. HAHN:**

20 Second.
21

22 **LEG. CILMI:**

23 Very good. Mr. Clerk, please -- any questions? Leslie.
24 Legislator Kennedy, go right ahead.
25

26 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

27 I do. It's quick. I understand the 45-day timeframe. My question
28 for the commissioner and for our attorney is by giving blanket
29 authority to the county exec's office, aren't both the commissioner
30 and ourselves giving up our power to agree to these things, these
31 grants? I mean, is it inconsequential to --
32

33 **COMMISSIONER JORDAN:**

34 We do a budget resolution after the acceptance, so you guys get to
35 vote on the budget where the money is being spent.
36

37 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

38 Okay. And you're okay with this?
39

40 **COMMISSIONER JORDAN:**

41 Yeah. We've been doing it, I think this is like the fifth year
42 because it's always -- sometimes it's a CN. You know, it only used
43 to force other actions because the meetings never lined up, the
44 timeline never lined up, so I think this is the fifth or sixth year
45 that we're doing this.
46

47 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

48 Last year, I remember. All right. Thank you.
49

50 **CHAIRMAN CILMI:**

51 Thanks, Legislator Kennedy. Any other questions? If not, Mr.
52 Clerk, please call the roll.
53

54 (The roll was called by Mr. DuBois.)
55

56 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

1 Yes.

2

3 LEG. HAHN:

4 Yes.

5

6 LEG. CILMI:

7 Yes.

8

9 LEG. DONNELLY:

10 Yes.

11

12 LEG. KENNEDY:

13 Yes.

14

15 LEG. BERLAND:

16 Yes.

17

18 MR. DUBOIS:

19 Six.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CILMI:

22 Bill passes.

23

24 **1471, Creating a program for Commemorative Pins to honor our**
25 **volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services volunteers**
26 **who have served our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

27 (Donnelly) I'll take a motion by Legislator Donnelly and a second
28 by Legislator Gonzalez. Any questions? I see Legislator Hahn has
29 a question.

30

31 LEG. HAHN:

32 Actually, my hand being raised was just a general question for John
33 Jordan when we're done.

34

35 LEG. CILMI:

36 Okay. We'll save that until -- I'll recognize you afterwards. Any
37 questions on this particular bill? Seeing none, Mr. Clerk, please
38 call the roll.

39

(The roll was called by Mr. DuBois.)

40

41 LEG. DONNELLY:

42 Yes.

43

44 LEG. GONZALEZ:

45 Yes.

46

47 LEG. CILMI:

48 Yes.

49

50 LEG. HAHN:

51 Yes and co-sponsor.

52

53 LEG. KENNEDY:

54 Yes.

55

56

1 **LEG. BERLAND:**
2 Yes and co-sponsor, please.

3
4 **MR. DUBOIS:**
5 Six.

6
7 **LEG. CILMI:**
8 Motion passes. Legislator Hahn, I know you had a question for
9 Commissioner Jordan.

10
11 **D.P.O. HAHN:**
12 Yeah. I know we wanted to be quick here today, but maybe can you
13 talk just a little bit about recruitment and our numbers across the
14 county after the pandemic and how we're doing in our volunteer
15 departments.

16
17 **COMMISSIONER JORDAN:**
18 So I believe -- you know, so it's strange in Suffolk County. There
19 is no regulatory authority, no mandate to report that information
20 to us. So all the information that we get, our finger on the pulse
21 of the system is all by observation and/or some interaction with
22 departments and things like that, but overall the trend lately is
23 less of a problem with enrollment. It seems like departments are
24 staffing after the pandemic. We actually saw -- or during the
25 pandemic, we actually saw -- because we had to reduce class sizes
26 and stuff like that at the fire academy because of the state
27 guidance and all that stuff, we actually saw a bottleneck and
28 departments asking for more training for basic firefighters, so
29 enrollment was up and training was down because of our exposure.

30
31 So we shuffled things, moved classes, created more stuff online,
32 made more availability and that has all normalized now and now
33 class sizes are basically back to normal so that siphon or
34 bottleneck is resolved. As far as response times, things like
35 that, I don't see -- I mean, certain departments have gaps, certain
36 departments have issues with recruitment, things like that, but
37 overall as a county we do see, as for as EMS, we do see a gap in
38 paramedics, things like that; so I'm sure that will normalize, but
39 overall I think we're in good shape.

40
41 **LEG. HAHN:**
42 Thank you.

43
44 **LEG. CILMI:**
45 Is that it, Kara?

46
47 **D.P.O. HAHN:**
48 Yes. Thank you.

49
50 **LEG. CILMI:**
51 All right. Any other questions or business in front of the
52 committee? I was trying to find out quickly whether or not that
53 bill that recognizes 911 operators passed through the senate. I
54 have not gotten an answer just yet. Does anyone know the answer to
55 that question?

56

1 **LEG. DONNELLY:**
2 I believe it did, Tom.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN CILMI:**
5 It did?

6
7 **LEG. DONNELLY:**
8 Yes.

9
10 **LEG. BERLAND:**
11 I believe it did. I think it passed that night or that next day.

12
13 **LEG. CILMI:**
14 Oh, wonderful. That's great news. Has the governor signed it yet?

15
16 **LEG. BERLAND:**
17 No. I hear they're still in the midst of horse trading days, and
18 then it should go before the governor for a signature.

19
20 **LEG. CILMI:**
21 Excellent. We were all hoping for that to happen quickly. Anyway,
22 seeing no further business, we are adjourned. Thanks, everyone.

23
24 (The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.)
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