

1 FIRE, RESCUE, EMERGENCY SERVICES and PREPAREDNESS  
2  
3 COMMITTEE MEETING  
4

5  
6 **MINUTES**  
7

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 April 25, 2023.  
13

14 **Members Present:**

15 Legislator Dominick S. Thorne - Chairman  
16 Legislator Manuel Esteban  
17 Legislator Tom Donnelly  
18 Legislator Leslie Kennedy  
19 Legislator Samuel Gonzalez  
20

21 **Also in Attendance:**

22 William Duffy - Counsel to the Legislature  
23 Frank Tassone - Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
24 Brett Robinson - Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature  
25 TJ Corcoran - Budget Review Office  
26 All Other Interested Parties  
27

28 **Minutes Taken By:**

29 Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer  
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1 (The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m.)

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3 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

4 I call to order the meeting of the Fire, Rescue, Emergency Services  
5 meeting. We'll stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by  
6 Legislator Gonzalez.

7  
8 (Pledge of Allegiance)

9  
10 If you remain standing for a remembrance certainly for all our  
11 troops as well as all our firefighters that have now passed,  
12 Especially ex-chief Paul Felice from the Patchogue Fire Department  
13 that passed this morning. Chief Felice was a chief multiple times  
14 over as well as a former trustee in the Village of Patchogue and a  
15 former commissioner of the department. We'll certainly reach out  
16 to him and his family with our hopes and prayers as well as all of  
17 the past firefighters and the EMS workers that have passed.

18  
19 (Moment of Silence Observed.)

20  
21 Great. Thank you.

22  
23 Madam Clerk, call the roll, please.

24  
25 (The roll was called by Chief Deputy Clerk Clark.)

26  
27 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

28 Present.

29  
30 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

31 Present.

32  
33 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

34 Present.

35  
36 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

37 Here.

38  
39 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

40 (Excused.)

41  
42 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

43 Four.

44  
45 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

46 Legislator Donnelly has an excused absence for the meeting today.

47  
48 Okay. We'll open up our public portion. Do we have any public  
49 speakers?

50  
51 **MR. DELUCA:**

52 There are no speakers, Mr. Chairman. Anyone in the audience want  
53 to address the FRES committee? Seeing none, we are going to close  
54 the public portion.

55  
56 We're going to go to Appointment Resolutions.

1  
2 **Resolution 1250, Reappointing Patrick Murphy as a member of the**  
3 **Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board.**  
4 **(Kennedy).** Motion from Legislator Kennedy. Seconded by Legislator  
5 Gonzalez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?  
6

7 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**  
8 Four.  
9

10 **VICER CHAIRMAN THORNE:**  
11 1250 passes.  
12

13 There is no presentations, no tabled resolutions. Introductory  
14 resolutions.  
15

16 **1261, Donating surplus emergency Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) to**  
17 **recognized non-for-profit organizations providing relief to**  
18 **residents in need. (Co. Exec.)** I'll take a motion.  
19

20 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**  
21 Motion.  
22

23 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**  
24 Motion by Legislator Gonzalez. Second by Legislator Esteban. All  
25 in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?  
26

27 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**  
28 Four.  
29

30 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**  
31 1261 passes.  
32

33 **Resolution 1347, Authorizing the County Executive to enter into a**  
34 **New York City Urban Area Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for**  
35 **Major Emergency Transportation Units (METU). (Co. Exec.)**  
36

37 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**  
38 Motion.  
39

40 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
41 Second.  
42

43 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**  
44 Motion by Legislator Gonzalez. Seconded by Legislator Esteban.  
45 Commissioner, on the motion, Commissioner Beckley. Commissioner,  
46 for the benefit of the caucus and the meeting, could you just  
47 explain the unit a little bit to us.  
48

49 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**  
50 So we were fortunate enough to get funding to purchase a medical  
51 emergency response vehicle. We call it the MERV. It looks like  
52 kind of similar to a school bus, only it's much more sophisticated.  
53 We can do mass transports of patients from like a mass casualty or  
54 mass violence incident, up to 24 sitting up and then 12, I think,  
55 laying down. We do this in conjunction at the request of the fire  
56 department. They'll call it in, and we have a dispatcher right

1 away get in the vehicle and start going to the scene and then we  
2 call out people on call to meet there and to assist with loading it  
3 up, so logistically on how to do that. We have one, and Nassau  
4 County has one. The city has, I think, two or three. Westchester  
5 has one, and it's all part of this task force in this region. Out  
6 of all the FEMA regions, FEMA region two is the one that has the  
7 most vehicles. It's not uncommon for us to send this vehicle. For  
8 instance, the air show is coming up. We'll probably station the  
9 vehicle on the county line so if they need it it's really  
10 accessible there instantly. We've sent it to New York City during  
11 one of their ICE events because they were having a lot of  
12 accidents, so we sent it in during that timeframe. So this  
13 agreement with the urban area working group, which includes  
14 Yonkers, Nassau and Suffolk just says that if something happens,  
15 they may need the vehicle and they may send vehicles to us and we  
16 may send vehicles to them.

17  
18 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**  
19 Legislator Gonzalez.

20  
21 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**  
22 This is usually -- also I think I've seen it in upstate -- in  
23 Westchester County. Major car pile-ups, accidents on the highways,  
24 stuff like that, you know, you see this vehicle out there. It's  
25 the same type, right?

26  
27 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**  
28 Absolutely.

29  
30 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**  
31 Okay.

32  
33 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**  
34 And then for like -- we could also use it for a first aid stop if  
35 we had to, like along our marathon if we wanted to place it and  
36 then just have it there in case somebody needs to get their vitals  
37 checked. We use it as a first aid station as well.

38  
39 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**  
40 Thank you, sir.

41  
42 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**  
43 It's also going to be dispatched at the discretion of the local  
44 fire chief for firefighter rehab, I assume --

45  
46 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**  
47 Yes.

48  
49 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**  
50 -- at major events like -- well, I don't want to mention the name,  
51 but a major event where there's a large amount of firefighters that  
52 have to be rehabbed.

53  
54 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**  
55 Yes, we do that as well.

1 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

2 And is this equipped with ALS gear or the ALS gear comes out of  
3 local fire, EMS services.

4  
5 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**

6 There's a partnership with the local fire, but we do have different  
7 systems on board where we can take the readings and actually send  
8 it right to the hospital.

9  
10 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

11 Okay. So you have telemetry on board?

12  
13 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**

14 Telemetry, yes.

15  
16 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

17 Any other questions? Okay. So we have a first and a second. Did  
18 we take the vote yet? I apologize.

19  
20 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

21 We didn't take the vote yet.

22  
23 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

24 Okay. So in reference to 1347, which I've already read, but  
25 **Authorizing the County Executive to enter into a New York City**  
26 **Urban Area Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for Major Emergency**  
27 **Transportation Units (METU). (Co. Exec.)** Do I have a motion?

28  
29 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

30 You did the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

31  
32 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**

33 Four.

34  
35 **VICE CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

36 1347 cancels -- passes. Sorry, passes. At least I remembered  
37 everybody's name in this meeting; that's a good start. No  
38 procedural motions, no home rule messages, no executive sessions,  
39 nothing tabled to recall. I declare the meeting adjourned.

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41 (The meet was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.)  
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