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2
3 **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**
4
5 **OF THE**
6
7 **SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**
8
9 **MINUTES**

10
11 A meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Suffolk County
12 Legislature was held via in-person and Zoom videoconferencing in
13 the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H.
14 Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway,
15 Smithtown, New York on May 12, 2022.

16
17 **Members Present:**

18 **Legislator Steve Flotteron - Chairman**
19 *Legislator James Mazzarella - Vice-Chair*
20 *Legislator Sarah Anker*
21 *Legislator Stephanie Bontempi*
22 *Legislator Tom Donnelly*
23 *Legislator Bridget Fleming*
24 *Legislator Manuel Esteban*
25 *Legislator Leslie Kennedy*
26 *P.O. Kevin J. McCaffrey - Ex Officio*

27
28 **Also in Attendance:**

29 *Legislator Dominic Thorne - District Office No. 7*
30 *Legislator Robert Trotta - District Office No. 13*
31 *William Duffy - Counsel to the Legislature*
32 *Frank Tassone - Clerk of the Legislature*
33 *Brett Robinson - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature*
34 *Robert Doering - Senior Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review*
35 *Ali Nazir - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey*
36 *Brendan Sweeney - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey*
37 *Chris DeLuca - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey*
38 *Guy Calla - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey*
39 *Timothy Freeman - Aide to Legislator Flotteron*
40 *Tim Rothang - Aide to Legislator Mazzarella*
41 *Gay Campisi - Aide to Legislator Kennedy*
42 *Irene Donohue - Aide to Legislator Fleming*
43 *Maria Barbara - Aide to Legislator Esteban*
44 *Greg Atherton - Aide to Legislator Bontempi*
45 *Michelle Zarifis - CE's Office/Intergovernmental Relations*
46 *Andrew Manfredonia - Captain/Chief of Department's Office-SCPD*
47 *Eric Johnson - Police Officer/Marine Bureau - SC Police Dept*
48 *Joseph Lanzisera - Police Officer/Marine Bureau - SC Police Dept*
49 *Kevin Kelley - Captain/Chief of Staff's Office/SC Sheriff's Office*
50 *Eric Hofmeister - Deputy Commissioner/SC Dept. Of Public Works*
51 *Joe Iannucci - Facilities Engineering/SC Dept. Of Public Works*

52
53 **Minutes Taken By:**

54 *Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer*
55
56

(**The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.**)

1
2
3 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

4 I call the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order. And I
5 ask all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Emanuel
6 Esteban.

7
8 ***Pledge of Allegiance***

9
10 If you all could please remain standing for a moment of silence for
11 a prayer for our men and women and our First Responders, the
12 military and also to all the families that are fighting and
13 supporting each other in the Ukraine.

14
15 ***Moment of Silence Observed***

16
17 Okay, be seated. Clerk, can we have a roll call?

18
19 (**Roll Called by Frank Tassone - Clerk of the Legislature**)

09:31AM

20
21 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

22 Here.

23
24 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

25 Here.

26
27 **LEG. FLEMING:**

28 Present.

09:31AM

29
30 **LEG. ANKER:**

31 Here.

32
33 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

34 Here.

35
36 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

37 Here.

09:31AM

38
39 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

40 Present, via Zoom.

41
42 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

43 Present.

44
45 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

46 Here.

47
48 **CLERK TASSONE:**

49 *Nine.*

09:31AM

50
51 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

52 Okay. I see there's no correspondence. We'll open the **Public**
53 **Portion.** I see we have, so far, one speaker; we have Thomas Moran.

1 **THOMAS MORAN:**

2 Good morning, Legislators. How are you? My name is Thomas Moran,
3 I am the Executive Vice-President for Suffolk County AME. I'm here
4 today to speak -- the last meeting of your committee there were
5 some facts brought forward; AME believes that those don't really
6 represent some of the issues that are going on. President Levler
7 is aware of those issues and he is working with the Administration
8 to get resolved for this unique community that we have at our 911
9 centers and their issues.

09:32AM 10

11 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

12 Thank you. Any questions from anyone? No? Thank you so much for
13 the update, we appreciate it.

14
15 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

16 Tom, can -- I have a question real quick. Tom -- and I think
17 you're aware that Legislator Flotteron and I are doing what we can
18 to, you know, support those workers and the AME in your mission to
19 get some of those problems straightened out. And, you know, please
20 continue to communicate with us and let us know what we can do.

21
22 **THOMAS MORAN:**

23 Certainly will. Any other questions? Thank you all. Have a great
24 day.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

27 Yeah, thank you.

28
29 Okay, I believe that's our last speaker for today.

09:32AM 30

31 On the resolution, there's no Appointment Resolutions. I would
32 like to make a motion to take out of order, before we do
33 presentation, to do the Introductory Resolution, because Legislator
34 Donnelly does have another meeting he wants to get to. He wants to
35 listen to the presentation but might not be able to stay the whole
36 time. I make a motion to move the Introductory Resolution.

37
38 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

39 Second.

09:33AM 40

41 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

42 Second by Legislator Mazzarella.

43
44 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

48 Okay. All yes?

49
50 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

51 Aye, yep.

52
53 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

54 Any nays? Abstentions, no?

1 **CLERK TASSONE:**

2 *Nine.*

3
4 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

5 Okay, the first resolution is *IR 1311(-22) - Appropriating funds in*
6 *connection with Renovations and Improvements to District Attorney*
7 *Facilities (CP 3530) (County Executive).* Do I hear a motion?

8
9 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

09:33AM 10 I'll make a motion.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

13 Motion by Legislator Bontempi.

14
15 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

16 Second.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

19 Second by Legislator Mazzarella. Anyone on the motion?

09:33AM

20
21 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

22 Cosponsor.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

25 Okay, cosponsor Emanuel Esteban. All in favor? Opposed?
26 Abstentions?

27
28 **CLERK TASSONE:**

29 *Nine.*

09:34AM

30
31 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

32 Nine, passed. Okay.

33
34 Okay, back to our agenda. We have a **Presentation** from the **Suffolk**
35 **County Police Department Marine Bureau.** I believe we're supposed
36 to have Officer Eric Johnson and Officer John (sic) Lan -- I'm
37 trying to pronounce the last name right; Lanzisera. Come on up.
38 Thank you.

39
40 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

41 Good morning.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

44 Good morning.

45
46 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

47 While he's bringing that up, I'll just let you guys know I'm
48 Officer Eric Johnson, 16 years in the Suffolk County Police
49 Department. I've been in the Marine Bureau now for the past seven.

50
51 **STENOGRAPHER MAHONEY:**

52 Can you please speak at the podium? Stand right here.

53
54 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

55 The first time I've ever had somebody say I'm not loud enough.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

2 We need it for the record and also for everybody to hear through
3 Zoom.

4
5 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

6 All right. Good morning, everybody. My name's Officer Johnson,
7 Eric Johnson, Suffolk County Marine Bureau. I've been in the
8 Marine Bureau for past seven years, 16 years on the Suffolk County
9 Police Department. I'm also a retired Boats and Mate Chief out of
09:35AM 10 the U.S. Coast Guard 22 years, so this is why I'm here. This is my
11 partner Joe Lanzisera, we work on the North Shore.
12

13 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

14 Good morning. I'm Officer Joe Lanzisera, I've been a Suffolk
15 County Police Officer about 19 years, I've been in the Marine
16 Bureau approximately five years.
17

18 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

19 All right. So, this morning we're talking about Marine Bureau.
09:35AM 20 A lot of people don't know what we do, what it is that we have to
21 go through, the training that we have. It's much like ES only in a
22 different aspect. We have a lot of different things that we do in
23 Marine Bureau. It's very dangerous operations; a lot of the times
24 when things go bad on the water, things go bad very quickly. So,
25 we have 24/7, 365, every single day we're out there. Our boats
26 have to run every single day, our personnel has to be trained.
27

28 Obviously we get a lot of retirements that come through, so now we
29 have to do a vigorous training with them as the new guys come in
09:36AM 30 from patrol. It is not like patrol at all, it is a complete
31 different animal, okay. You have to understand the waterways, you
32 have to understand navigation, you have to understand the boating
33 public, you have to understand your new AOR is not a street, a road
34 that's always there, street lights that guide you at night of where
35 to drive; no, this is on the waters, you have no lighting. You
36 have buoys that are lit. You have to know navigation, you have to
37 know how to operate a boat at night. You have to understand that
38 the tides and Mother Nature changes the waterways. So, after like
39 Sandy and such, we had new inlets open up, we had old inlets close,
09:37AM 40 we have different waterways that we have to travel through. So
41 it's a very tough environment for officers to work in.
42

43 Ninety-five percent of us are EMTs, we have to be, because we take
44 care of Fire Island. It's not like Nassau County that just has
45 waterways to cover, but we have Fire Island. We have residents
46 that live there 24/7, we have extreme amount of visitors that come
47 to Fire Island in the summertime. So, there's a lot of people on
48 board and we are their only EMTs, for the most part. There are
49 some volunteers on the Island, but for the most part we're it and
09:37AM 50 we are their transports on and off the Island. So, their best
51 means of getting off the Island to a regular ambulance on shore is
52 going to be through our vessels which are New York State Certified
53 ambulances, or through Aviation who we work with quite a bit.
54 They're there all summer long doing Medevacs.
55
56

1 This is our area. It just shows you what we have, our zone, what
2 we have to cover, okay. Suffolk County is a gigantic area, all
3 right? We have two boats on the North Shore, we are one of them,
4 we are the Bravo sector that covers the western end of the Long
5 Island Sound; and we have the Delta boat which covers Port Jeff,
6 okay, they also have the Port Jeff Ferry which is another situation
7 we'll talk about; and then on the South Shore we have three boats,
8 okay, that's the Juliette, Kilo and Mike that cover the Great South
9 Bay on the South Shore, and then we have trucks on the beach, okay.

09:38AM 10

11 So, as you know, the Police Department relies on speed. The
12 necessity for us to get somewhere is usually of extreme essence,
13 it's vital that we get there in a timely fashion. Well, it's not
14 like in a patrol car where you can drive 90 miles an hour with your
15 lights and sirens on and you're going to get where you need to be.
16 This is on the water, okay, so it's a big difference. Our -- it's
17 necessary that we have boats that are fast, boats that have smaller
18 drafts that can go into shallow waters, and it's necessary that we
19 can get from point A to point B in a timely fashion, which on the
20 water -- if any of you are familiar with boating -- is never fast,
21 okay.

09:39AM 22

23 So for us, the more placement we have of resources the better,
24 because we can't just go from Bellport Bay all the way to
25 Lindenhurst cut to help somebody that is sinking or having a heart
26 attack or their boat's on fire, like that. So we need to have more
27 assets available on the water. Currently Marine Bureau does not
28 have as much assets as we really would like to have.

09:40AM 29

30 This is just another overview of the water. This is our Marine
31 Bureau headquarters, okay. This is where we come out of in Timber
32 Point, this is where most of the work gets done on the boats and
33 the trucks get fixed. As you know, we have Tahoes, we have
34 F-250's, pick-up trucks, but you might drive that on the street and
35 it's going to last you 20 years; you drive a patrol car on the
36 street it'll last you 10 years before they're getting rid of them.
37 These boats and these trucks, they're driving on the beach, they're
38 around salt water, they're high maintenance, they break down all
39 the time. Salt water corrodes everything, salt water kills
40 everything including our guns, our gun belts, the clothes we wear.
41 So, there is a lot of maintenance that goes on at this facility.
42 This facility is very dated, and Sandy actually did a lot of damage
43 to this facility, but we need a lot of upgrades in there as well.
44 This is the front desk.

09:40AM 45

46 All right, some of our equipment that we use. The boats, okay.
47 Like I said, we need many different resources. You never know what
48 kind of job you're going to handle when you're out there on the
49 water, okay. Everybody thinks boating on the water is a nice day;
50 you're going to go out, you're going to relax, it's going to be in
51 the sun, you're going to go swimming. But when you're out there on
52 the water with your family, it could take a few seconds and all of
53 a sudden another boater that didn't see you now struck you and now
54 your boat is sinking, your family members are injured and you're
55 currently injured in the water; if not drowning, you're sinking,
56 okay. So, we never know what kind of resources we're going to

09:41AM

1 need. When we handle any call, it could be a fire fighting call.
2 Do we have fire fighting capabilities on the boat? Do they work?
3 Because a lot of times our fire fighting capabilities break. It's
4 a lot of maintenance to keep up with them.

5
6 Pumps, dewatering pumps. Okay, you're sinking, we don't want you
7 to sink, we want to have the ability to float your boat so that we
8 can safely bring your boat back into shore. If you're going to
9 need a tow, we have the capability of towing, we need tow posts,
09:42AM 10 line, tow reels, everything on the boat that we would need to
11 actually get you safely home. So, there's a lot of different
12 things, a lot of different missions.

13
14 You can see this is our Delta boat on the North Shore. This boat
15 is a 50-foot Sea Arc and it was designed to use for the ferry. So,
16 if we have to embark the ferry, we all have a changing world
17 nowadays, we all know what the world brings today, there's a lot of
18 uncertainty. Active shooters; active shooters on a ferry,
19 terrorist organizations trying to terrorize this country, domestic
09:43AM 20 terrorism, everything. So this boat was designed, it was paid for
21 with Coast Guard grant money and we use it every single day to be a
22 presence on the water by the ferry and if we need to get on the
23 ferry, bring ES onto the ferry, this is what that boat's used for.
24 It's a big boat, it's diesel engines, there's a lot of maintenance
25 to it, and we need to have sufficient crew to work this boat.
26 But it's available 24/7.

27
28 These are some of our other boats on the South Shore, go-fast
29 boats, obviously. We don't use the little Eco-boats anymore, but
09:43AM 30 we have other boats. We have unmarked Whalers that we use for BWI
31 prevention. This is one of our newest safe boats, 33-foot safe
32 boat. This is an ambulance boat, this is used mainly for
33 transports on Fire Island, so we can take the injured across to the
34 main land at Timber Point. The front door opens on the cabin,
35 we're able to slide a stretcher in. These are the types of boats
36 and vessels that we need down there that actually help us do our
37 job.

38
39 Fire fighting equipment. Like we said, this is the Pines. These
09:44AM 40 are remote areas, you can only access it by boat. So, the
41 firefighters, when we had the Cherry Grove fire, we had to bus them
42 across, we had to take them across by boat to get enough personnel
43 over there to actually fight these fires. So, we had main fire
44 pumps on the old Thomas boats, these are the boats from the 80s;
45 these boats are now decommissioned. We only have one remaining
46 boat left in service, so we are trying to replace these vessels.
47 But they had good fire fighting capability from the water, okay.

48
49 This is a marina fire. So, that's how quickly one boat, one
09:44AM 50 casualty that lights up on fire can now create a big hazard, and
51 this was in Patchogue. This was about seven, eight years ago. All
52 right? So now you have a big catastrophic event all with one boat
53 catching on fire and was inside the marina and now numerous boats
54 are on fire with fuel explosions and we've got to try and fight it
55 from the water side as well. Because the fire department can't
56 really get down here to these docks, so we need this capability.

1 All right, our medical transports. We're getting some bigger
2 boats. The 33s came in, we also have a 38-foot sea -- safe boat
3 that's coming in that we're going to utilize for medical transports
4 and also dive operations. There's not a lot of room on these
5 boats. Trying to get a person that's incapacitated on a backboard
6 trying to muscle them into this boat so that we can safely get them
7 across, it's not easy. These are older boats. These boats are 20
8 years old, so we're trying to upgrade them and get better platforms
9 for us to use.

09:46AM

10
11 This was the Setauket plane crash. This is actually the plane
12 crash that initiated our Aviation doing extra training now using
13 drop sticks; I don't know if you're familiar with that. But they
14 sat up there over -- one of the guys that were in the plane that
15 was drowning and there was nothing they could do because they had
16 no means of dropping a diver in the water like NYPD does, they had
17 no means of a basket hoist like the Coast Guard does. We utilize
18 the Coast Guard all the time, but you have to understand, the Coast
19 Guard has a 45-minute ETA any which way they're coming from; if
20 it's New Jersey or if it's Cape Cod, so that's 45 minutes. In this
21 kind of water, which I believe was about 34 degrees that day,
22 you've got about a 20-minute life expectancy inside 20-degree,
23 30-degree water. So, that's why our Aviation now came up with drop
24 sticks that they can at least thrown down some sort of life
25 preserver down to somebody that is swimming in the water. I've
26 seen it done, it's worked already in a couple of occasions.

09:46AM

27
28 This is just some of our encounters. Like I said, the water
29 changes all the time. Shallow water, these people are walking next
30 to their boat. So we need the shallow water response vessels also
31 to be able to get into these small areas. When you run aground on
32 a boat, it's basically like hitting a wall in a car, okay? If
33 you're not injured then you had a very lucky day. But a lot of the
34 times people are driving 30, 20 miles an hour, they hit aground,
35 they're getting injured, they're flying into the cockpit. So, we
36 need to be able to access these people. We're putting in place for
37 a hovercraft right now, we've had one for years and then it went
38 away about 12 years ago and we never got one back. So, we just put
39 in place that for a hovercraft, I believe it's waiting approval.
40 But these are the vessels that we need to get into these small
41 areas, to get into the Nissequoque River and different places up
42 here on the North shore that have shallow water.

09:47AM

09:47AM

43
44 That's another bad day, running aground, that's the ocean-side.

45
46 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

47 In the last year or so a lot of people went out and bought boats,
48 as a lot of you probably know, and a lot of them really have no
49 idea what they're doing. So they went out and bought a \$200,000
50 boat, 34, 35-foot boat. I don't know if any of you know, but when
51 the boat's up on -- when it's cruising it's up out of the water,
52 they look down they're in a foot of water and that's what happens,
53 and now we have to try to get to that person. In the past we've
54 had to call out, some of the fire departments have hovercrafts, but
55 that's an extended response, then, it takes a little bit longer.
56 So, it would be great if we had our own.

09:48AM

1 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

2 And they don't have the training like we do. The -- I'm one of the
3 trainers for the SMPVOC class that we do, it's a three-week class
4 for all Marine Bureau; we do Nassau County, Suffolk County, New
5 York State, Harbormasters, everything. And I work -- I'm
6 affiliated with Nassau County and Ed Michaels from East Hampton
7 Town, we run the class, and it's vigorous training and it's
8 comparable to Coast Guard training. So, that's what we do and this
9 is what we do for our officers and on the job we do it as well
10 continuously.

09:49AM

11
12 The fire department, they're volunteers, they don't do this kind of
13 training. So they don't really have that training and expertise to
14 be running boats and coming out here and trying to do this job.
15 They have enough to do on the land, never mind hopping on a boat
16 and now trying to do this. So we can't be reliant on the fire
17 department for this. We need to have our own resources. We're up
18 24/7, we have the fastest response times. And I've been talking to
19 the Coast Guard about this, too. They need to give grant money
20 more to the counties who have the faster response times to get to
21 these scenes than to give it to the fire department who now has to
22 call in their volunteers, get on a boat from wherever, pray that
23 the boat works because they're not using it every single day, and
24 these vessels need to be ran every day to make sure that they're
25 staying in good working condition.

09:49AM

26
27 So, like Joe was talking about, boat sales went up 200%. So, since
28 COVID they went up 200%. Everybody is not traveling anymore,
29 they're realizing they can have their own vacation on their own
30 boats. They're saving money from traveling and they're buying
31 boats, so there are a lot of boats on the water. Last year we did
32 over 2100 calls for assistance and 300 of them were waterway
33 incidents, okay. So that's a big uptick in waterway incidents and
34 a lot of those were search and rescue, okay. We work with the
35 Coast Guard.

09:50AM

36
37 The Coast Guard, I did 22 years in the Coast Guard. Back in the
38 day we handled everything; now the Coast Guard's giving away their
39 job. They can't give away their job fast enough. They're doing
40 grant money to everybody that is willing to take a boat and go out
41 and do search and rescue. And they're trying to train them if they
42 can, but a lot of these departments aren't asking for training,
43 they're just asking for boats and they say, *Okay, we can go do your*
44 *job*, and the Coast Guard's fine with this. But the problem is
45 they're not trained to do their job and they don't have the fastest
46 response times. So I've been talking to the Coast Guard directly
47 to try and get the grant money in the right places so that we can
48 get the assets we need to do our job more efficiently and faster.

09:50AM

49
50 So, there's just different things, different scenarios that we have
51 to train for that we do with our department. Because you get
52 situations like this, this was a boat that the guy fell overboard,
53 okay. Now, boating safety, we know, is an 8-hour class, okay.
54 It's an 8-hour class, a lot of people were doing it on-line. Is
55 that enough training? No, not at all. It's a good start in the
56 right direction, but you're not even teaching these people how to

09:51AM

1 drive or operate their boats. Okay? So if you don't know how to
2 operate the boat, we do have driver's ed which teaches people how
3 to drive their cars, but if you don't know how to operate the boat
4 what good is it. So, this guy was driving his boat erratically,
5 hit a wave, flew overboard. Didn't have his engine kill cord on,
6 okay, which would have at least killed the engine so the boat
7 didn't keep going. Now we have a runaway boat with nobody driving
8 it that we have to figure out how to stop. It almost hit a few
9 boats that were out there anchored and fishing and now it's a
09:52AM 10 danger to the public, so we have to be able to stop that boat and
11 then fish the guy out of the water that fell -- fell overboard.
12 Obviously we get him first, but, you know, these are some of the
13 things that we go about. And we train for this, okay, and this is
14 why we do our training.

15
16 Long Island Sound. The boat goes down, it goes down very quickly.
17 You're not dealing with the South Shore which is five to 10 feet of
18 water, now you're dealing with 95 feet of water. So, we need to
19 get there quickly, we need to be able to get an asset on scene and
09:52AM 20 get these people out of the water so that they're not drifting over
21 to Connecticut now and the search area is much bigger, much larger.
22 So, we have to have our bumps working, we have to have vessels that
23 have pumps on board at all times so we can get there and assist.
24 We do have good working relationships with Sea Tow and Tow Boat US
25 and different agencies that do that salvage, but a lot of the times
26 they're asking us to get out there for their customers because
27 their call volume is so high they can't get to their own customers
28 within a reasonable time.

29
09:53AM 30 Mid-summer squall, that rips -- ripped the sails right off that
31 boat, just a squall that came in, just like that. So a lot of
32 these times the boaters don't realize the weather reports, they
33 don't realize the Coast Guard's giving out weather reports that
34 they can -- they can hear on Channel 16. So, they're not educated
35 enough to realize that you need to see what kind of weather's
36 coming down the pipe later on.

37
38 BWIs; we all know BWIs are bad. They've been prominent for many,
39 many years. Everybody thinks they can hop on a boat and they can
09:53AM 40 drink and have fun and then they can drive that boat. Like I said,
41 there's no street signs, there's no lights, there's no double
42 yellow line that tells you you're on the right side of the channel.
43 There's buoys, there's lit buoys and you cannot see them when you
44 are impaired. It's hard enough when you're sober trying to drive a
45 boat out there in some of the conditions, never mind drinking.

46
47 This was a vessel that got struck in the rear; unfortunately, there
48 was two fatalities. The boat struck them, came right up over the
49 stern, right up over the boat and took a lady out that was sitting
09:54AM 50 on the stern of this boat. They were doing nothing wrong, it was
51 the other boater, okay. So, you never know. And then you have a
52 situation like this, now we have injuries, mass casualties and that
53 boat is sinking and this all goes fast. So, different things.
54 That's the side of the hole of another boat that got hit.

1 Hazards to navigation, they're out there all the time. People dump
2 a boat, people -- there's logs, there's pilings that we've hit.
3 You hit that on a boat, that's doing severe damage to your boat.
4 So we're out there patrolling 24/7 to check the waterways and make
5 sure that the waterways are always safe and secure for people to
6 navigate safely.

7
8 If I'm taking up too much time, let me know also. I don't know
9 what our timeframe is.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

12 You're good.

13
14 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

15 Okay. Accident investigations. So this is something that we are
16 trained to do. We have accident investigators that are State
17 certified. They have to respond to the boat. If there is an
18 accident that occurs, we have to investigate every situation for
19 it. I don't know if you guys were aware of the recent one up here
09:55AM 20 in Centerport a few years ago where the 12-year old boy died at the
21 scene? Yeah, I had to handle that accident investigation with my
22 old partner. It's a sad situation, but we have to figure out
23 everything that's going on that made that happen.

24
25 And then we pushed for laws to come into effect after that. So now
26 they're using prop guards at the sailing academies, right? That's
27 because of the legislation that we tried to push because of that
28 reason. They should have these prop guards, they're pulling little
29 kids up on board their boat all the time and that took place
09:56AM 30 because of you guys, okay. And we commend you for that, for
31 getting those laws in place so now they are using prop guards on
32 their vessels. But we have to find out what went wrong, we have to
33 find out why this situation occurred and then what we can do to
34 better it, and then that's when we go over and try push new
35 legislation to get it done and in effect.

36
37 This is some of the stuff that we have to deal with. We've got to
38 change a tire, we're not on the street changing tires. These
39 wheels fall off all the time, the rust, like I said, the salt water
09:56AM 40 destroys everything, you're driving on a beach. Now I'm changing a
41 tire in two-foot thick of sand, and not just out on the street on
42 the side of the highway somewhere. So we need good equipment just
43 to take care of our own vehicles. All right?

44
45 We have many different parks. Gilgo State Park, this is our -- we
46 cover this as well, so you can see the span that we have to cover
47 on the South Shore especially. This is Marine 1 Sector at Gilgo
48 State Park and he goes all the way up to the Fire Island/Robert
49 Moses Beaches. And then you have Marine 3 that covers all the way
09:57AM 50 out to Ocean Bay Park on Fire Island. So if Marine 1 and Marine 3
51 need to come together for a domestic incident or some sort of
52 incident that he's going to need an assist, you're talking 20,
53 30 minutes backup. So, this is why we need the personnel, this is
54 why we need the coverage. A lot of our problems now is manpower
55 shortage, so we can't fill these cars as much as we'd like to.
56 And all that is overtime and overtime budgets. All right.

1 We also have bike patrols. So we have bikes located -- because our
2 problem on Fire Island is trying to get from point A to point B.
3 You're talking about boardwalks. I don't know if any of you are
4 familiar with Fire Island, if you've visited the Island it's a
5 beautiful place to visit. But getting around, you're walking or
6 you're on boardwalks or you need very small vehicles, because the
7 boardwalks cannot -- are not suited for a big truck. So our F-250s
8 cannot really get down to a boardwalk to get to a house for someone
9 that is having a cardiac arrest or needs our assistance. So we
10 need little gators and little smaller machines to get up and down
11 these boardwalks. We have bikes that can get there, but then still
12 we have to be able to transport these patients to the boat so that
13 we can take them across or to the helicopter pad that we have in
14 numerous towns so we can Medevac them.

09:58AM

15
16 Heres the ATVs, we were on these yesterday. They're a lot of fun,
17 very dangerous, but this is --

18
19 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

20 We're starting to get everything in place for the summer. As a lot
21 of you probably know, we get extra seasonal officers from the
22 precincts. But even with them sometimes, I remember a time I was
23 out in Davis Park, that's one of the East End Fire Island
24 communities, and the ferries were coming in two-at-a-time
25 completely full, hundreds of people, a lot of them already were
26 drinking and I'm on the ferry dock by myself (*laughter*), and I'm
27 thinking if things go bad, you know -- it's like 20 minutes before
28 another cop can get there, but luckily a lot of them are off-duty
29 police officers, so --

09:58AM

30
31 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

32 Yeah, it's always nice to have them around.

33
34 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

35 -- I would hope they would help. But, you know, the more the
36 better. And we have to try to be very -- highly visible in the
37 summer. They want us on the ferry docks when the ferries coming
38 in, they want us out on the beach when people are out on the beach,
39 obviously they're bringing a cooler full of beer or White Claws or
40 whatever they drink, so we have to try to have a very big
41 omnipresence.

09:59AM

42
43 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

44 It's a very unique job. As you can see, there's a lot different
45 training that we have to do with a limited amount of personnel. We
46 only have 60 people and that's to cover five squads, two midnights
47 and three two-tour squads. So, there's a lot.

48
49 And then on top of that, in the wintertime we're getting sent,
50 dispatched to the precincts, so we'll lose a lot of our new guys to
51 the precincts to help cover in the wintertime and that's really
52 when we need to be doing our training to keep up-to-date with all
53 this stuff. And that's when we work on a lot of our equipment.

10:00AM

1 So, we are -- we're like the mailmen of the sea, you know, we go
2 through any weather. Nobody just breaks down on a nice day. We're
3 going out there in the snow, we're going out there in the rain,
4 we're going out there in the storms because that's when people are
5 getting in trouble, okay, because they didn't look at the weather
6 report.

7
8 This is what we see. This is our radar pictures, this is what
9 we're trying to navigate with. If you're in the fog you can't even
10 see the front of your boat, okay, you have to rely on your
11 equipment. So our boats need updated equipment, they need good
12 equipment on board so that we can get to you in a timely fashion
13 and safely, because if we don't get there then you don't get the
14 help that you need also. So, we have to make sure that our guys
15 know how to run this.

16
17 Fire Island Inlet. This place, our inlets -- Moriches Inlet,
18 Shinnecock Inlet, Fire Island Inlet; these inlets get very hairy at
19 times where we have to be able to get through here. And people go
20 off-shore and they get in trouble and then we need to get to them,
21 but the problem is the inlets are so volatile it can be nice
22 off-shore, but the inlets are eight to 10-foot seas. So, we have
23 to have an understanding of the inlets, how to navigate through
24 them and have a vessel that can safely get through it.

25
26 Hurricane Sandy, we all know about Hurricane Sandy and the damage
27 that that did and the months to follow. The new inlet, here's a
28 breach from the new inlet after Sandy. So, now you've got to learn
29 how to navigate this because now these local fisherman are going
30 out of this inlet to try and fish, so we have to be aware of this.
31 Luckily, Aviation does flybys like this and we get nice aerial
32 views so that we can see what the channels are doing and where the
33 sand has moved and how to try and navigate through this stuff.

34
35 All right, this was damaged Mt. Sinai Harbor. The boats were up so
36 high that when the tide went out it came down and this boat was
37 stuck on a piling because it just smashed right back down on the
38 piling. So a lot of the damage from Sandy which we've been
39 building and building and they've been doing a lot of work on Fire
40 Island to try and build up the shoreline, to try and hopefully
41 prevent this from reoccurring. But we know some day, someday soon
42 it's probably going to occur again.

43
44 Winter weather. This is our biggest challenge is the icy weather,
45 okay? Like I said, we have people that live all year round on Fire
46 Island; they need our assistance. We are the only EMTs. If
47 somebody is having a cardiac arrest, we have to be there, we have
48 to get across. We cannot break ice with a lot of the boats that we
49 have, so we have to secure more people, more personnel on the beach
50 so that they can get down the beach. And then we utilize Aviation
51 a lot because we're going to have to escort them to a platform
52 where they can safely get Medevac'd. Here's a nice picture of the
53 Great South Bay in the wintertime, you can see it's completely
54 frozen over trying to get through that.

1 This is us trying to get on patrol on a nice winter day, okay.
2 Just look the precincts have got to clean off their patrol cars,
3 we've got to clean off the boats so that we can see.
4 This is just cold water survival training that we do, okay. This
5 is our ice rescue sled. So, we utilize this when people go on the
6 ponds. So, locally we have a sled on our car that we drive for the
7 North Shore, we have sleds out in Port Jeff, we have sleds located
8 on the South Shore. So we can actually respond, and we try and
9 update the precincts because a lot of them don't realize we can
10 respond to people that fall on the ice. We do this training every
11 single year and we actually can go on the ice with the sled and
12 rescue personnel out. The more we have coverage, the more
13 personnel that we have out during the wintertime we can actually be
14 more local. I know the fire departments do it, too, and sometimes
15 they can get there faster than us as well. But it's just good to
16 know that we do this training and we have the equipment to do it.
17 But we have to do the upkeep of the equipment, which is costly,
18 okay. We have the suits, we have the collars and we have the sleds
19 and we do this training every year.

10:03AM

10:04AM

20
21 Man overboard recovery, okay. If anybody's ever pulled a person
22 out of the water before, it is a challenge. Trying to get somebody
23 that's my weight or heavier up and over the gunnel of a boat and
24 get them on safely without injuring them further; there's a lot of
25 different techniques, we practice that all the time.

10:05AM

26
27 This is our dive teams, dive team operation. We do a lot of work
28 with the dive team and we work with the precincts. If they need to
29 find something that was tossed in the water, cars that go into the
30 water all the time off the ramp, we've had that numerous times on
31 both the North Shore and the South Shore. Traffic accidents, down
32 in Lindenhurst rounding a corner or Browns Boulevard up here in
33 Huntington, rounding the corner, these cars go shooting off into
34 the water, okay. That's when we get the called, we have to -- we
35 have the means of getting a diver in the water and hopefully
36 fishing out any people that are still inside the vehicle and also
37 have the means of hooking up a tow with a local company so we can
38 get the chains around the car so they can actually pull it and
39 extract it out of the water. This dive van is about 22 years old.
40 It's beat up, it needs a lot of work, a lot of maintenance; we
41 could actually use a new one. But there's a lot of equipment.
42 The dive suits, the tanks, equipment for them.

10:05AM

43
44 And this is more training that we do in the wintertime. So, here's
45 an example of a car that went into the water. It happens all the
46 time. Trucks and trailers, they trailer their boat in the
47 summertime, they forget to put the e-brake on and the next thing
48 they know they're putting their boat in the water and their truck's
49 following them. It happens all the time, you know.

10:06AM

50
51 We also do a lot of side-scan sonar, so when we're searching for
52 bodies in the water or boats that have sunk, this is -- we have the
53 capabilities. We just bought a ROV unit which was just grant money
54 given to us that we were able to get which is another unit that
55 goes around and helps us find things in the water. So, you can see
56 the side-scan sonar pictures.

1 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

2 That's actually a very good picture. A lot -- most times it
3 doesn't look that clear.

4
5 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

6 Yeah, that's very good.

7
8 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

9 -- if the water is murky or deep.

10:06AM 10

11 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

12 Ideal situation.

13
14 All right, Flight TWA. This was a big event in '96. I was in the
15 Coast Guard for this, they had Marine Bureau for this, they were
16 the first boats on scene. We need big boats. As you can see, our
17 big boat out there was those Thomas boats, those 38 to 40-foot
18 Thomas boats; those are all decommissioned. We don't have big
19 boats like that anymore except for the big 50-footer. So we need
20 to be cognizant of this, that it could absolutely occur again.
21 We had Sullenberger go into the water over there in the Hudson
22 which was a big multi-agency event, okay. That was a miracle on
23 the water for sure, nobody got injured. But that's a big event and
24 we can have that happen here, too. We have LaGuardia, we have
25 different airports on the South Shore that definitely this could
26 reoccur. So, we have to be aware, we have to have the platform to
27 actually be able to get out there and know that we're going to be
28 out there for days and months. Here's some more images.

10:07AM 20

10:07AM 30

31 All right, Homeland Security. Like I was talking about before, we
32 do a lot of security, we do work with the ES, we do training with
33 ES and we have to be able to safely get them on board ferries.
34 God forbid we have an active shooter on the ferry or if we have an
35 active shooter down on Fire Island. I know we were concerned with
36 the Pines and Cherry Grove after the incident in Florida with an
37 active shooter. So, we have to be cognizant of this and we have to
38 be able to have a response, and we also have to be able to have the
39 rifles to be able to get there and not have to wait for the
40 precinct and not have to wait for ES for some certain people to get
41 there because that's time consuming. We have to wait for them to
42 respond to us and then take them across the water. So, other
43 things that we have to think about.

10:08AM 40

44 An airboat, we had this, we're getting another one, like I talked
45 about before. Tactical operations with ES and boarding the
46 ferries. And our medevacs; we do this all the time, all summer
47 long, we're dealing with medevacs left and right. Aviation is
48 phenomenal. The way they work with us, they're phenomenal, we do
49 training all the time. We've actually been practicing ice rescue
50 with them as well for the winter times where they can get to areas
51 that we can't, and -- they're running 24/7 with us. Not only are
52 they helping the precincts out, but we're doing medevacs all the
53 time because we have these people that get injured or we have a
54 cardiac arrest in Davis Park, the Pines, anywhere out east, they're
55 not getting quickly off land. So, the boat is not fast enough and
56 a lot of the times we don't have the capabilities. They have a

10:09AM 50

1 paramedic on board, they can work on them while they're in the
2 helicopter and they can get them to Stony Brook or a really good
3 hospital in a timely manner. So they're running constantly with
4 us.

5
6 Maritime Search and Rescue, we'll use them to help us search for a
7 vessel all the time. So now we get a call of that boat taking on
8 water or a boat that's on fire, who's going to get there first?
9 Aviation. All the time, if they've got a bird up they can get
10 there in a very quick ETA and they can actually pinpoint their
11 location so that we know exactly where we're going.

12
13 On the water there's a lot of different things. Like we work on
14 the North Shore. Asharoken, okay, you can be on the inside bay, if
15 you're familiar with Asharoken, or you can be on the Long Island
16 Sound side. There's a big difference if you're going to one side
17 or the other and the time it takes you to get around the point of
18 Eaton's Neck. So, if you think you're going to the bay side but
19 they're really on the ocean side, now it's a big difference in
20 time, okay. That can happen over at the Pines on the South Shore.
21 They might say they're at the Pines, but maybe they're on the ocean
22 side, so that's a big difference. So Aviation gets there very
23 quick for us, they can pinpoint their location and take a lot of
24 time out of us trying to figure out where they are. All right?

25
26 So, they also used to help us with medevacs, now they don't have
27 that capability anymore, that's why we do training with the Coast
28 Guard because the Coast Guard has that capability. But like I
29 said, they're a 45-minute ETA either way, whether they're coming
30 from Atlantic City or Cape Code; that's the only two places the
31 Coast Guard will dispatch their helicopters on the east. So, but
32 we do do the training.

33
34 Here's the view from our office, okay, a little bit different than
35 your office, but this is what we get to work with. All right? Sea
36 plane operations, they land all the time. I think we had McMahon's
37 kid land offshore in his helicopter before because they broke down,
38 we had to get safely to him. It might be bad in the Inlet, but who
39 does that attract? These guys on the jet skis, they live on the
40 edge. So we've got to get out there and save them when they flip
41 over and damage themselves, their back injuries, neck injuries,
42 shoulder injuries because they want to go jump waves.

43
44 Fire Island Lighthouse. Okay, special events, fireworks. We'll
45 have hundreds of boats in the Great South Bay to look at the
46 fireworks. You know, trying to navigate through that, trying to
47 get to a boat that has an issue, this is -- this is a timely
48 fashion trying to get to people on the water. So, it's a big
49 problem for us. The more assets we have on the water the better we
50 can assist the public. That just goes to show you right here how
51 many boats are on the water. Those are mostly boats; that's in the
52 Copiague area. Those are all little radar pictures of boats in the
53 area, so that's what we're dealing with.

54
55 This is our restricted visibility in the fog. We need to be able
56 to get places in the fog as well, we can't see where we're going.

1 So, marine life, we deal with that as well, okay. We're getting a
2 lot of the marine life now, the waters have been clearing up
3 substantially, so we've been dealing with that, too.

4
5 Here's just a picture of the Schooner Inn, Ocean Bay Park, that's
6 in the summertime. This is the kind of crowd my partner was
7 talking about. You might be by yourself on the dock for this and
8 you get a fight that breaks out between a couple of people and it
9 turns into a big melee and now you're waiting for backup, all
10 right. So, this is what happens. We are extremely outnumbered.
11 Okay? This is some of the boats, Miss Fire Island, Cherry Grove,
12 they have a lot of events over there that attract a lot of people.
13 All right, Gilgo, we don't need to get into that. But that was
14 another --

15
16 (*Laughter*)

17
18 -- big incident that took a lot of manpower.

19
20 Nature, we deal with them all the time. We also have to learn to
21 talk to the animals, okay, they have problems, too.

22
23 (*Laughter*)

24
25 All right? I think this was a town meeting; it might have been a
26 Public Safety hearing.

27
28 So, "*Long Island man blows his boat up and then stabs himself to*
29 *death*", this was a suicide-by-cop incident that we had to deal
30 with. This was a long time ago, but seven injured cops after this
31 situation, okay. Everything happens out there on the water.

32
33 This was a situation that I was involved, we saved this man who
34 went out in November fishing by himself, flipped his boat in the
35 Inlet trying to come back in, he was by himself. Nobody knew what
36 happened to him. I happened to be doing a patrol on the beach on
37 that day and saved this guy's life because I saw his boat upside
38 down in the Inlet. And if I didn't go there that day to see this
39 guy he was dead, because it was cold, the water temp was
40 45 degrees. I put it over, we had Aviation go because I didn't
41 know if there was somebody on board or if it was just a derelict
42 vessel. Aviation spotted the guy, he was in the water, he was
43 holding on to a life jacket, he wasn't even wearing a life jacket.
44 There was 10-foot seas through the Inlet that day and this guy
45 didn't even bother to put on a life jacket while he was going to
46 try and attempt to transit back in.

47
48 Luckily, we saved this guy's life, him and I are still very good
49 friends. He had three daughters, they were very appreciative of us
50 finding him that day and we were able to navigate out the Inlet and
51 pull him out of the water and get him safely medevac'd and it saved
52 his life. This was a few years ago in November. So, it happens
53 all the time.

1 If you need to contact us, we monitor Channel 16, VHF, 911
2 obviously, and the Marine Bureau desk, 854-8382. Any questions you
3 might have.

4
5 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**
6 Anybody have any questions for us?

7
8 **LEG. FLEMING:**
9 *(Raised hand).*

10:15AM 10
11 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
12 Yes. One, thank you. A very thorough presentation. I've been
13 here five years, I didn't even know some of the things you actually
14 do, so I'm glad we had you here.

15
16 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
17 A lot of people don't.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
10:15AM 20 I think every so often, especially when we have new members, we
21 need to do this. Just a couple of clarifications I just want to --
22 on the barrier beaches, so it's the Marine Bureau is the one who
23 does the policing on the barrier beaches, it's not the -- you know,
24 the 1st, the 3rd or the 5th.

25
26 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
27 It's all Marine Bureau.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
30 It's all Marine Bureau.

31
32 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
33 Yep.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
36 The other thing I know when I was in the Town, sometimes there's a
37 confusion of in the bay; is it Harbor Police, is it Marine Bureau
38 or is it Coast Guard? Is there certain responsibilities, certain
39 territories when -- like who do you call?

10:16AM 40
41 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
42 Well, number one, the Coast Guard is responsible for everything
43 that happens on the water, they are responsible. If it's an oil
44 spill, if it's a boat accident, a vessel taking on water, any need
45 of assistance. Coast Guard is the Federal agency in charge of
46 everything, they are responsible, okay. But they task us to do
47 their job. So, obviously in the Police Department we handle 911
48 calls, we handle these calls. So, it's our responsibility to get
49 out there and save these people.

10:16AM 50
51 If it's the harbormasters; they're not responsible. They're an
52 extra entity that's paid for by the town to have an asset
53 available, but it's not really their responsibility. It's not even
54 really our responsibility because it's on the water, so it's
55 Federal. But we do handle that and we need to have the assets to
56 handle it because we're on the water 24/7. The Coast Guard will

1 take 30 to 40 minutes to get underway, okay. They have to do a lot
2 of safety protocols, they have to do -- they have a sit down and
3 they talk and they discuss the mission and they discuss the
4 equipment they're going to need. And there's a lot of different
5 protocols in the Coast Guard that you have to go through before you
6 even get underway on a boat. I've been there, I've done it, I know
7 how long it takes them.

8
9 So us, we go. This is what we signed up to do, this is what the
10 police officers do. We risk our lives every day to save the
11 public, this is what we do. We signed up for, we're not going to
12 think about it, we're going to get on our boat and we're going to
13 go, and hopefully we have the asset that works, hopefully our
14 equipment is functioning that day and we know where we're going and
15 we can safely get to you. But that's what we do. We're not
16 waiting around, we're leaving, we're patrolling 24/7. Joe and I
17 hop on the boat in the morning and we go to different places and we
18 patrol and we're trying to be available, but we never know where
19 that call is going to come over. And as you saw on the map that we
20 showed you, we have a huge area to cover, so we never really know
21 where to be, that's why the more assets are better.

22
23 Having the harbormasters out there, that's great, but if they're
24 properly trained. A lot of them have been going through my class,
25 which is good, so we can train all in unity and everybody knows the
26 job that needs to get done. But we don't train the fire
27 departments, and a lot of them have boats, too. So they're a whole
28 nother animal that's trying to go out and they hear the call and
29 they're trying to do something and they might not even have the
30 asset to do it in. And now they might become another hazard
31 because now we got two victims instead of one, so.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

34 Gotcha. And also, our Marine Bureau here, it's just the five
35 western towns, the eastern towns have their own version --

36
37 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

38 Yes.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

41 -- with their police department.

42
43 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

44 Yes, correct. But we do go out to Riverhead out east because they
45 don't have anything on the North Shore, Southold and Riverhead;
46 they don't really have access on the North Shore. So our Port Jeff
47 boat will take that run, it's like an hour run to get out to them.

48
49 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

50 And also, is there certain things in the capital this year or next
51 year that we should be aware of that is a rather large expense but
52 it's much needed? Maybe a chance to bring that up.

53
54 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

55 Like I said, we have a 38-foot safe boat that's already in place,
56 the funding was already set, it's already being in production.

1 Unfortunately, the way everything has been with COVID and now
2 inflation and things -- not being able to get materials, our
3 engines for that boat are on a one-year wait. So we're scheduled
4 to get those engines in March of next year, so we're not going to
5 have that boat available until next summer.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

8 Okay.

9
10 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

11 Like I said, we also have the hovercraft which is much needed for
12 us to get into small areas. I believe it's waiting for approval.

13
14 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

15 I think we approved it.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

18 I think we approved it. So it must be --

19
20 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

21 Okay, excellent.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

24 Okay. I also see Legislator Thorne has a question.

25
26 **LEG. THORNE:**

27 Hey, Officers. How are you? Can you hear me okay?

28
29 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

30 Yes.

31
32 **LEG. THORNE:**

33 Great. I do have a couple of questions for you. I'm the
34 Vice-Chair of Fire Rescue and I am a little concerned. So, you
35 folks are all EMTs. The EMT basics?

36
37 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

38 Yes.

39
40 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

41 Correct.

42
43 **LEG. THORNE:**

44 So when you go to the cardiac arrest that you're -- you have
45 brought up a few times during your report -- and a very thorough
46 report, by the way, thank you for it -- who is providing advanced
47 life support for these folks?

48
49 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

50 Aviation --

51
52 **LEG. THORNE:**

53 Advanced life support.

54
55 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

56 Aviation has advanced life support. We also have CCs, we have some

10:19AM

10:19AM

1 MedCAT units.

2

3 **LEG. THORN:**

4 You have MedCats out there?

5

6 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

7 We have MedCATs for Marine Bureau.

8

9 **LEG. THORNE:**

10 Okay.

11

12 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

13 So, we do have that. And there are local fire departments, so --
14 but most of them are EMTs.

15

16 **LEG. THORNE:**

17 Right.

18

19 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

10:20AM 20 They don't really have -- some communities, like Fire Island Pines
21 has their own doctor that lives out there, and I believe some of
22 the towns bring out some EMTs, but that's pretty much it. We don't
23 really have anything more than that, no paramedics available.

24

25 **LEG. THORNE:**

26 So we have, really, a lack of advanced life support available for
27 early advanced life support and traumatic events; is that correct?

28

29 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

10:20AM 30 Correct.

31

32 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

33 We have some resources, but we could definitely use some more.

34

35 **LEG. THORNE:**

36 All right. And if -- are any of the ALS providers through the
37 Police Department be sent to MedCAT units?

38

39 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

10:21AM 40 No.

41

42 **LEG. THORNE:**

43 Okay.

44

45 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

46 Just --

47

48 **LEG. THORNE:**

10:21AM 49 You mentioned the transportation -- were you going to say
50 something? I cut you off.

51

52 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

53 I think you're alluding to that; if not, this is in reference to
54 that. A lot of times when we do have a medical transport, if we're
55 a two-man boat crew, usually you have the operator of the boat, the
56 second officer is the lookout, making sure there's no other boats

1 or jet skis or, you know, obstructions, whatever. But now you have
2 a patient on board, too, so you're trying to take care of that
3 patient. And now we have this whole -- the PCR, the Patient Care
4 Report that we do is electronic now. So, in addition to those
5 other functions, now we have to try to enter all the patient's
6 vitals, and as you know, all the information that's on the PCR into
7 the computer. So it's going to be a challenge going forward.

8
9 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

10 Never mind you're doing that on a boat.

11
12 **LEG. THORN:**

13 Right, trying to get regular paper and pen on a boat is
14 challenging.

15
16 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

17 Right, right.

18
19 **LEG. THORNE:**

20 And my concern is to be able to provide, as you folks know, the
21 best chance of survival for anybody --

22
23 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

24 Right.

25
26 **LEG. THORNE:**

27 -- in a traumatic or cardiac-related scenario, you referred to
28 cardiac arrest numerous times, is early advanced cardiac life
29 support --

30
31 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

32 A lot of times --

33
34 **LEG. THORNE:**

35 -- providers, so.

36
37 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

38 I'm sorry. A lot of times the EMT, a lot of the transports we do
39 are from Ocean Beach on Fire Island.

40
41 **LEG. THORNE:**

42 Right.

43
44 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

45 A lot of times the EMT will jump on board with us, so that is
46 somewhat of a help.

47
48 **LEG. THORN:**

49 Oh, good.

50
51 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

52 But it's -- yeah, that's great, it's not always guaranteed, though.

53
54 **LEG. THORN:**

55 We need to -- maybe we should have a conversation about that in the
56 Fire Rescue Committee to make sure that we deal with that.

1 You did mention you transport firefighters or firemen. I believe
2 we have a contract with the ferry companies to transport them as
3 well.

4
5 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
6 Yes.

7
8 **LEG. THORNE:**
9 Is that not correct?

10:22AM

10
11 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
12 Yes. No, I believe they do, still.

13
14 **LEG. THORNE:**
15 All right. And beach-front communities, say you handle Fire
16 Island -- and a really thorough report and I appreciate it, but
17 when we have beach-front areas that are owned by the County and a
18 lot of these complaints that we get in most of the South Shore
19 communities is, you know, loud parties, they go over the dunes with
20 the four-wheel F-250 and, you know, maybe light some bonfires,
21 stuff like that. Is that something your division is able to handle
22 as well, or is that something more that -- well, let's leave it
23 there. Can your division handle these type of complaints?

10:23AM

24
25 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
26 Yes. Our division handles these complaints all the time.

27
28 **LEG. THORNE:**
29 All right.

30
31 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
32 Noise complaints, fires. You know, we can write --

33
34 **LEG. THORNE:**
35 So the end of Grove, the end of Pine Neck in my district, that area
36 where we have a lot --

37
38 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
39 Yes, yes.

40
41 **LEG. THORNE:**
42 -- of parties going on.

43
44 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**
45 And we can write the summonses to Town Code just like any sort of
46 town officer that would be down there as well.

47
48 **LEG. THORNE:**
49 All right, great.

50
51 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
52 But like I said, we prioritize our calls --

53
54 **LEG. THORNE:**
55 Oh, of course.

56

1 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

2 -- so that call might be waiting for a while if we have a cardiac
3 arrest and not as much manpower on the beach that we need.

4
5 **LEG. THORN:**

6 Yeah, of course, that makes perfect sense to use a priority system.
7 Why would you chase somebody with a beer can when somebody's having
8 a heart attack?

9
10 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

11 Right.

12
13 **LEG. THORNE,**

14 Makes perfect sense to me.

15
16 I think all my questions were answered. I appreciate it. I didn't
17 know if MedCAT units were out there, but that is huge. And maybe
18 we should touch base on a different level -- refer the Chair, of
19 course -- involving everyone to get you some more advanced life
20 support out there, whether it's with contracted hospitals or our
21 911, great fire department and EMS units. We need to get more
22 advanced life support before the summer ends.

23
24 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

25 Yeah, we do.

26
27 **LEG. THORNE:**

28 Because you guys are going to be running with a lot of EMS jobs
29 with no ALS, and that's a concern that does not save lives. And no
30 hit to the basic EMT, I was a basic EMT for half my career before I
31 became an ALS provider, so I get it, but we definitely need them.
32 So, I yield back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33
34 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

35 Mr. Chairman, may I -- may I comment, please?

36
37 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

38 Yes; Legislator Bontempi.

39
40 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

41 Very, very briefly. Thank you for an excellent presentation. Very
42 alarming, though, that we have so much water and we have so little
43 manpower and equipment. So, I just want to state I am in support
44 of whatever you need to make --

45
46 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

47 Thank you.

48
49 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

50 Make it safer for you --

51
52 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

53 Thank you.

54
55 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

56 -- and for all of us who live here. Thank you.

1 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
2 We appreciate that. Thank you.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
5 Legislator Fleming.

6
7 **LEG. FLEMING:**
8 Thank you. Thank you for your excellent presentation. I represent
9 the East End, so a couple of questions on that.

10:25AM 10
11 Well, first of all, we did get -- we did get you the hovercraft,
12 we passed a resolution for \$125,000 in April of last year, so the
13 County Executive signed it so you should be --

14
15 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**
16 Excellent.

17
18 **LEG. FLEMING:**
19 Yeah, you should be getting that.

10:25AM 20
21 The -- how do you interact with the Sheriff's -- the Marine Patrol
22 Unit of the Sheriff's Department?

23
24 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
25 We don't really interact with them too much; they cover their area
26 out east and we cover ours. The South Shore boat might have that
27 borderline where they interact with them and occasionally do a call
28 with them, but we don't have too much interaction.

10:26AM 29
30 **LEG. FLEMING:**
31 So the East End Marine Task Force, you don't -- I mean, I think
32 there's -- I know Coast Guard is involved, I know Sheriff's patrol
33 is involved. You don't have any interaction with that?

34
35 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
36 No, we have no interaction with them. I'm trying to dis -- that's
37 Ed Michaels and Andrew Jack, I believe, right? Yeah. I'm trying
38 to have a discussion with the Coast Guard to see if -- myself and
39 Ed Michaels have been bringing this up to them to see if we can get
10:26AM 40 a West End task force, and maybe we can get a boat provided on the
41 West End so that us and Nassau County can have joint operations on
42 the West End, especially if we needed to go into the City as well.

43
44 **LEG. FLEMING:**
45 Where is that conversation happening?

46
47 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
48 It's been happening locally. We've had some communication with
49 Long Island Sound, Sector Long Island Sound and they've come to our
10:27AM 50 facility at Timber Point and we've had discussions. We're
51 constantly discussing with them because the SMPVOC class that we
52 train and we conduct twice a year is approved by them and it's
53 mandatory for a lot of these agencies to come through that class
54 now, because it is Coast Guard approved. So we deal with them on a
55 regular basis.

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**

2 It would be good to explore. Certainly the interdiction work that
3 the East End Marine Patrol does is really productive in terms of
4 contraband and occasionally individuals, you know, who are not --
5 don't wish us well and are coming through the waterways, it's
6 critically important. So, to the extent that I can be supportive
7 of that, if you could keep me posted that would be terrific, and my
8 office will follow-up.

9
10 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

11 Well, if I can add to that, too. There's a lot that comes with
12 inquiring a boat like that. You need a bigger boat, you need like
13 a 50-foot boat that can handle the seas, handle the weather, get
14 out there for a long period of time, spend eight hours on the boat.
15 We do radiation detection, we are equipped and trained for
16 radiation detection. A lot of the Coast Guard grants, they want
17 you to have the Sea Born package on the boat so you can do
18 radiation detection. But we also need to find a place to put that
19 vessel.

20
21 So, that's the other thing; you'd need to harbor a spot, a dock
22 space. Huntington would probably be *the* best location, right
23 inside Huntington Harbor. I've been talking to Fred Uvena with the
24 Harbormasters. I know we've been going back and forth trying to
25 see if we can get the docks over by Coindre Hall built up. It's a
26 beautiful response place. The response time for us -- right now
27 we're tucked away in Northport over by LIPA, but a lot of the calls
28 happen inside the harbors, Northport and Huntington Bay, and even
29 Cold Spring Harbor. So for us to get around Eaton's Neck,
30 especially if it's choppy and it's bad weather out on the Sound, it
31 increases our response time a lot. So, going back and forth to the
32 Harbormasters, Coindre Hall, that area right there that's
33 underutilized, is a prime location for response for fire
34 department, Coast Guard, police departments, harbormasters,
35 everything. It's a perfect location because that's where
36 everything happens.

37
38 If you look at where Coast Guard stations are primarily located,
39 they're located in all the best areas for response. So Eaton's
40 Neck is situated right there in that location because it is the
41 mid-point between their AOR; so they can go east or they can go
42 west and they're right in the middle. So this is what we need to
43 look at, too. But to get a boat, to discuss that we would need a
44 location to put this boat.

45
46 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

47 That spot near Coindre Hall, too, is a great spot for visibility.
48 In addition to response time, everybody going in and out of the
49 harbor that might have a day planned of going out drinking, they're
50 going to see the Police boat, they're going to see the Harbormaster
51 boat and they might think twice about it, you know, being that
52 we're right there.

53
54 **LEG. FLEMING:**

55 Yeah, for sure. And we haven't discussed Coindre Hall at all.

(*Laughter*)

1
2
3 That's a joke.

4
5 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**
6 I know.

7
8 **LEG. FLEMING:**
9 (*Laughter*) So, just a couple of other quick questions. So do you
10 have amphibious marine craft? Maybe I missed it. When you do your
11 beach patrols, do you have anything that can get you out on the
12 water right away?

13
14 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
15 No, nothing.

16
17 **LEG. FLEMING:**
18 Oh. Is that something that would be useful?

19
20 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
21 To actually go from off-shore to help, let's say, the lifeguards on
22 Robert Moses, something like that? Yes, to be able to deploy
23 something from the beach would be excellent.

24
25 **LEG. FLEMING:**
26 Because I think our Sheriff uses those little -- they're little
27 amphibious, two-man vessels, vehicles.

28
29 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**
30 The boat with the wheels on it that you're -- yeah. It's
31 interesting. I've heard the reliability, though, is not the
32 greatest; I don't know if it's just theirs or just that type of
33 both in general. I'm sure there's better ones.

34
35 **LEG. FLEMING:**
36 Interesting. Yeah, just wondering.

37
38 And when you're talking about where to house vessels, the Timber
39 Point facility, you talked about the Sandy damage. Are you -- are
40 you anticipating any ongoing damage from climate change, from sea
41 level rise, from flooding, any impacts that you're seeing right now
42 or anticipate in the near future?

43
44 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**
45 We actually have some issues right now with some of the docks.
46 In one of those photos it showed the boat lift that goes out onto
47 these two cement docks and straps one of the boat, those are in
48 need of repair. I think there is some -- I don't know if there's
49 any legislation or some bids to get that repaired, but stuff like
50 that is always ongoing. You know, like Officer Johnson said, right
51 on the water we take a beating, everything does, the equipment, the
52 boats, the trucks, the docks, the bulkhead, everything.

53
54 **LEG. FLEMING:**
55 One thing that we're seeing out east is with sea level rise, you
56 know, docks have to be adjusted. The Shelter Island ferry dock has

1 had to be moved at some considerable cost because the ramp was no
2 longer accessible because of sea level rise. So, we do have an
3 ongoing Coastal Resiliency Management Plan that's identifying 21
4 coastal assets that are threatened by climate change. So my office
5 will follow up, maybe there is an opportunity there to talk about
6 proactive investment to try to make sure your boats can get in and
7 out.

8
9 And just my very last question, how did you stop the runaway boat?

10:32AM 10
11 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

12 That's some good training right there. There's a technique,
13 there's a couple of different techniques that we go over. One was
14 to put a line out, so extend our tow-line out to float it behind
15 the vessel to hook it up so it would follow the props and then that
16 would stop the vessel. That worked in that situation, but there
17 was another situation I had on the Long Island Sound where it
18 didn't work. You wouldn't think this happens a lot, but it
19 actually does. So, it didn't work so now we actually had to pace
10:33AM 20 the boat, get alongside of it and transport personnel over to kill
21 the -- kill the engine that way. So, definitely a hazard.

22
23 **LEG. FLEMING:**

24 They boarded the boat?

25
26 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

27 Yes.

28
29 **LEG. FLEMING:**

10:33AM 30 Wow.

31
32 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

33 And we trained for this. In the SMPVOC class that I teach, we
34 actually train personnel transports at high rates of speed. So,
35 we do that.

36
37 **LEG. FLEMING:**

38 Well, thank you. Thank you for everything you do to keep us safe.

39
10:33AM 40 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

41 Thank you.

42
43 **LEG. FLEMING:**

44 Appreciate it. Thank you.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

47 I'm sort of envisioning that James Bond scene there that you're
48 doing.

49
10:33AM 50 *(*Laughter*)*

51
52 We have Legislator Trotta has a question.

53
54 **LEG. TROTТА:**

55 Yeah, did you ever -- I mean, I boat over there by Eaton's Neck.
56 Did you ever talk to the Coast Guard about putting the boat there?

1 At theirs? They have a big dock.

2

3 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

4 We have talked to them. There's not a lot of space there, between
5 the boats that they have. And they actually just recently had an
6 issue with their channel, actually, having to be dredged because
7 their channel is now moving. It's a very narrow channel and it's a
8 pretty hazardous channel.

9

10:34AM

10 **LEG. TROTТА:**

11 They just dredged it like a month ago.

12

13 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

14 What's that?

15

16 **LEG. TROTТА:**

17 It was just dredged -- they dredged like a month-and-a-half ago.

18

19 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

20 Yeah.

10:34AM

21

22 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

23 Yes, yes, they just did it, because they couldn't even leave their
24 45-foot boat in there because it wasn't able to get out. So, I
25 think that would just be one more issue that would kind of hinder
26 our response.

27

28 **LEG. TROTТА:**

29 Well, if their 45-foot boat could get out you guys can get out,
30 right?

10:34AM

31

32 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

33 We can.

34

35 **LEG. TROTТА:**

36 Okay, Thank you.

37

38 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

39 Okay. I think we are complete. Any other questions?

10:34AM

40

41 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

42 Just one more.

43

44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

45 Legislator Esteban.

46

47 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

48 All right. Thanks for the presentation, learned a lot here.

49

10:34AM

50 So, when a 911 -- when a person calls 911 for help, can you explain
51 to me how it's determined which asset will be deployed, which
52 agency or entity? Is it the 911 dispatcher, or how does that whole
53 thing happen, like who responds? How do you know?

54

55 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

56 Well -- okay. So, how it typically happens is 911 gets called, the

1 dispatcher -- just like in the precinct, the dispatcher, it gets --
2 911 goes to our dispatchers, the County dispatchers in
3 Headquarters. Headquarters is going to reach out to Marine Bureau,
4 put it over the command band, which is the band that we're on with
5 Highway, and we're going to answer up and let them know who's
6 responding, okay. There are certain sectors. So like I said, we
7 are Bravo sector, that's the North Shore, so if it's in our area of
8 responsibility we're going to be responding.

10:35AM

9
10 What we do from there is up to us. That's our determination. If
11 there's another boat, another asset we're going to need, if we're
12 going to notify Coast Guard, if we're going to notify a
13 harbormaster, if we're going to notify Connecticut because they can
14 meet us on the other side or I know they have a 45-foot jet boat
15 that can come across.

10:36AM

16
17 Connecticut actually has a paramedic on board their vessel 24/7 in
18 the summertime, so that -- it's a good piece of knowledge for us to
19 know because if we have some issue, they can quickly come across
20 the water; a lot of the times they're in the area, it's a quick
21 boat ride across. But you have to know your resources, you have to
22 know your assets. So, that's how we go about it.

10:36AM

23
24 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**

25 It changes, too. The -- like, for instance, the other day I --
26 usually the dispatcher will just raise a Marine unit for whatever
27 the issue is. Like the other day I was in Marine 3 which is a
28 truck on the beach covering the west end of Fire Island, from Ocean
29 Beach over to Robert Moses bridges. So they gave me a call, we
30 didn't have a Marine 5 which covers the East End, so they gave me a
31 call in the Pines for a noise disturbance. Not a crazy high
32 priority call, obviously. Now, I knew the beach was kind of washed
33 out and that's the quickest way to get to a call, so I went as far
34 as I could on the beach and then I -- I was going to end up in the
35 water, so obviously I had to go back around. I went inland, I got
36 up to Cherry Grove, the walkways are too narrow for the truck, so
37 basically I called Marine Kilo, which is the actual boat that
38 covers the Pines, and they went and handled the call.

10:37AM

39
40 So we always have to adjust depending on conditions and tides and,
41 you know, what the call -- obviously if it was a cardiac arrest we
42 would have handled it much differently, we would have contacted
43 Marine Kilo or Aviation right away. But it always kind of changes,
44 to answer your question, it's not -- you know, depending on what's
45 going on.

46
47 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**

48 It's fluid, like the water; everything's fluid with us.

10:37AM

49
50 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

51 Okay, I think we are complete in questions.

52
53 One, I want to thank Officer Johnson and Officer Lanzisera on a
54 wonderful presentation. I think we all are now a little more
55 sensitive of some of your needs there. And I hope you have a very
56 safe summer, including everyone, all our residents and all our

1 tourists. So again, thank you. God Bless you for all the work you
2 do. Thank you.

3
4 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**
5 Thank you.

6
7 **OFFICER JOHNSON:**
8 Thank you very much.

9
10:37AM 10 **OFFICER LANZISERA:**
11 Thank you all. Have a good day.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
14 Okay, going back to our agenda, Tabled Resolutions, there's none;
15 Procedural Motions, none; Home Rule messages, none; Subject to Call
16 Resolutions, there was none.

17
18 Seeing no more business in front of us, this meeting is adjourned.

19
10:38AM 20 *(*The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m. *)*