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6 **FIRE, RESCUE, EMERGENCY SERVICES and PREPAREDNESS**
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8 **COMMITTEE MEETING**
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10 **OF THE**
11 **SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**
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14 **Minutes**
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16
17 A meeting of the Fire, Rescue, & Emergency Services and
18 Preparedness Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held
19 in the Maxine S. Postal Legislative Auditorium at the Evans K.
20 Griffing Building, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York, on
21 June 13, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.
22

23
24 **Members Present:**

25 Legislator Dominick S. Thorne - Chairman
26 Legislator Manuel Esteban - Vice-Chair
27 Legislator Tom Donnelly
28 Legislator Samuel Gonzalez
29 Legislator Leslie Kennedy
30

31
32 **Also in Attendance:**

33 Legislator Al Krupski - 1st Legislative District
34 Frank Tassone - Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
35 Hope Clark - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
36 Janet Heller-Smitelli - Counsel's Office
37 Ali Nazir - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey
38 Chris DeLuca - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey
39 Patrick Beckley - Commissioner of Fire Rescue & Emergency Services
40 Bill Renzetti - Administrator/Moriches Bay Marine Incident Response Team
41 All Other Interested Parties
42

43
44 **Minutes Taken By:**

45 Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer
46

47 **Minutes Transcribed By:**

48 Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary
49
50
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(**The Meeting was Called to Order at 11:31 a.m.**)

CHAIRMAN THORNE:

Okay. Welcome to the Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Committee. We're going to begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator Gonzalez.

(**Pledge of Allegiance**)

Please remain standing for a moment of silence, certainly for our fire rescue workers that are no longer with us, as well as all of our military and police and first responders.

(**Moment of Silence**)

Have a seat. Madam Clerk, roll call.

(**Roll Call by Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk**)

CHAIRMAN THORNE:

Present.

LEG. ESTEBAN:

Present.

LEG. GONZALEZ:

Present.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Here.

LEG. DONNELLY:

Here.

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:

Five.

CHAIRMAN THORNE:

Thank you. Any correspondence?

CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:

All correspondence have been distributed accordingly.

CHAIRMAN THORNE:

Thank you, ma'am. Any public speakers? Having no cards, seeing no one, we are going to go into **Appointment Resolutions**. Appointment Resolution **1530 - Approving the reappointment of Jay Egan as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission (Co. Exec.)** Do I have a motion?

LEG. ESTEBAN:

Motion.

LEG. GONZALEZ:

Second.

1 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**
2 Motion to table? Motion to approve? What's your motion?

3
4 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**
5 Motion is to table.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**
8 Okay. Second?

9
10 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
11 Second for public hearing.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**
14 All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

15
16 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK CLARK:**
17 *Five. (Vote: 5-0-0-0)*

18
19 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**
20 Great. That completes our appointment resolutions. We -- next we
21 have a presentation from Bill Renzetti, the Administrator of the
22 Moriches Bay Marine Incident Response Team. Before he gets going,
23 I've had an opportunity to attend a rather thorough drill that they
24 had and he's going to share some information about his team and
25 also some of the concerns that we have here in Suffolk County with
26 coverage from our Coast Guard. Bill, the floor is yours, sir.

27
28 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**
29 Thank you very much. Good morning, everyone. My name is Bill
30 Renzetti. I'm a 40-year member of the Center Moriches Fire
31 Department and a former Fire Chief. During my tenure with the
32 Center Moriches Fire Department I've been actively involved in
33 water rescue training. I have participated in countless water
34 rescue operations and have gained the extensive experience in this
35 field. Currently, I assist six local Fire Chiefs in administrating
36 the Marine Incident Response Team.

37
38 Mr. Chairman, I would like to take -- thank you for the opportunity
39 to speak to the committee this morning to shed some light on a one
40 of a kind lifesaving program that's taking place in Suffolk County.
41 It's important that our local officials are informed about the
42 services being provided by the Marine Incident Response Team and
43 you can rest assured that the team's presence and capabilities will
44 ensure that our maritime community and visitors to our beaches will
45 be protected and receive the assistance they need in emergency
46 situations at a moment's notice.

47
48 So back in 2021, six local fire departments got together to join
49 forces to pool their resources, pool their manpower and their
50 training and created the Marine Incident Response Team. This team
51 includes people from Mastic Beach Fire Department, Mastic Fire
52 Department, Center Moriches Fire Department, East Moriches Fire
53 Department, Eastport Fire Department and the Westhampton Beach Fire
54 Department. The Marine Incident Response Team is one of its kind
55 in Suffolk County and specifically trained a rapid response team
56 that responds to water rescue incidents 24 hours a day, 365 days a

1 year.

2
 3 So a lot of people ask us why do you need such an extensive team?
 4 You have the Coast Guard station right in East Moriches. But what
 5 a lot of people don't realize is in 2022 the East Moriches Coast
 6 Guard station is only staffed from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Fast
 7 forward to 2023, this year, they're staffed between Memorial Day
 8 and Labor Day. However, they're only staffing the station from
 9 Sunday afternoon until -- I'm sorry, Friday afternoon through
 10 Sunday afternoon, leaving all other times exposed. We're also on
 11 the very eastern end of the Suffolk County Police District, which
 12 means we only have one police boat in our area, and that's Marine
 13 Mike. If Marine Mike is tied up on a call in Davis Park or even
 14 fueling up in Timber Point Marina, our area is unprotected a lot of
 15 the times. So it was necessary for the local fire departments to
 16 get together and create this team.

11:35AM

17
 18 Our coverage area expands 14 miles. We respond from the Smith
 19 Point Bridge in Mastic Beach to the Beach Lane Bridge out in
 20 Westhampton. We handle everything on the bay side as far as all
 21 our creeks and rivers and also on the ocean side. If you take all
 22 of our assets and spread them across the map, you'll see that we
 23 have some pretty extensive coverage across the Moriches Bay area,
 24 which is exactly what our residents need. They need to have that
 25 quick response and we're able to provide that for them.

11:36AM

26
 27 We cover some of the County's most largest, most populated beaches,
 28 Smith Point County Park and Cupsogue Beach County Park. We all
 29 know that after five o'clock at night the lifeguards go off duty.
 30 That's when they rely on us to help provide support to anybody
 31 that's in trouble out on the water. A little further east we have
 32 Pike's Beach and Rogers Beach, and we all have known about Moriches
 33 Inlet. Moriches Inlet is probably one of the most dangerous inlets
 34 in Suffolk County. It's treacherous during certain times,
 35 considered not navigable at certain times. However, people still
 36 transverse that area and they get in trouble and rely on us to go
 37 out there and help them.

11:36AM

38
 39 This is our fleet of boats. As you can see, we have some very good
 40 boats that provide some good service to our communities. Some of
 41 the boats are fairly new. They all have the proper electronics on
 42 it to talk to the Coast Guard when we have to. We have night
 43 vision cameras so that if we're operating at night we'll be able to
 44 see heat signatures if somebody's floating in the water, and we're
 45 also starting to gather low light cameras which helps us see during
 46 the night.

11:37AM

47
 48 We also have some specialized equipment available to us also. This
 49 is a hovercraft for shallow or ice water rescue. We have two jet
 50 skis for quick deployment of our rescue swimmers. We keep one jet
 51 ski at Smith Point County Park and we keep another one on the bay
 52 side in Mastic Beach. This provides for a quick access that if we
 53 need to get out in the ocean real quick we can launch one of the
 54 jet skis right from the beach and be on the scene in no time.

11:37AM

55
 56

1 We also have Zodiac boats that we use for our wintertime
2 operations. And again, we have high axle vehicles which provides
3 us transportation if we need to go into low lying areas that are
4 flooding out during storms or other hazardous -- we can rescue
5 people out of harm's way that way on vehicles.

6
7 The Marine Incident Response Team offers a wide range of water
8 rescue capabilities. This includes search and rescue. We also do
9 firefighting capabilities. All of our vehicles have pumps on them
10 where we're allowed to pull up to a boat that might be on fire or a
11 marina that's on fire. The water is sucked right through the hull
12 of our boats through a deck gun to provide firefighting
13 capabilities.

14
15 We also have technical water rescue operations. We have swift
16 water rescue swimmers, surface water rescue swimmers, we have scuba
17 divers for any type of underwater incidents. Cold water and ice
18 water rescue technicians, and we also provide EMS help out on the
19 water. Something that's very unusual is our boats carry EMTs and
20 paramedics on our boats so that if there was an incident out on the
21 water we can provide fast service.

22
23 We have three large charter boats that do fishing out in the
24 Moriches Bay area, sometimes they go two miles offshore. There's a
25 little area called the Moriches Reef that's very popular for these
26 boats to go to. It takes them an hour to get out there. If they
27 had a medical emergency on their boat while they're two miles
28 offshore, it's going to take them 45 minutes to an hour to get back
29 in. We can be out there in ten minutes and provide emergency
30 medical care right to their boat.

31
32 Our rescue swimmers are trained by New York State Office of Fire
33 Prevention and Control and they have a full complement of equipment
34 that allows them to operate in the water all year long. Whether
35 it's 90 degrees out or 20 degrees out, our rescue swimmers are in
36 the water. They have specialized equipment like dry suits,
37 personal flotation devices, helmets, boots, gloves and during the
38 wintertime, they have special thermal garments that they wear under
39 their dry suits.

40
41 So how does the team work? Basically, we work under a unified
42 command. We're six separate departments, however, when there's an
43 emergency, we operate as one. We have one leader and one incident
44 commander. We have a detailed Mutual Aid Agreement, which is our
45 standard operating guideline for the team. When a call comes in
46 through the 911 system at Police Headquarters and is passed down to
47 FRES, FRES determines if that call is a true emergency or distress
48 call or if it's a non-emergency Coast Guard assist or police assist
49 calls. So the difference between the two is determined by FRES.
50 When they take the intake information from the call, they'll gather
51 the information and they'll determine whether or not it's a full
52 response or not.

53
54 If it is an emergency response, all six departments are activated
55 at once. This helps streamline the dispatching process, it helps
56 get our team activated much quicker. Depending on which Fire

1 District it's in, that Fire Chief becomes the incident commander
 2 for that event. Each department sends one boat to the scene. The
 3 first boat on scene will provide a size up to that Chief. So it
 4 doesn't matter if the call is in Mastic Beach and Eastport's boat
 5 is the first one on scene. It doesn't matter because we're a team
 6 response. That Eastport boat will give a size up to the Chief, let
 7 them know what we have. All in all, while our boats are in direct
 8 contact with Long Island Sector Coast Guard and giving them any
 9 updates that they need as needed.

11:41AM 10

11 If it's a non-emergency call, and these come in routinely, lots of
 12 times we'll get flare sightings off of our South Shore out on the
 13 ocean. Usually that happens when the guard is out there practicing
 14 and somebody from land sees the flares coming down. So that would
 15 not require a whole team response. That would either be a one
 16 department response or just maybe a notification to the Chief.

11:42AM 20

18 Training is the key to our success. Not only did we train as one
 19 department, we also train as a group together. When we go out and
 20 train together, we're teaching other members of our team the best
 21 way to rescue people from the water and safety is always our number
 22 one priority. You could see in this picture here we have swimmers
 23 in the water but we also have a safety boat in the background.
 24 That's just in case the current just happens to take one of our
 25 swimmers away or you have boats that are out there operating in the
 26 area with us. They're there to provide safety for us. But not
 27 only do we operate during the daytime training, we also operate
 28 during the night, because calls happen at night. Two, three, four
 29 o'clock in the morning we're out in the middle of the ocean, it's
 30 dark, it's black. We have to rely on our senses, so we train at
 31 night also to help sharpen those skills.

11:42AM 30

33 We also partner with the Coast Guard. We do training with the
 34 Coast Guard routinely during the season. They'll come onto our
 35 boats, they'll make sure that we're proficient in our skills.
 36 They'll make sure that our search and rescue patterns are down to
 37 the way that they like them, because they trained us to do their
 38 search patterns because they realize that they're not going to be
 39 around all the time. So this is just another training that we did
 40 with them. This was first aid training where we simulated a person
 41 was in the water, they pulled them out onto their boat and then we
 42 helped them along with some first aid training.

11:43AM 40

44 January 15th, 2023, temperatures were about 30 degrees out. The
 45 wind was blowing 30 miles an hour and the water temperatures were
 46 about 40 degrees. Just before 9:00 a.m. a call came into Suffolk
 47 County 911 reporting a kayaker in distress off Mastic Beach.
 48 Suffolk County Police Aviation was notified as well as the Marine
 49 Incident Response Team. This is where all of our training came
 50 together. This is a video of the Suffolk County Police deploying
 51 their rescue swimmer into the water when they arrived on scene. So
 52 while their rescue swimmer was being deployed, local Marine
 53 Incident Response Team was gathering their personnel, putting on
 54 their gear and making their way out to the area where they were.

11:43AM 50

1 So the police rescue swimmer is now holding onto the gentleman
 2 that's in distress, who's also holding onto a kayak and now they're
 3 kind of floating in the direction of Pattersquash Island. The
 4 Marine Incident Response Team launched two boats at that time.
 5 Eastport Fire Department launched their safe boat from Speonk and
 6 the Center Moriches Fire Department launched their Zodiac from the
 7 Mastic Beach Yacht Club. Three rescue swimmers were deployed from
 8 the fire department to assist the Suffolk County Police Rescue
 9 swimmer and removing the survivor from the water. He was packaged
 10 and placed into the helicopter which had landed on the island and
 11 was subsequently transported to Stony Brook University Hospital
 12 with hypothermia.

11:44AM

13
 14 This call was the first call that Suffolk County Police had ever
 15 launched or deployed a rescue swimmer in a live event. It was also
 16 the first time that the Marine Incident Response Team and Suffolk
 17 County Police had worked together at any point. However, that day
 18 all the pieces came together. The teams worked flawlessly together
 19 due to the professionalism and training of both organizations. And
 20 with that, we saved a life that morning.

11:45AM

21
 22 Following that incident, Marine Incident Response Team received a
 23 request from Suffolk County Police Aviation to work with them on a
 24 water rescue training with them. And it only made sense, if we're
 25 going to work with them out on the field, we might as well learn
 26 how to work with them and train with them together. So I sat with
 27 Sergeant Vahey for about two months and we put together a joint
 28 agency exercise and we called it Operation Helocasting. The
 29 exercise objectives was basically first and foremost to provide a
 30 safe operation for all personnel involved. We had boats, we had
 31 helicopters, we had water, we had boats that were in the area from
 32 civilians. There was a lot of moving parts and moving pieces so
 33 obviously safety was paramount to the operation of this exercise.

11:46AM

34
 35 We wanted to familiarize Suffolk County Police with our rescue
 36 swimmers, our team, our assets and our capabilities. We wanted to
 37 promote the operations between Suffolk County Police Marine Units
 38 and our Moriches Bay Incident Response Team. We wanted to perform
 39 training exercises across different platforms. We have jet skis,
 40 we have Zodiac boats, we have dive boats. We wanted to give them
 41 an opportunity to see and experience all this training. One of the
 42 -- two of the departments have water rescue swimmers that we
 43 actually put people in the water. One of the exercises we did with
 44 the Police Department was deploying two of our rescue swimmers into
 45 the water, securing one of their survivors in a Stokes Basket that
 46 floats and brought them back to a boat.

11:46AM

47
 48 And then lastly, we wanted to test the public safety talk group.
 49 This is the talk group that's in all public safety radios that
 50 basically sits idle and not used at all. With this talk group we
 51 were able to take police and fire assets and put them on the same
 52 channel together where we can seamlessly talk to each other. This
 53 is probably one of the most difficulties we have with any search
 54 and rescue mission, is that everybody is on different radio
 55 channels and we don't talk together. We train, but we don't do.

11:47AM

56

1 So I was able to take basically a four-hour training and put it
2 into a two-minute video to kind of give you an idea of what we did
3 that morning.

4
5 *(Video Presentation)*
6

7 So we all know that game telephone. You put like ten people in
8 line, you give a message and that message gets passed down and you
9 learn that by the time it gets to the tenth person at the end of
10 the line, that message has changed drastically. And that's one of
11 the problems that we have when we have these type of missions. So
12 in Center Moriches, if I'm on the rescue boat out in the middle of
13 the ocean and I need to talk to the helicopter above me, I have to
14 call my Fire Chief, who calls our dispatcher, who then calls
15 Suffolk FRES, who has to call the Command Dispatcher at Police
16 Headquarters, to get the message to the helicopter above us.
17 That's five points of contact, five points of failure or maybe even
18 five points of delay. We all know that sometimes radio operators
19 are busy and can't answer the phone right away. God forbid that
20 message has to come back to us from the helicopter, we've added
21 other five in the reverse direction. Utilization of the public
22 safety talk group was key to the success of this operation. We
23 learned by putting public safety agencies on one talk group it gave
24 everybody instant access to what was going on.

25
26 We had an incident just the other day off of Smith Point where
27 there was a report of a swimmer in distress. The helicopter was
28 above us, we had one of our marine boats, we're traveling west
29 through the ocean, and didn't realize that there was dredging pipe
30 probably about 50 yards in front of them. Unfortunately, the
31 message didn't get back to us in time. Thankfully, the helicopter
32 saw what was happening and actually came down in front of the boat
33 to slow the boat down so they would not go over the pipe. At that
34 point, probably five minutes later, we received a message from
35 Suffolk FRES that there was dredging pipe out in the ocean that we
36 needed to be cautious of.

37
38 So all in all, 15 agencies took part in the operation. We had over
39 100 participants. Suffolk County Police successfully deployed nine
40 rescue swimmers during the exercise, and all of our objectives were
41 met, including the use of the public safety talk group. And
42 lastly, what's not on here, is the safety of all of our members.
43 Everybody came back, there was no injuries reported through the
44 extensive operation that we conducted. Are there any questions?

45
46 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

47 So many, so many. You know, I find myself, not to pun a phrase,
48 but drowning in concern that between Monday and Friday we can
49 actually lose people off our coast because of the lack of Coast
50 Guard coverage.

51
52 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

53 Correct. And, actually, a statement that they made to us while we
54 were at this training was we don't even know if we're going to be
55 able to support the weekends. They are just so severely
56 understaffed right now that they don't even know if they're going

1 to be able to supply us with that boat during the weekends.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

4 Is this thing on? There we go. That's a major concern to all our
5 taxpayers irregardless of where you are. So obviously we have some
6 questions in our group. Legislator Kennedy.

7
8 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

9 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Renzetti, for a wonderful presentation,
10 and thank you for what you and your team do.

11
12 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

13 Thank you, Legislator.

14
15 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

16 Every day. Simple question. Each of those fire departments pays
17 for their own boat, pays for whatever they have to do. Where else
18 do you get money to do this?

19
20 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

21 All of the operations for our team comes out of our individual
22 budgets from our local fire districts. There are funding and grant
23 services that are out there, but we do not receive any of that
24 money.

25
26 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

27 Is it because you have no grant writers or is it because you don't
28 --

29
30 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

31 There are a few grants that are out there. There's the Port
32 Security Grant. That money seems to always go to FDNY, NYPD and
33 never makes it out to local jurisdictions out on the Island.

34
35 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

36 Okay. Have you talked to the Township of Brookhaven and asked if
37 perhaps they could write the grant for you?

38
39 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

40 Some of the local fire departments do have their own grant writers
41 that they have. They have tried to put in for these grants but
42 have been unsuccessful.

43
44 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

45 I'm just thinking if a township writes it they'll understand more
46 of the need.

47
48 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

49 That is something that we are willing to look into.

50
51 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

52 Okay, because this is very costly.

53
54 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

55 It does become costly, yes, ma'am.

56

1 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

2 Okay. So we'll have to see what we can do for you. Thank you.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

5 Any other questions from the Legislators? So you mentioned
6 something that is concerning about me and because of my background
7 I am concerned about interdepartmental communications or
8 interagency communications. Is there a protocol that is currently
9 being worked on? Do we need to work on it? Do we have to meet
10 with FRES to work on it? Is there any protocol that can
11 automatically say that when we have this type of event everybody is
12 going to the talk group?

13
14 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

15 There is no type of protocol in place right now. This is one of
16 the things that we wanted to test to see if it was feasible to take
17 these two separate agencies and put them together on one talk
18 group. Apparently, this channel is there, it's there for what is
19 it's designed for, which is this multiagency operation. I've been
20 trying to work through Suffolk County Police Department to try to
21 give us access to open their channel up for us all the time. We
22 would need to have some type of protocol put in place between
23 Suffolk FRES and Suffolk P.D. so that this type of operation could
24 be run on that platform.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

27 We need to make sure that happens. It just -- the talk group
28 you're referring to, I believe, is the 800 megahertz.

29
30 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

31 That is correct. It's on the 800 radio system.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

34 That are in the ambulances, the fire trucks, the police cars. They
35 all have this talk group, every one of them.

36
37 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

38 Right. Every public safety agency that -- any police car has this
39 channel in it, it's a little different from the Countywide channel.
40 Countywide is in every single County 800 radio. This one is
41 specific to public safety agencies.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

44 All right. So we need to make sure that we increase communication.
45 Because you're absolutely right, and to not be able to communicate
46 with the bird above or a neighboring department or a neighboring
47 agency. I again have to stress how alarming it is that the Coast
48 Guard is not covering us Monday through Friday in the middle of a
49 summer in a beach community.

50
51 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

52 Correct.

53
54 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

55 And it's not just the area -- the area in which your departments
56 are, but we're talking about all of the South Shore communities are

1 in grave danger when something like this is not properly covered.

2
3 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

4 Correct. In this instance, anything from the Smith Point Bridge
5 east is covered by Station Shinnecock in Hampton Bays. So they're
6 actually the main station that covers our area. So what they're
7 telling us is that we're going to respond, however, we have an hour
8 ETA to get to your area from our location.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

11 An hour ETA.

12
13 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

14 So lots of times what ends up happening is we'll go out there,
15 we'll handle the call for them and we'll make the report to Sector
16 Long Island Sound, which is their communication center in New
17 London, and we'll provide them with all the information of that
18 rescue call that we just handled for them.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

21 So, Mr. Renzetti, we really should -- we'll talk more on this
22 offline in reference to making sure that the communication is open
23 through all agencies. I was at that drill, thank you for inviting
24 me. It was an incredible drill. I was there with other elected
25 officials and we all see the need from -- every level of government
26 really was there. So we will make sure that you have the tools
27 necessary to save the lives which is your ultimate goal. I believe
28 Legislator Gonzalez had a question.

29
30 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair. You were saying that there is a grant and
32 it's always usually given to New York City?

33
34 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

35 That's correct. It's the Port Security Grant. Some of our local
36 departments have put in for it. Unfortunately, the money gets
37 allocated more towards the City than it does coming out to the
38 Island.

39
40 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

41 How much is that grant? Do you know offhand?

42
43 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

44 Millions of dollars' worth of grant money.

45
46 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

47 All right. Thank you. No further questions. Thank you.

48
49 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

50 There was also one other thing as far as grants, and that's the
51 A-R-P-A, the American Rescue Act --

52
53 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

54 ARPA.

1 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

2 -- where they can have things set up for local communities where
3 they're providing support to State and Federal agencies. We
4 thought maybe that was something that we could look into also.

5
6 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

7 You said it was the A-R-P-A?

8
9 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

10 ARPA.

11
12 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

13 ARPA.

14
15 **CHIEF RENZETTI:**

16 Correct.

17
18 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

19 Okay. Thank you. I think we need to all come together and
20 seriously reach out to these individuals giving out these grants,
21 and stop it from being one-sided, and spread the wealth a little
22 bit.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

25 You know, at the end of the day, as much as New York City has the
26 need or whatever other agencies are getting it, we have a need not
27 only for the lives that we are responsible to care for, but also
28 for the security of our shores. So we will be working -- Bill,
29 this is a -- Mr. Renzetti, this is an initial conversation but
30 certainly not the end of this conversation. I can assure you that
31 this committee will stay on top of this until our taxpayers are
32 safe and emergencies can be handled anywhere in the jurisdiction of
33 the County of Suffolk. We will -- we'll certainly be conversing
34 with you more.

35
36 Is there any other questions from the committee? Okay. Hearing
37 none -- what? Commissioner Beckley.

38
39 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**

40 More of a comment. And, Chief, Chief Renzetti, I appreciate that
41 presentation. You know, you did mention FRES as being part of
42 that, but if you noticed, we were not part of that exercise at all.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

45 Can I interrupt for just -- just the name for the record. We know
46 who you are, but --

47
48 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**

49 Commissioner Beckley.

50
51 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

52 Thank you. Go ahead.

53
54 **COMMISSIONER BECKLEY:**

55 Suffolk County Fire Rescue. So if you noticed, FRES was not part
56 of that exercise at all. We were notified at the last minute.

1 What we need to do, because the State is so strict when we talk
2 about grants and dollars and things of that nature, we need to be
3 -- put everything into NYR, which is the State, the way they track
4 information. It has to be 90 days out. What that allows me to do
5 is it allows me to assign staff to help you with your exercise and
6 use grant dollars to pay for that instead of coming out of
7 operating funds. So you've identified communication issues. I
8 would just respectfully ask in the future if you guys have any
9 training evolutions or exercises, please invite us. We want to be
10 there and be part of the solution. Thank you.

12:00PM

11
12 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

13 I will. Thank you for inviting me. As far as I knew it was well
14 publicized. But, you know, we will work with our FRES Commissioner
15 to make sure we talk about communication on a County level. And
16 we'll make sure that gets done, because you're right, it is a
17 telephone game. And I'm not letting a fire, EMS worker or our
18 general public get hurt because we can't communicate. That's never
19 acceptable.

12:00PM

20
21 So -- all right. Any other questions for Mr. Renzetti or the
22 Commissioner?

23
24 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

25 No.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN THORNE:**

28 Okay. No Tabled Resolutions, no Introductory Resolutions,
29 Procedural Motions, no Home Rule Message. Executive session, we
30 have none. Tabled resolutions subject to call, none. I declare
31 this meeting adjourned.

12:00PM

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33 *(*The Meeting was Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.*)*
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