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**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held via in-person and Zoom videoconferencing in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on June 2, 2022.

**Members Present:**

**Legislator Steve Flotteron - Chairman**  
*Legislator James Mazzarella - Vice-Chair*  
Legislator Sarah Anker  
Legislator Stephanie Bontempi  
Legislator Tom Donnelly.  
Legislator Bridget Fleming  
Legislator Manuel Esteban  
Legislator Leslie Kennedy  
*P.O. Kevin J. McCaffrey - Ex Officio*

**Also in Attendance:**

*Legislator Dominic Thorne - District Office No. 7*  
*Legislator Robert Trotta - District Office No. 13*  
William Duffy - Counsel to the Legislature  
Frank Tassone - Clerk of the Legislature  
Brett Robinson - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Robert Doering - Senior Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review  
Ali Nazir - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey  
Brendan Sweeney - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey  
Chris DeLuca - Aide to Presiding Officer McCaffrey  
Timothy Freeman - Aide to Legislator Flotteron  
Tim Rothang - Aide to Legislator Mazzarella  
Erika Hershberger - Aide to Legislator Kennedy  
Michelle Zarifis - CE's Office/Intergovernmental Relations  
Andrew Manfredonia - Captain/Chief of Department's Office-SCPD  
William Doherty - Inspector/Police Technology Bureau - SCPD  
Robert Scharf - Lieutenant/Capital Projects & Budget Section-SCPD  
James Curley - Sergeant/Canine Section - SC Police Department  
Bryan Lawrence - Police Officer/Canine Section-SC Police Department  
Charles L'Hommediue-Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Christopher Brockmeyer - Chief Deputy Sheriff/SC Sheriff's Office  
Kevin Kelley - Captain/Chief of Staff's Office/SC Sheriff's Office  
Dr. Odette Hall - Suffolk County Medical Examiner  
Douglas Death - Suffolk County Probation Department  
Linda Russo - Suffolk County Probation Department  
Tom Moran-Executive Vice-President/SC Assoc. Of Municipal Employees  
Ben Chiaramonte - Vice-President/SC Assoc. Of Municipal Employees  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*\*The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.\**)

1  
2  
3 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

4 I would like to call the meeting of the Public Safety Committee  
5 meeting to order. I'd ask all please to stand for the Pledge of  
6 Allegiance led by Legislator Tom Donnelly.

7  
8 ***Salutation***

9  
09:33AM 10 We'll keep a moment of silence, thinking of the families from  
11 Buffalo, Texas and everywhere else.

12 ***Moment of Silence Observed***

13  
14 All please be seated. Can you please take a roll call, Clerk.

15  
16 (*\*Roll Called by Brett Robinson - Chief Deputy Clerk\**)

17  
18  
19 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

20 Here.

21  
22 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

23 Present.

24  
25 **LEG. FLEMING:**

26 Present. Good morning.

27  
28 **LEG. ANKER:**

29 Here.

30  
09:33AM 31 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

32 Here.

33  
34 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

35 Good morning. Here.

36  
37 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

38 Present.

39  
09:33AM 40 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

41 Present.

42  
43 **P.O. McCaffrey:**

44 (*Not Present*).

45  
46 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

47 *Eight.*

48  
49 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

09:34AM 50 Okay, thank you.

51 Is there any *Correspondence?*

52  
53  
54 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

55 All correspondence has been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

2 Okay. And also, we'll start the Public Portion. I know, before  
3 public portion, Legislator Mazzarella has something to say.

4  
5 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

6 Good morning. Before we get started, I just want to give a shout  
7 out to Boy Scout Steven Mendel, we have him here today, he's from  
8 Legislator Donnelly's district. He's from Troop 86 in Deer Park.  
9 He's here to observe and see how things are done here at the  
09:34AM 10 Legislator -- Legislature. We want to welcome him and, again,  
11 Legislator Donnelly is suggesting that we give him a quick shout  
12 out. So, hello, Steven, and welcome.

13  
14 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

15 Thank you, Jimmy.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

18 Welcome.

19  
09:34AM 20 Okay, Public Portion.

21  
22 Our first speaker is Laura Magliano.

23  
24 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

25 Hi. Thank you for letting me speak. I come from the  
26 Communications Department in Suffolk County; I'm a 911 Operator.  
27 And an MOA was just passed on Friday to change our work week.  
28 We did get rid of our X days and we did get a slight rise for 911  
09:35AM 29 operators, we went from a 15 to a 16, but the overtime that we  
30 are -- now have to do is 12 hours of straight time versus our five  
31 that we had to do. Anyone hired after 2006 this affects; that  
32 affects over 71 people in our Communications Department that used  
33 to -- I could say some signed up for overtime, some -- we all get  
34 mandated. I mean, last week I was mandated five 12-hour days,  
35 one day I was almost mandated 16 because we don't have the staff.

36  
37 This change is going to affect more people on leaving, more people  
38 who come in are not going to want to do this. It hurt us, it  
09:36AM 39 affected our pay tremendously and I don't understand where and who  
40 approved this or where this came up from and how we can correct it.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

43 Legislator Mazzarella?

44  
45 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

46 Yeah, I'll take a stab at it. We haven't seen the MOA yet, to be  
47 quite honest with you.

48  
49 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

09:36AM 50 It's terrible.

51  
52 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

53 And --

54  
55 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

56 I mean, you had people in tears.

1 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

2 So, let me ask about the mandated overtime. So there was mandated  
3 overtime in your contract before this and Has that mandated  
4 overtime, those hours have changed, or?

5  
6 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

7 Yes.

8  
9 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

10 Okay.

11  
12 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

13 I was -- we were mandated -- we were told when we were hired you  
14 would get mandated in a state of emergency, snow storm, summer  
15 time, short staff, not like this. We have been doing mandated  
16 overtime for over three years now, and nobody is staying because  
17 things change and get worse. And we keep saying how can it get  
18 worse, but it does.

19  
09:37AM 20 I mean, you got rid of the X days that we had to do and I  
21 understand, but with all the overtime and stuff we couldn't  
22 understand why we had to give back six days a year when we're  
23 mandated all the time.

24  
25 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

26 Legislator Donnelly.

27  
28 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

29 Through the Chair, I think we should request, perhaps Counsel Duffy  
09:37AM 30 can assist that we get a copy of that MOU ASAP. I don't know if  
31 there's a legal requirement that the Legislature be notified of the  
32 MOU, but this is kind of the first that I'm hearing of it. I don't  
33 know if the leadership of this committee has heard of it, but it's  
34 a little unsettling.

35  
36 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

37 Can I ask if -- if it affects the department --

38  
39 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

40 If you could just hold on, I just --

41  
42 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

43 Sorry.

44  
45 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

46 I have a question for you as well. Does that -- do you agree,  
47 Mr. Chairman?

48  
49 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

09:38AM 50 Yes, definitely. Is that something that --

51  
52 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

53 Yes.

1 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

2 And then I just have a question for you. So, you know, this is an  
3 issue that Legislator Kennedy, myself, now Legislator Flotteron,  
4 Legislator Mazzarella are working on. Have the folks appealed to  
5 the Municipal Employees Association to deal with this with the  
6 Executive Branch?  
7

8 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

9 Well, we don't understand how it got approved without a vote.  
09:38AM 10 I mean, how does this just go without us even seeing what could  
11 happen? We didn't see -- it was just signed. And why wasn't this  
12 voted on?  
13

14 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

15 And I sense your frustration and I want you to know that folks on  
16 this body are here to help. Most of us are very, very concerned,  
17 you know, with this particular issue, some of us have been working  
18 on it for a number of years. We're just trying to kind of like  
09:39AM 19 understand the relationship between the folks that are working on  
20 the radio platform, like yourself, the call operators and the  
21 dispatchers, the local AME representation and the Executive Branch.  
22 Unfortunately, the Legislature has a limited role here, it's a  
23 collective bargaining agreement.  
24

25 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

26 But this has to do with --  
27

28 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

29 No, I do, I got you. I'm with you all the way, no worries.  
09:39AM 30

31 So, just give me -- I just want to -- if you can give me the  
32 synopsis that you gave again. So you worked five 12-hour shifts in  
33 a row?  
34

35 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

36 I did five 12-hour shifts last week in a row and then Friday night  
37 got mandated to stay till 4 am in the morning. That would have  
38 been a 16-hour shift, except somebody who, I got lucky, called in  
39 and took an overtime for their RDO. So I was --  
09:39AM 40

41 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

42 Pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement, is there a  
43 mandated hours that you can't go over?  
44

45 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

46 Not in this department, obviously. I mean, no. They --  
47

48 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

49 Okay. No, I sense your frustration.  
50

51 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

52 If they're that short staffed they've got to keep us.  
53

54 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

55 And rest assured, folks on this body -- I'm sure Legislator  
56 Kennedy's going to speak and Legislator Flotteron -- you know, we

1 understand and I think through the Chair, he's doing everything he  
2 can, and the Vice-Chair. So, thank you.

3  
4 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

5 I mean, I hate walking out of here and not getting any answers.  
6 And I know you don't have them, but it's really -- I mean, our  
7 department, we were turned upside down Friday again, and they  
8 didn't know whether it would be just the old-timers, the  
9 new-timers. The way the MOA changed was you made us work from a  
10 Monday through a Sunday when we used to work our first day back  
11 through the rest of the week. So it affects the way our hours are  
12 completely to where we have to work now 12 hours of straight time  
13 to get any time and a half.

14  
15 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

16 Understood. Thank you, Steve.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

19 Legislator Kennedy.

20  
21 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

22 Thank you for coming out to speak today. It took a lot of guts to  
23 do this.

24  
25 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

26 Absolutely.

27  
28 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

29 I made two calls, I haven't received an answer from either of the  
30 two people that I had called to question this. We still have not  
31 seen an MOA and it's just now that I found out that --

32  
33 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

34 I have a copy on my phone if you'd like me to present it to you.

35  
36 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

37 Well, I'm looking at the letter we got from one of you.

38  
39 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

40 Oh, you must have gotten a lot of letters that couldn't come today.

41  
42 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

43 Well, over the period of time we've gotten a lot of letters. That  
44 -- let's see. The way this MOA is written, instead of working six  
45 extra days per year or 42 hours, they are now looking at the  
46 possibility of working anywhere from 95 to 228 hours at straight  
47 time that would have been overtime, and I could go on and on with  
48 this.

49  
50 My question to Attorney Duffy or anyone else, isn't the non-payment  
51 of overtime for hours work -- worked against the Fair Labor  
52 Standards Act?

53  
54 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**

55 I need to know more details, but it's not just the overall hours,  
56 it's how many hours a day and how many hours per week. I'd need to

1 look into it a little bit more.

2

3 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

4 Okay, if you could check into that.

5

6 You are aware that we don't get to negotiate any of this, that's  
7 solely between the union and the County Executive's Office. So I  
8 can't give you more answers.

9

09:42AM

10 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

11 My question, again, is who do I go to?

12

13 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

14 Well, no, you went to the right place.

15

16 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

17 Because the union will not answer our calls. The union will not  
18 talk to us, so I'm coming to you guys for help. And if not, who --

19

09:42AM

20 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

21 We'll check it -- we will check it out and we will find out what's  
22 going on because I don't know if they can even do this.

23

24 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

25 *(Laughter)*. I mean, I just feel like I started this job to help  
26 the County, to get a small retirement, you know.

27

28 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

29 It's very stressful. And making someone work that amount of hours  
30 for not what they deserve is -- increases the stress, increases  
31 family issues, increases a whole bunch of stuff.

09:43AM

32

33 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

34 I mean, with all this mandated overtime, and I could be honest with  
35 you, I would take advantage of the time and a half and go in on my  
36 days off and do an extra shift just to cover people so they don't  
37 get mandated, or because they're short staffed. And they're  
38 running short anyway, they need people because they don't have  
39 anybody else to mandate. I would go in on my day off; I won't do  
40 it now, nobody will do it now out of the 71 of us that this  
41 affected.

09:43AM

42

43 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

44 Yeah.

45

46 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

47 Because why would we go in for straight time?

48

49 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

50 We know. Something will be done. Thank you.

09:43AM

51

52 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

53 Thank you.

54

55 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

56 Okay. Thank you for your time.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
2 No, we have more questions still.

3  
4 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
5 Go right ahead.

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
8 Legislator Rob Trotta.

9  
09:43AM 10 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
11 Thanks. First of all, I appreciate you coming here and a lot of  
12 people wouldn't and it's good.

13  
14 Explain to me what shifts you worked, what tours you worked prior  
15 to this and what happened now, because I'm not really grasping it.

16  
17 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
18 We had to work -- we worked -- our --

19  
09:44AM 20 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
21 You work straight tours?

22  
23 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
24 We work 8 to 4 one week, 4 to midnight the next week. We have --  
25 on our 8 to 4s we have two days off in-between, on our 4 to  
26 midnight we have three days off in-between. We had to work -- our  
27 work week started whatever day we came back, because we have -- it  
28 rotates and it goes to the following week. You work your 35 hours,  
29 you did five hours of overtime you got time and a half. Now with  
09:44AM 30 that Monday through Sunday work week for us, that doesn't really --

31  
32 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
33 Now you're working straight Monday through Sunday?

34  
35 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
36 Well, that's the -- no.

37  
38 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
39 Okay.

40  
41 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
42 We're still alternating --

43  
44 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
45 Moving, okay.

46  
47 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
48 -- our days but the work week in the --

49  
09:44AM 50 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
51 You follow a squad system? Do you follow the squad systems that  
52 the officers follow?

53  
54 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
55 We don't -- I mean, we follow their routine --

1 **LEG. TROTТА:**

2 They do.

3

4 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

5 -- but we -- their work week will start their first day, they'll  
6 get time and a half automatically or whatever they get.

7

8 **LEG. TROTТА:**

9 Yeah, I know, but I'm saying is you're in squad one, let's say.

09:45AM 10

11 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

12 Yes, I'm in -- right.

13

14 **LEG. TROTТА:**

15 Okay, so you're in squad one. You're working an extra day because  
16 they get 5 and 2, 5 and 3, so you're working the same shift as  
17 them.

18

19 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

20 Uh-huh.

09:45AM 21

22 **LEG. TROTТА:**

23 So now what changed?

24

25 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

26 They changed the day of our start work week to Monday through  
27 Sunday instead of our first day back which could be a Wednesday or  
28 a Thursday and go to the Sunday/Monday.

29

30 **LEG. TROTТА:**

31 Oh, so what you're saying is they're saying you start on Monday,  
32 you might have Monday/Tuesday --

09:45AM 33

34 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

35 Yeah, I might not have to go to work till Thursday.

36

37 **LEG. TROTТА:**

38 Okay. All right, now I get it. So now they're -- so what they're  
39 trying to do --

09:45AM 40

41 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

42 So now I only have four days of work week, I only have 28 hours in  
43 that one work week; I have to do 12 hours of overtime to get up to  
44 that 40 hours.

45

46 **LEG. TROTТА:**

47 Oh!

48

49 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

50 To get time and a half.

51

52 **LEG. TROTТА:**

53 So on the other end you will get more overtime if you're working --  
54 let's say you start on Thursday, now most of your --

55

56

1 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
2 I wouldn't get more overtime, I'd get less.

3  
4 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
5 No, it doesn't work that way? I see the guy in the back who's more  
6 (*laughter*). Okay. All right, so they basically --

7  
8 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
9 Screwed us (*laughter*).

10  
11 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
12 Did your union agree to this?

13  
14 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
15 Again, I mean, I just -- I got -- when this new contract came out,  
16 anybody hired after 2013 to 2019 took a decrease in pay, that was  
17 me. Because they changed us from a 10 promotional raise to a --  
18 no, a 12 promotional raise --

19  
20 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
21 Actually, I think that -- I think that is legal.

22  
23 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
24 -- to a 15 promotional raise. I got -- I wrote a letter to the  
25 County, I wrote a letter to the union, it's in the contract,  
26 nothing we could do.

27  
28 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
29 To Counsel, I think that is --

30  
31 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
32 Who signed it?

33  
34 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
35 That is legal, right?

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
38 Counsel?

09:46AM 39  
40 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**  
41 So what it sounds like what they did is they did a fixed work week.  
42 So --

43  
44 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
45 Yes.

46  
47 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**  
48 -- you were coming in on a Monday, instead of your work week  
49 starting on your first day of work, it starts on a certain day  
09:46AM 50 whether -- regardless of whether you're there or not. So --

51  
52 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
53 Well, if you're working eight hours and then you were held over  
54 four hours, you get overtime for the four hours; no?

1 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
2 Nope, I get straight time.

3  
4 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
5 Well, that's a different law.

6  
7 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
8 That's what I say (*laughter*).

9  
09:46AM 10 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
11 Kevin, you might know that; after eight hours, don't you get  
12 overtime?

13  
14 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
15 We're First Responders, supposedly.

16  
17 **P.O. McCaffrey:**  
18 No, not necessarily, it depends on how the contract is written.  
19 It could be up to 40 hours in a week. I'm not overly familiar with  
09:47AM 20 the contract, so.

21  
22 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**  
23 In the Federal law it's after 40 hours in a week depending, some  
24 contracts require it after eight hours in a given day, but it  
25 depends on the contract.

26  
27 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
28 It depends on the contract.

29  
09:47AM 30 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
31 And who works with our contract? The union who does nothing for us  
32 or won't answer our questions, won't get back to us and just -- I  
33 feel like they're for the County and not for us. And we don't know  
34 where else to turn.

35  
36 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
37 I know the feeling (*laughter*), very well.

38  
09:47AM 39 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
40 But it affects --

41  
42 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
43 Keep plugging away.

44  
45 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
46 -- a lot of people in this department that will move on.

47  
48 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
49 Good over evil will prevail, don't worry.

09:47AM 50  
51 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
52 Well get a copy of the contract and we'll look into it.

53  
54 Next is Legislator Dominick Thorne.

1 **LEG. THORNE:**

2 Good morning. I don't know, can you hear me okay, ma'am.

3  
4 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

5 Yes.

6  
7 **LEG. THORNE:**

8 I applaud, applaud, applaud your bravery. I know that you might be  
9 facing repercussion for coming forward. I also know that as a  
10 leader of my local civilian patrol, when I call 911 I am beginning  
11 to get a busy signal or put on hold signal.

12  
13 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

14 Uh-huh.

15  
16 **LEG. THORNE:**

17 And it scares the hell out of me that our residents are not getting  
18 a fresh employee and that anybody feels -- may feel repercussion to  
19 coming to your local Legislators which is exactly why we're here.  
20 So I wanted to compliment you.

21  
22 I am not on this committee and I appreciate the latitude from the  
23 Chair to speak, but you are a very brave person. And thank you for  
24 coming forward, thanks for bringing this to life because it  
25 directly affects our public safety.

26  
27 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

28 It affects --

29  
30 **LEG. THORNE:**

31 We appreciate it.

32  
33 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

34 -- the County a lot. I mean, for 911 to get a busy signal or, you  
35 know -- and we hear it from the complainant's -- you know, the  
36 people that are calling in; *You put me on hold?* We didn't put you  
37 on hold. You know, it's --

38  
39 **LEG. THORNE:**

40 Right.

41  
42 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

43 -- the way the system works.

44  
45 **LEG. THORNE:**

46 I got you. I got you, ma'am. But thank you for your bravery.  
47 Stand tall. There are people that are concerned about you and  
48 about our 911 operators, our County employees. So thank you so  
49 much. I just want to personally thank you --

50  
51 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

52 Thank you.

53  
54 **LEG. THORNE:**

55 -- for your bravery for standing up for what is right.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

2 Okay, thank you.

3

4 **LEG. THORNE:**

5 So thank you so much. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

6

7 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

8 Thank you.

9

09:49AM 10 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

11 Thank you. Legislator Manny Esteban.

12

13 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

14 Thank you. Good morning. Thank you for your service. I myself  
15 had been an ambulance dispatcher on a voluntary basis. And the  
16 question that Legislator Trotta asked you to clarify because I  
17 needed to know. And I just would like to commend you for taking  
18 time to come here and share what you have to say, and that's what  
19 we're here for is to listen to your concerns. You know, we will  
20 talk about it and we just thank you and I'm sorry you're going  
21 through this frustration.

09:49AM

22

23 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

24 I listened to the last --

25

26 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

27 Okay, thank you.

28

29 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

30 I guess two times ago you talked about the Spanish-speaking  
31 operators; we definitely need more than one. You get put on --  
32 and that's another thing, we're short staffed. If we have to go to  
33 Language Line because we don't have a Spanish-speaking operator, it  
34 takes at least seven to ten minutes to get through that call.

09:49AM

35

36 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

37 How many Spanish-speaking operators do we have now?

38

39 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

40 We have I think nine.

09:50AM

41

42 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

43 Nine? Okay.

44

45 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

46 Which I think they said they were allowed one more SCIN for a  
47 Spanish-speaker; we need way more than one. I mean, I only have  
48 one on my squad; when he's out, vacation, we have nobody. I mean,  
49 it's terrible.

09:50AM

50

51 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

52 How many people work on the entire team?

53

54 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

55 It depends on the team you're on. We have some teams --

56

1 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
2 Well, in total, 911 operators and the call center, whatever we call  
3 that.

4  
5 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
6 911 operators we have nine, 26 -- what do we have; does anybody  
7 know the number?

8  
9 **GREG POUTELSOS:**  
10 What's the question?

11  
12 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
13 How many 911 Operators do we have in total?

14  
15 **GREG POUTELSOS:**  
16 I don't have the number.

17  
18 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
19 I'm trying to count our squads. Twelve, 22, 32 and 9 at night.  
09:51AM 20 Forty-one, maybe roughly.

21  
22 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
23 Okay, thank you.

24  
25 **CLERK TASSONE:**  
26 Excuse, Mr. Chairman. If anybody from the public is speaking, if  
27 they could just identify themselves from the audience for the  
28 stenographer because she --

29  
30 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
31 Sorry; that was Greg.

32  
33 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**  
34 Mr. Chairman, I have a question as well, please.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
37 Legislator Bontempi.

38  
39 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**  
09:51AM 40 Yes, good morning. Again, I concur with my colleagues, thank you  
41 for being brave and coming in today and speaking to us.

42  
43 I had asked at a previous meeting about mental health help.  
44 Obviously the job is extremely stressful. Is there anything,  
45 like when you come off a shift --

46  
47 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
48 There's a psychiatrist, I guess. No, we have nothing like that.  
09:52AM 49 We don't get any -- I mean, you get a call where a baby dies or  
50 something, the supervisor will walk out, *Are you okay?*

51  
52 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**  
53 Wow. And then you go on and do your overtime and you --

54  
55 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**  
56 We take the next call. I mean, it's -- that's what we have to do.

1 You know, you have to do it.

2

3 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

4 Wow.

5

6 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

7 You know, I've gotten weld up a couple of times on the phone  
8 listening to drug overdoses of a parent with a child trying to wake  
9 them up and it doesn't happen; I go on to my next call.

09:52AM 10

11 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

12 Wow. Well, I am sure that our committee is going to do whatever we  
13 can. This is quite upsetting to hear what you're explaining to us.  
14 So thank you again for coming here today.

15

16 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

17 Thank you.

18

19 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

09:52AM 20

21 I promise you our committee is going to look into this.  
22 Legislator Tom Donnelly, you had another question?

22

23 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

24 Just through you as the Chair, perhaps somebody could -- from the  
25 Executive side could come and speak to us on this. I don't know if  
26 anybody is here or if anybody's willing to do it, but after the  
27 public portion.

28

29 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

09:53AM 30

31 Okay.

31

32 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

33 Steve?

34

35 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

36 Yeah, Legislator Kennedy.

37

38 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

39 I just want to clarify, who's going to get us a copy of the MOU?

09:53AM 40

41 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

42 Counsel will make sure we all have it.

43

44 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

45 Thank you.

46

47 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

48 Okay. Are we all complete?

49

09:53AM 50

51 **LEG. ANKER:**

52 I have a question.

52

53 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

54 Oh, Legislator Sarah Anker.

55

56

1 **LEG. ANKER:**

2 Hi.

3  
4 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

5 Hello.

6  
7 **LEG. ANKER:**

8 Hi. I just want to, again, thank you for all the work that you  
9 guys have been doing. I mean, this has been going on -- I've been  
10 in office for 11 years and this has been going on year after year  
11 after year. And it's really disappointing to hear that -- that it  
12 hasn't reached to the point where we're really caring for those 911  
13 operators.

14  
15 You know, I took a tour in there, I went and I met those folks.  
16 They are -- you know, they're the first front line, the first front  
17 line for public safety. And, you know, again, we have to make sure  
18 that they're -- that they're supported, that they're paid properly  
19 and they're not mentally exhausted dealing with the type of work  
20 that they do. I know at Stony Brook, Stony Brook Hospital has the  
21 same problem with Spanish-speaking nurses. We need to make sure  
22 that we're covering that base.

23  
24 So, we really appreciate you bringing these points to us. And, you  
25 know, until we get the information that we need to advocate for --  
26 you know, and seeing that, you know, the MOA and the other  
27 documents, we really are looking forward to helping you guys.  
28 So again, thank you for your advocacy. Because it's not going to  
29 change unless you guys speak up and you guys are speaking up and we  
30 hear loud and clear. Thank you.

31  
32 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

33 Thank you.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

36 Thank you. Any other speakers? Okay. Thank you very much.

37  
38 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

39 I have one question. How do I follow up with you guys?

40  
41 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

42 Call.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

45 Yeah.

46  
47 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

48 Call?

49  
50 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

51 Call, e-mail, whatever you prefer, all of us, one of us.  
52 We're all here to help.

53  
54 **LAURA MAGLIANO:**

55 Okay. All right, thank you.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

2 Thank you.

3  
4 Okay. Is there any other speakers? It looks like there's none,  
5 okay.

6  
7 Going on to the agenda, next is -- no **Appointment Resolutions.**

8  
9 **Presentation;** we have -- the Police K-9 Section will present about  
10 their unit. You either could come to the podium, I believe we even  
11 have a seat over here if we need.

12  
13 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

14 Good morning. I have a brief Power Point that Bryan's just going  
15 to set up for me.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

18 If you could introduce yourself for the minutes.

19  
20 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

21 I am Sergeant James Curley, I'm the Commanding Officer of the K-9  
22 Section.

23  
24 Good morning. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to discuss  
25 the proposed Capital Project to construct the new K-9 training and  
26 kennel facility. I'd like to talk about the condition of our  
27 facilities, and I have a short video here to walk us through that  
28 so you can see it as I discuss it.

29  
30 But first I'd like to talk a little bit about the K-9 Section  
31 itself. The K-9 Section consists of, when fully staffed, 22 K-9  
32 teams. Currently we have two Sergeants and 17 police officers, so  
33 we're short three handlers right now. Each team consists of a  
34 handler and a K-9. I did some statistics from 2017 which was when  
35 I started this Capital Project proposal. Since 2017 the K-9  
36 Section has responded to approximately 15,000 calls for service,  
37 apprehending approximately 600 criminals; locating 200 missing  
38 persons; finding over 700 pieces of evidence; locating narcotics  
39 over 600 times, including the participation in the seizure of  
40 hundreds of thousands of dollars into the possibly millions of  
41 dollars of cash from narcotics operations; locating over 80 illegal  
42 firearms and participating in a location of nine sets of human  
43 remains, assisting and bringing closure to those families.

44  
45 Stats are important but they don't tell the whole story of what we  
46 do on a daily basis. I'll tell a little bit of a story. Saturday  
47 night one of our handlers and his K-9 responded to two separate  
48 domestic incidences a couple of hours apart, both incidences  
49 involved a perpetrator who assaulted a family member and then fled  
50 the scene on foot. In both circumstances that person said, as the  
51 police were called said, *I'm going to come back.* The K-9 officer  
52 responded, utilized his dog, located the perpetrator in both  
53 instances nearby, lying in wait for when the police were done so  
54 they could go back to that location. Did we prevent further  
55 tragedy? Possibly a death? Who knows, but those are the  
56 intangibles that -- statistics, while they are so important to show

1 what we do, things like that are not shown what we do on a daily  
2 basis.

3  
4 In addition to keeping Suffolk County residents safe from  
5 criminals, from the criminal element -- I just want to say, an  
6 apprehension, by the way, is when we locate that person and they're  
7 taken into custody. Sometimes people have a negative connotation  
8 of an apprehension that it involves a bite or some sort of physical  
9 confrontation; it doesn't. It's just when we utilize the dog to  
09:58AM 10 locate that person who's hiding and can't be seen by sight.

11  
12 In addition to keeping the residents safe from the criminal  
13 element, members of the K-9 section are good will ambassadors  
14 conducting hundreds of public demonstrations for local school  
15 groups, community organizations, youth groups and camps. These  
16 events build a bridge between the police and the community through  
17 a common bond of an animal. Where are -- my members in my unit are  
18 so accessible to the public, when sometimes police appear  
19 unapproachable to people; well, when they see this little dog on  
09:58AM 20 our shirt they're very approachable, people are like, *Oh, you're a*  
21 *K-9, you have a dog.* My officers are so available to the public to  
22 discuss with the public what we do all the time. I could spend  
23 hours up here, I will not today, talking about dogs and the things  
24 that we do because I'm so proud of the work that my men and women  
25 do.

26  
27 The dedication that goes into having a well-trained K-9 is  
28 tremendous. When a new officer is assigned to K-9, they spend  
29 weeks and months training their dog that goes well beyond the work  
09:59AM 30 week, culminating an approximately required 750 hours of training.  
31 Once certified by New York State, they're required to do 40 hours a  
32 month to maintain that certification, not to mention the 24-hour  
33 care that is provided for these dogs.

34  
35 Our K-9 partners are always our priority, and that brings me to the  
36 condition of our facilities. I chose statistics from 2017 because  
37 that's when I first proposed this facility because of the  
38 conditions that we're currently under. This facility that we  
39 propose and that was initially approved is a mixed used facility  
10:00AM 40 that contains officers, a classroom facility, a dedicated classroom  
41 facility and safe indoor/outdoor kennels that the K-9s can be safe  
42 in and worry-free. The impetus for this request was and always is  
43 about the safety of the animals. Our policy requires that any time  
44 a member is unable to care for their animal that they're put in the  
45 kennels at the K-9 grounds and cared for by the other members of  
46 the K-9 unit.

47  
48 Our current kennels were constructed in the early 1980s. At the  
49 time these kennels were constructed we had seven members in the K-9  
10:00AM 50 unit; we now have 22. It consists of eight kennels, poured slab  
51 with fencing and -- Bryan, maybe you can prop that up there just so  
52 we can take a look -- and lean-to type of roof. It protects from  
53 the initial rain, the rain falling and it protects from the sun,  
54 but it doesn't protect from the elements. If you take a look at  
55 this, when the winter comes snow, ice, everything renders these  
56 kennel systems unusable. As you can see, it's open to the air;

1 again, these kennels are in excess of 40 years old.

2  
3 And if you notice the gaps under those fences? In order to care  
4 for our animals we need to let the animals out into the empty area  
5 in order -- periodically throughout the day, they get fed in there.  
6 That drainage right there that we just passed is where everything  
7 that is hosed out from the kennels comes underneath those dog  
8 houses, goes into the other kennels and into that drain where our  
9 food area is.

10:01AM 10

11 Members of the K-9 section are walking through those areas.  
12 The waste that is coming from one kennel is going into the other  
13 kennels creating a health condition for our animals. We've had  
14 several dogs get sick at that -- in the kennel area. Last year we  
15 had a dog contract an illness while his handler was away on  
16 vacation; that dog ended up not being able to be diagnosed by a  
17 veterinarian, treatments failed and that animal ended up passing  
18 away. Members of the K-9 section during that time -- that dog was  
19 only six years old. Members of the K-9 section during that time  
20 kept vigil at the vet, 24-hours a day we had a K-9 handler there  
21 with that dog.

10:02AM 20

22  
23 During the Winter months the kennels become uninhabitable, as I  
24 said; the ice, the snow, everything that falls into there. So when  
25 there's any dogs at the K-9 grounds, we have to house them in a  
26 temporary trailer. This trailer was acquired 15 years ago from  
27 Brookhaven Lab. If we could -- if you want to throw that one up  
28 there, Bry. This trailer was acquired 15 years ago from the  
29 Brookhaven Lab because we didn't have facilities to put our dogs;  
30 they donated it to the County. And we set up make-shift kennels in  
31 here and crates so the dogs are in there. Several times -- these  
32 crates are just too much for our dogs to handle, our dogs are able  
33 the escape them occasionally, although we do as much as we can to  
34 keep them secure. We've had several instances where the dogs have  
35 escaped and luckily no animals were harmed in those incidences, but  
36 they did destroy equipment and things that are in the trailer.

10:02AM 30

37  
38 These are the crates that we utilize to put our dogs in. As you  
39 can imagine, handling somebody else's dog and picking them up and  
40 putting them in a crate up at eye level is challenging.

10:03AM 40

41  
42 **LEG. TROTТА:**

43 Can I stop you for a second?

44  
45 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

46 Certainly.

47  
48 **LEG. TROTТА:**

49 Do you know we approved a new kennel in 2018?

50  
51 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

52 Yes.

53  
54 **LEG. TROTТА:**

55 What happened?

1 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
2 I would like to ask that same question. I'm waiting for the --

3  
4 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
5 We're seeing all this stuff but yet we approved this in 2018.

6  
7 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
8 Correct.

9  
10 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
11 So we went on a visit, because I was just looking at -- I remember  
12 it was July 3rd, 2018, I have a picture with me holding one of the  
13 dogs.

14  
15 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
16 *(Laughter)*.

17  
18 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
19 Because I was just going through my phone to find it. And if I  
10:04AM 20 may, Mr. Chairman, do you mind? And do you mind if I just jump in?

21  
22 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
23 Sure.

24  
25 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
26 Because me and Legislator Trotta, we were there and I forget --

27  
28 **LEG. KENNEDY:**  
29 I was there.

30  
31 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
32 Leslie, or Legislator Kennedy was there and a few other and it was  
33 over bonding for this. And we went and we saw exactly what was  
34 going on. Every one of these pictures he showed we said, *No, this*  
35 *isn't right, we need to do this.* Our one insistence was that we do  
36 it in-house doing the --

37  
38 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
39 The design.

10:04AM 40  
41 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
42 The design in-house.

43  
44 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
45 And I believe we got approval for that now, too.

46  
47 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
48 So I have no idea why this is taking so long.

49  
10:04AM 50 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
51 No, it actually -- I went to the Waiver Committee where it went to  
52 the Waiver Committee and it went to five architects who were,  
53 quote/unquote, experts in designing dog kennels. I called all five  
54 of them, no one had ever designed a dog kennel, and that's the last  
55 I heard of it.

56

1 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
2 Right. And we suggested that the MTA had just built one for their  
3 dogs and we said --

4  
5 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
6 Correct.

7  
8 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
9 -- give us the plans.

10  
11 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
12 Go, give us --

13  
14 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
15 We're all on the same page (*laughter*).

16  
17 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
18 It's not us.

19  
20 **LEG. KENNEDY:**  
21 No, it's not us.

22  
23 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
24 It's the guy across the street.

25  
26 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
27 Well, we're trying to figure out how long ago this was. This is  
28 going on four years now when we said, *Okay, as long as we do the*  
29 *design in-house we'll use --*

10:05AM 30  
31 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
32 Which we've now recently -- I'm under the understanding that  
33 Department of Public Works has said --

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
36 I don't mean to --

37  
38 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
39 -- that they are going to do it in-house, the planning.

10:05AM 40  
41 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
42 I believe Lieutenant --

43  
44 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
45 The Lieutenant's here now.

46  
47 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**  
48 Good morning. Lieutenant Bob Scharf here. Yes, you're correct,  
49 2018 was when this began. There was 150,000 planning money with  
10:05AM 50 the hope that DPW would plan this project in-house. As the years  
51 passed the price of the project went up partially because to do the  
52 sewerage, which wasn't anticipated initially, it was going to be an  
53 extra 750,000. So, there is two million in this year, 2022's  
54 construction budget, and you will actually be seeing that  
55 appropriating resolution for 2022 for the \$2 million in  
56 construction, hopefully in the next month or two. It hasn't been

1 laid on the table yet. I actually thought I was going to be  
2 speaking on it here today, but you probably will be seeing it  
3 hopefully sooner in 2022 than towards the end of the year. So,  
4 they are expecting, DPW is expecting to have their first planning  
5 meeting for this project very soon, actually.

6  
7 **LEG. TROTТА:**

8 So are you going to get the dogs to go to the bathroom in a toilet  
9 bowl so the sewage will go in the toilet bowl?

10:06AM 10

11 (*\*Laughter\**)

12  
13 Is that what you're talking about, for sewage?

14  
15 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

16 The new building will have indoor/outdoor kennels and all of these  
17 major short-comings with our current situation will be corrected.  
18 You're talking about the existing kennels?

10:06AM 20

19  
20 **LEG. TROTТА:**

21 You said it was \$750,000 more for sewage.

22  
23 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

24 No, that is for the new building. Besides that Brookhaven trailer  
25 that's used for a kennel, there's also a Sachem School District  
26 trailer that is used for the officers --

27  
28 **P.O. McCaffrey:**

29 Yeah.

10:07AM 30

31 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

32 -- of K-9 and that we received probably 15 years ago when Sachem  
33 was throwing it away. So, that's what they've been in.

34  
35 **LEG. TROTТА:**

36 What I'm saying is you said that there's \$750,000 --

37  
38 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

39 Yeah.

10:07AM 40

41 **LEG. TROTТА:**

42 -- for sewage that they --

43  
44 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

45 Yes, that's going to be sewerage hooking up the new K-9  
46 headquarters which is a big part of this project.

47  
48 **LEG. TROTТА:**

49 Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

10:07AM 50

51 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

52 Unfortunately, yes. It's going to have go out and hook up to where  
53 the Sheriffs come into the back of the jail.

54  
55 **LEG. TROTТА:**

56 Sewage treatment plant?

1 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

2 No, just to connect into their existing sewerage, so that it goes  
3 out to Yaphank Avenue.

4  
5 **LEG. TROTТА:**

6 Wow.

7  
8 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

9 I hear you.

10:07AM 10

11 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

12 Well, I think one thing that's wonderful is seeing a record of  
13 Legislator Trotta is upset that we haven't got this started yet.

14

15 *(\*Laughter\*)*

16  
17 **LEG. TROTТА:**

18 Yeah. And what about the Property Section? I think in 2015 we did  
19 the Property building --

20  
21 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

22 Right.

23  
24 **LEG. TROTТА:**

25 -- which I've never seen anything done over there either.

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

28 Yeah.

10:08AM 29

30 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

31 That's correct. And we are also frustrated and we don't come up  
32 with the prices. So we certainly would like to see this project  
33 move forward.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

36 Yeah. Well, Legislator Kennedy. And we'll go to -- after that  
37 hopefully we'll at least finish the presentation and then we can  
38 ask even more questions.

10:08AM 39

40 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

41 So thank you for reminding us that it was 2018 that we okayed this.  
42 At that time we talked about the fact that when the kennels are  
43 hosed down, the urine and feces goes right down where the food is.  
44 That was supposed to be taken care of ASAP. What happened, do you  
45 know?

46  
47 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

48 Well --

49  
50 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

51 Why money was never appropriated? It never came before us for  
52 that.

53  
54 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

55 As you recall, back in 2018 there was a little bit of a controversy  
56 as far as --

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

2 Designing.

3

4 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

5 -- who would be planning this building, and from that point forward  
6 the project got bumped back in the --

7

8 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

9 But the kennels are separate from the building.

10:09AM 10

11 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

12 It's all part of the same project, according to DPW. And you don't  
13 get a small portion of your budget to do a small portion of the  
14 project, you get it all at once, unfortunately. And again, we  
15 don't control how that works.

16

17 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

18 I know you don't. It's a matter of health, though, for the dogs.  
19 That should have been done.

10:09AM 20

21 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

22 I totally agree with you.

23

24 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

25 Well --

26

27 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

28 So that has to be done now.

29

10:09AM 30

31 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

32 I think this is -- I'm glad that we had them come speak today.  
33 Maybe let's finish the presentation, if there's anything else.

33

34 **LIEUTENANT SCHARF:**

35 Yes, sir.

36

37 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

38 Okay. Thank you so much, Lieutenant.

39

10:09AM 40

41 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

42 I mean, Mr. Chairman, it's your committee, but we know the problem,  
43 we've been there since 2018.

43

44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

45 I know. This is not just about the problem.

46

47 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

48 Oh, okay.

49

50 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

51 This is just to learn about --

52

53 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

54 Just in general? Okay.

55

56

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
2 -- the K-9 facility.

3  
4 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
5 Okay.

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
8 That's all it was really about.

9  
10 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
11 Okay.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
14 To help bring out all the other important parts.

15  
16 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
17 I'll be glad to go back there July 3rd of this year also.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
10:09AM 20 Yeah. That was one of the first things I did being new here. But  
21 anyway, just out of respect I want to at least let you finish out  
22 your presentation.

23  
24 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
25 That's okay, I was coming to a conclusion anyway. I'm not even  
26 going to show you the last video which is our -- our building which  
27 houses our officers and our, so to speak, classroom because many of  
28 you have seen it. But those of you who didn't, I would invite you  
29 to come take a look at it, if you have any concerns.

10:10AM 30  
31 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
32 I would say --

33  
34 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
35 Obviously we're all on the same page here, everybody agrees with  
36 us.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
39 We have some new members here.

40  
41 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
42 Correct.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
45 Maybe if you want to show the short video?

46  
47 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
48 Yes, certainly. Bry, you want to do the video? I watched this  
49 video, Officer Lawrence put this video together for me and I  
10:10AM 50 watched it and I said, Wow, it actually doesn't look that bad, and  
51 I'll explain why, from when everybody visited. Is the floor was  
52 rotting out and we were actually stepping through the floor, and  
53 those of you that were there do remember that --

54  
55 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
56 Uh-huh.

1 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

2 -- because we pointed it out. Well, members of my unit, on their  
3 own time and with their own money, put that floor in. And we fixed  
4 the sub-floor just to make it livable for us because we knew we  
5 were going to be here for a period of time.

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

8 That was out of title.

9  
10 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

11 We didn't know it was going to be an additional five years, but we  
12 did know we were going to be there for a period of time and we did  
13 need to make some sort of corrections to it, so we did. Obviously  
14 we did a portion of it, not the whole thing.

15  
16 So, the room that you're entering there where that table is, we do  
17 thousands and thousands of hours of training per year. Part of  
18 that you need to do classroom instruction. That area is the only  
19 classroom instruction area that we have, so every time somebody  
10:11AM 20 needs to utilize the computer or come into the grounds they  
21 interrupt that classroom instruction. It's very unfair to our  
22 trainers. We try to make concessions for it, but that's why our  
23 new building has a dedicated classroom.

24  
25 So, like I said, anybody who would like to come out, hopefully  
26 sooner rather than later you'll be coming out to cut the ribbon on  
27 our new facility, but, you know, that's up to when the money gets  
28 appropriated and when they put the shovels in the ground and start  
29 getting us working. That's all I have. If anybody has any  
10:12AM 30 questions for me.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

33 I think we do. Legislator Mazzarella.

34  
35 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

36 Yes, good morning. So I probably am the most recent Legislator to  
37 visit the facility, I was there a few weeks ago and was able to sit  
38 at that table and the nice floor that you put in there. And I was  
39 basically there in regard to a project that is slotted to take  
10:12AM 40 place on the border of your property to your west.

41  
42 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

43 Yes.

44  
45 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

46 Which is the -- there's a transfer facility that's going back  
47 there.

48  
49 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

50 Yep.

51  
52 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

53 A very big one, and there's also going to be a warehouse built.  
54 And I sat with some of your staff in regard to that to try and work  
55 out some of those semantics. And we were fortunate enough that the  
56 folks that own that property, the North Point Company, those people

1 were actually flown in that day to attend a -- attend a meeting, so  
2 we were able to bring them in and speak with some of your staff and  
3 to speak about some of the concerns that your officers, who  
4 actually did a training out there, had in regard to protecting the  
5 animals from noise and also protecting the facility as far as  
6 security goes. And we were happy at least that North Point was  
7 very receptive in ensuring us that they would work along with us  
8 in, you know, donating whatever means necessary to provide that  
9 security, whether it be, you know, a solid fence or some sort of  
10 buffering so that, again, security is provided as well as maybe  
11 some reduction in noise.

10:13AM

12  
13 One thing that I think came to light that we were glad to hear was  
14 the transfer facility trucks are going to be entering and exiting  
15 that facility through Horse Block Road and not through -- I guess  
16 it's -- what is that?

17  
18 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
19 Glover Drive.

10:14AM

20  
21 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**  
22 Glover, instead of Glover. So while you're not going to be immune  
23 from traffic, you should be immune from the real heavy duty  
24 commercial traffic, at least they were assuring us of that. That  
25 gave me the opportunity to put a call out to DPW at least to find  
26 out what engineer is assigned to this project. I do have that name  
27 back in my office and I'll follow up as far as seeing where we're  
28 at as far as this Capital Project goes and where the planning is.

10:15AM

29  
30 One thing I did find out is that they, DPW, is -- could possibly be  
31 entertaining either widening or moving Glover over to intersect the  
32 intersection that's across from the Headquarters. And, you know,  
33 interestingly enough, the developer, North Point, never mentioned  
34 that and I think they didn't mention it on purpose because that's  
35 going to be a big money deal for them to either widen that road or  
36 relocate that road. But I think that's a good thing for the K-9  
37 unit in that if that road is relocated a little bit more to the  
38 north, it'll be further away from your facility if they are to do  
39 that. But I'm going to follow-up on that, and again, follow-up on  
40 this project now that I have a name of an engineer. I actually  
41 have some business to do at DPW today, so I'll bring this up and  
42 see where we're at and, you know, let them know about the  
43 presentation here today and the concerns that were raised on the  
44 horseshoe with all the Legislators, in fact.

10:15AM

45  
46 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
47 Thank you. I really appreciate that.

48  
49 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**  
50 Mr. Chairman, I have a comment, or a question.

10:16AM

51  
52 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
53 Actually, right before you I have Legislator Bridget Fleming and  
54 then you are next.

1 **LEG. FLEMING:**  
2 *(Muted)*.

3  
4 **COUNSEL DUFFY:**  
5 She's muted.

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
8 You're muted.

9  
10 **LEG. FLEMING:**  
11 *(Muted)*.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
14 Legislator Fleming, you're muted.

15  
16 **LEG. FLEMING:**  
17 Thank you, Legislator Flotteron. Sorry about that. And thank  
18 you -- is it Sergeant -- for your presentation.

19  
10:16AM 20 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
21 Yes.

22  
23 **LEG. FLEMING:**  
24 It's a little hard to see you from my vantage point.

25  
26 Thank you for your presentation. I, too, am alarmed. This is --  
27 we've had two troubling presentations in committee this morning,  
28 first the 911 Operators and now this, it's very troubling. A  
29 question for you with regard to -- and maybe the Administration as  
10:17AM 30 well might be able to answer this if there's someone from the  
31 Administration here. But my first question to you is could you  
32 just go back to the -- to the point that you made about an animal  
33 who passed away? Is this -- are you attributing this animal's  
34 death to the conditions of this kennel?

35  
36 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**  
37 We have concerns and the members in the K-9 Section have concerns  
38 that that was a cause of the animal getting sick and ending up  
39 dying. The veterinarians were unable to diagnose it. The dog was  
10:17AM 40 healthy prior to the handler going on vacation. The dog was at the  
41 K-9 grounds for a couple of days prior to coming down with this  
42 illness that ended up causing bleeding through his stomach cavity  
43 which -- and then it became an external bleed and they were unable  
44 to correct it. The dog survived for three-and-a-half, four days in  
45 the veterinarian's office because they thought they would be able  
46 to save this dog at some point and they kept going through stuff.  
47 So, it's an unknown cause.

48  
49 The grounds -- the conditions at the grounds don't help. Whether  
10:18AM 50 the dog had some sort of bacterial infection and the conditions  
51 there enhanced it or if there was some sort of bacteria there that  
52 created this, we honestly do not know. But it is a concern that we  
53 have that causes stress to the members of the unit when they do  
54 bring their dogs there which is why I put it in here. I don't mean  
55 to sensationalize it or anything like that, but it was just  
56 something that happened that we take into consideration all the

1 time when we bring our dogs there. And members are hesitant to  
2 bring their dogs to the grounds and they shouldn't be because it  
3 should be a safe, secure environment for their dogs.

4  
5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 You know, whether you intended to sensationalize it or not, if  
7 you -- you know, we here, we have a responsibility to do our jobs  
8 and oversee the budget here. If we hear that an animal died  
9 perhaps because of the conditions that were approved to be improved  
10 many years ago, it is a concern that we have to pursue.

11  
12 And so I guess my question to you, and then I'd like to follow up  
13 with the Administration with a question, is if I were, for  
14 instance, to introduce a bill asking for a report of the conditions  
15 that folks at the kennel feel jeopardized the health and safety of  
16 these animals, is that -- are there additional conditions that you  
17 are aware of, but you don't have to answer it right now because I  
18 think it needs to be a thorough analysis. But should the  
19 construction start tomorrow, you still -- are there ongoing  
20 conditions that you could list for us that are jeopardizing the  
21 health and safety of these animals?

22  
23 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

24 There are conditions there, the general conditions that I spoke of.  
25 The members of my unit are so diligent in taking care of everything  
26 that they can; they bleach the kennels probably weekly. You just  
27 never know what's coming in there, and when you do have waste going  
28 past other kennels and in the area, it's just an impossible  
29 situation, and under the current conditions, to keep perfectly  
30 sanitary for these dogs, it is. And these dogs are out working  
31 everywhere in the County, so they are coming across, stepping in,  
32 being a part of, being exposed to so many different things, and  
33 then when they're brought back to these kennels that basically  
34 they're sharing all the bacteria that they bring back amongst the  
35 other dogs, it just creates a hazardous condition that would be  
36 alleviated by the design of the new kennel system.

37  
38 **LEG. FLEMING:**

39 Well, I appreciate that, and thank you for bringing it to our  
40 attention. And Mr. Chair, I think I will be introducing a  
41 resolution asking for that report. Can I put a question to the  
42 Administration on this, Mr. Chair?

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

45 Just hold on one second. I know the Presiding Officer had  
46 something he wanted to add.

47  
48 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

49 Thank you, yes. And Legislator Fleming, I appreciate your concern  
50 as we all are concerned. And Sergeant, as you know, I was -- we  
51 were there in 2018, we were concerned back then about getting  
52 something done. So, I'll be speaking directly with the  
53 Administration about this and we're going to find out what the  
54 holdups are. We're not going to need a report, we know what's  
55 going on there isn't good for the animals that are there or for  
56 the -- for the people that are working there. So if you just --

1 you know, before we go into, you know, putting more legislation in  
2 that's just going to spin the wheels, we're going to get this done,  
3 all right? And I think the whole body here, including Legislator  
4 Fleming, is committed to getting this done as everybody on this  
5 committee is. So we'll figure out what's going on and we'll get  
6 this taken care of and I'd just like to -- you know, so this  
7 doesn't go on to more red tape and hearings and everything. We're  
8 going to get this done.

9  
10 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11 I don't think it's red tape, Mr. Presiding Officer, I have to say  
12 that. In 2018 there were those of us who were enthusiastic  
13 supporters of this project who didn't need show and tell to know --

14  
15 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

16 Right.

17  
18 **LEG. FLEMING:**

19 -- how much of a concern this was and wanted it to move forward.  
20 And there were others who felt that we shouldn't put planning money  
21 in it, we should, you know, have definite proof of all the specific  
22 concerns that we see are so -- I trusted -- the department told us  
23 this a critical project and there were those of us who said, Yes,  
24 *do it, let's authorize it.* But there were -- there was a drag, you  
25 know, by folks saying, *Well, we don't need to put planning dollars*  
26 *in it, it's too expensive what you're proposing, let's put it*  
27 *through the, you know --*

28  
29 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

30 No, that's not what happened. And this was four years ago, we went  
31 there, we didn't take somebody --

32  
33 **LEG. FLEMING:**

34 A long time ago and a dog died, Kevin.

35  
36 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

37 Legislator Fleming, with all due respect, we didn't -- we didn't  
38 take somebody's word for it, we went there on July 3rd.

39  
40 **LEG. FLEMING:**

41 I know you did.

42  
43 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

44 The only day we go, it was the day before 4th of July and we showed  
45 up there and we saw it. And this is surprising to me that the  
46 kennel hasn't been fixed, that there's conditions out there that  
47 need to be fixed. And so we're not going to do an RFP for someone  
48 to do a study about the conditions that we know what they are.  
49 They need to be fixed and starting today we're going to get it  
50 done, and that's our commitment to them. We don't need another  
51 study, we know what the issue is, we need to get it done, we're  
52 going to figure out how to do it.

53  
54 **LEG. FLEMING:**

55 This is really upsetting to me that what you're basically saying is  
56 that I can't do my job as a Legislator.

1 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

2 I'm not saying -- I am saying that no more -- we're going to  
3 propose a bill that's going to be laid on the table, we're going to  
4 have hearings and they're going to have an RFP for an expert to  
5 come in to determine what we already know which is that needs to be  
6 fixed. It needed to be fixed four years ago, okay. And we said we  
7 would support this project, simply do it in-house, and we had hired  
8 somebody in DPW to do this type of thing. Okay?

9  
10 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11 They don't have -- you know what? We don't pay our engineers  
12 enough so we don't have enough people in DPW to do this work.

13  
14 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

15 Well, we did hire some. We did hire somebody.

16  
17 **LEG. FLEMING:**

18 It's a question of priority.

19  
20 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

21 We did hire somebody.

22  
23 **LEG. FLEMING:**

24 It's a question of priority.

25  
26 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

27 And it's surprising to me that four years later we're still kicking  
28 this around. Okay?

29  
30 **LEG. FLEMING:**

31 That's what happens when you drag these things down; that's what  
32 happens.

33  
34 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

35 I understand.

36  
37 **LEG. FLEMING:**

38 If government isn't allowed to function you end up with a dog who's  
39 passed away, it's crazy.

40  
41 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

42 All right, and it's going to end. And I think it's unfortunate,  
43 and even the Sergeant would sit there and say there's no direct  
44 connection between what happened at that kennel and the death of  
45 that dog. There is nothing to say that. I'm not saying it didn't  
46 happen, but don't put that burden on us to say that we killed that  
47 dog, all right?

48  
49 So, we are going to take care of this. We're in the majority now,  
50 it's going to get done. For four years, when you were in the  
51 majority, it didn't get done, it languished, okay. We're going to  
52 take care of it.

53  
54 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

55 Going forward right now, I think this is part of the reason I did  
56 want to have speakers here is to bring this important project

1 forward. And I think -- you know, I want to thank you very much  
2 for your presentation because there are other committee meetings  
3 after this. But again, thank you for the presentation.

4  
5 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

6 I just have one question.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

9 Okay.

10:25AM 10  
11 **LEG. FLEMING:**

12 Legislator Flotteron, I did want to put a question to the  
13 Administration on this.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

16 Okay, go right ahead.

17  
18 **LEG. FLEMING:**

19 Thank you. So the question is where -- what did happen with this  
10:25AM 20 project? It was approved such a long time ago and now we're going  
21 to get the Capital Project moved forward with a resolution. I'm  
22 not clear on why -- why it is that it hasn't moved forward after it  
23 was approved four years ago. Is that Mr. -- is there someone?

24  
25 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

26 Hi. I'm Michelle, Zach's out this week. So I'm not familiar with  
27 the history of this project. I don't know what happened in 2018  
28 with the funding and with the project, but we can get those answers  
29 for you and try and figure out what happened.

10:26AM 30  
31 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

32 Chairman, I wanted to ask a question, or had a comment.

33  
34 **LEG. FLEMING:**

35 So, just to finish up then. So the -- we don't have any -- were  
36 you not aware that these folks were coming to committee today to  
37 talk about these conditions? I mean, we're talking about an animal  
38 who passed away. We're talking -- we just saw a video of alarming  
39 conditions. What I would like to see -- and I'm being told by the  
10:26AM 40 Presiding Officer that I can't put legislation in which is very  
41 alarming to me. But what I would like to see is that if there are  
42 specific conditions that are endangering these animals, during the  
43 period from this moment to the time that these conditions are  
44 improved by a long-term Capital Project, are there specific steps  
45 that we can take, that the Administration can take, that the Police  
46 Department can take so that other animals are not threatened, that  
47 they're jeopardized in their health and safety. So that's what I'm  
48 trying to match together here. The Presiding Officer is telling me  
49 that I can't do it, but I think that's my job as a Legislator.

10:27AM 50  
51 So the question I have for the Administration is what is the  
52 timeline for getting the work done here? And if it is going to be  
53 a time -- if there is going to be any time during which animals'  
54 safety and health are jeopardized, we need to put in interim steps.  
55 So do you know the timeline that we're looking at for actually at  
56 least getting the sanitation cleaned up at this facility?

1 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

2 I am -- I'm not familiar. Like I said, I'm sorry, I am not  
3 familiar with the timeline, but I can speak to our Commissioner,  
4 Joe Brown, and get these answers. And, you know, whatever that gap  
5 is from when the project will begin, we can try and fill in the  
6 gaps somehow.

7  
8 **LEG. FLEMING:**

9 Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would just ask that the committee be  
10 informed and that all members of the committee get whatever  
11 response comes from the Administration or the Police Department on  
12 this issue.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

15 If I get anything we'll share it. And again, this is why I had  
16 them come here because I felt this has been languishing and as the  
17 new Chair of the committee I wanted to bring it forward before any  
18 Bonds came in front of us. Because I found sometimes in the past  
19 we would get a CN approving a Bond the day before and we never  
20 usually had enough information. I figured let's at least learn  
21 about where we are with the K-9 facility so when the Bonds come  
22 forward in the near future we're ready and we're all on the same  
23 page. And it seems like we're all on the same page right now and  
24 it's before we have a Bond in front of us.

25  
26 Our next speaker is Legislator Stephanie Bontempi.

27  
28 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

29 Hello, Sergeant. First of all, I have to say thank you for all  
30 that you do. I have the most respect for the K-9 unit and I have  
31 to just share a 30-second story. I used to have a bloodhound.  
32 She was beautiful, impossible to train; we tried, we tried, we just  
33 couldn't. So we called the Suffolk County Police and asked if we  
34 could donate her because we had found out that they're great for  
35 K-9 units. But I understand you only use German shepherds; is that  
36 correct.

37  
38 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

39 Correct.

40  
41 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

42 She ended up in Connecticut and a couple of months later we were  
43 notified that she had actually apprehended a bank robber, so that  
44 was very exciting. But I am sure that we are all going to work  
45 together and make sure that this happens. So again, thank you so  
46 much for your presentation today.

47  
48 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

49 Thank you. I appreciate that.

50  
51 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

52 Legislator Tom Donnelly.

53  
54 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

55 Hey, Serg, good morning. So I'm not going to talk about the  
56 building; I think we talked that one out. Just run me through the

1 staffing quick. How many dogs are on duty County-wide in the  
2 Police District on any given tour.

3  
4 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

5 On any given tour, so from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m. we have two K-9s  
6 working, from 4 to 6 a.m. we have one K-9 working and from 8 p.m.  
7 to 4 a.m. we have five K-9s working, when we're fully staffed.

8  
9 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

10 Gotcha, okay. Then the second question is North and South fork,  
11 the partnering Police Districts; do they have individual K-9 units  
12 or do you support them as well?

13  
14 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

15 So for condensation (*sic*) sake I didn't include that in there; we  
16 do train outside agencies. So we -- we're the central agency,  
17 central training agency. To answer your question, Riverhead has  
18 two dogs, Southampton Village has a dog, Southold has a dog; we  
19 train all of those dogs.

20  
21 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

22 So you guys are the clearing house, right? There's not a fall --

23  
24 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

25 We're the clearing house.

26  
27 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

28 There's not a fall-back kind of plan like in the event of the  
29 discussion in terms of the facility of you being able to go  
30 somewhere else?

31  
32 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

33 No. They -- we're it, we're the central agency. They bring our  
34 dogs so when their members are away or go on vacation or injured or  
35 anything like that, they bring our dogs to our kenneling facility  
36 and we care for their dogs.

37  
38 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

39 Excellent. And then just two more quick questions. Is there an  
40 accreditation process, like a Federal accreditation process for the  
41 K-9's.

42  
43 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

44 Federal-wise I'm not aware of. We're certified by New York State  
45 in all of our disciplines; our patrol discipline, narcotics,  
46 explosives, we're certified in New York State in all of those.

47  
48 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

49 Great stuff. Good presentation. Thank you.

50  
51 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

52 Thank you. I appreciate it.

53  
54 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

55 Okay, Legislator Sarah Anker.

1 **LEG. ANKER:**

2 I have just a quick question. When I was there I also was on that  
3 tour, it was a really good tour and it was very enlightening. I  
4 got some wonderful law enforcement officers there as well as the  
5 dogs themselves are just phenomenal.

6  
7 As you've said, they've proven to be such an asset to Suffolk  
8 County and we have to take care of what we have. So we're looking  
9 forward to, again, building the facility -- which, again, I am  
10 shocked that it hasn't even been started at this point -- but also  
11 maintaining, you know, what we have.

12  
13 So the question I have, I know I met the veterinarian, Dr. Grecco;  
14 is he still providing services? He was just a wonderful veteran  
15 (*sic*) and I think he volunteered a lot of his time working with the  
16 dogs and working with the trainers.

17  
18 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

19 Yes, he still is our veterinarian and he was actually at the  
20 grounds yesterday doing physicals for our dogs, our yearly  
21 physicals.

22  
23 **LEG. ANKER:**

24 He's great. All right, again, thank you for the work that you do.

25  
26 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

27 Thank you. I appreciate it.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

30 Okay. Legislator Dominick Thorne.

31  
32 **LEG. THORNE:**

33 Sergeant, as many people have said, thank you. Your cadaver dog  
34 was recently out in a park in my neighborhood because we found a  
35 body part that we weren't sure exactly where it had come from.  
36 So I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication.

37  
38 I think in the -- in the overall scheme of things, your facility is  
39 a glaring example of what our employees, including our K-9, have to  
40 deal with in County buildings. We heard from the 911 operators,  
41 I've worked in County facilities for over eight years and some of  
42 the conditions that our employees are having to work under,  
43 including the mold and the rot that I saw in that trailer you are  
44 forced to work in and various other things, is deplorable.

45  
46 I can't thank you enough. I can't thank the Police Department  
47 enough, especially the K-9 squad enough, for your outstanding work  
48 with doing so much with so little. So, thank you so much. I just  
49 want to give an extra kudos to you. And, you know, the rest of the  
50 committee, this is a glaring example of how the County employees  
51 are being forced to work County-wide in many facilities and it's  
52 something we should look at and that's certainly a conversation for  
53 another day. So thank you, Sergeant, and thank you for your hard  
54 work.

1 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

2 Thank you, sir. I appreciate it.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

5 Okay, I think we're complete. Sergeant, thank you so much for the  
6 presentation, it's really what I sort of hoped in a sense. You did  
7 a wonderful job in getting us all riled up and hopefully we'll all  
8 --

9  
10 (\*Laughter\*)

11  
12 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

13 I'm glad we're riled in the same direction.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

16 We'll all be cosponsoring the bonding, it sounds like. So, again,  
17 thank you so much. And we do care and I see by the committee from  
18 all different sides we're going to be here to support to try to get  
19 this rolling. Thank you.

20  
21 **SERGEANT JAMES CURLEY:**

22 Thank you, and I appreciate all your support. Thank you very much.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

25 Okay. Going forward, there's no **Tabled Resolutions.**

26  
27 ***Introductory Resolutions: Resolution IR 1347(-22) - Accepting and***  
28 ***appropriating 100% Federal grant funds passed through the New York***  
29 ***State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of***  
30 ***\$57,211 for the 2021 Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement***  
31 ***Grant Program administered by the Suffolk County Office of the***  
32 ***Medical Examiner, Crime Laboratory and to execute grant related***  
33 ***agreements (County Executive).*** Do I have a motion?

34  
35 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

36 Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

37  
38 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

39 Second.

40  
41 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

42 And second by Legislator Bontempi. All -- any discussion?  
43 All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

44  
45 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

46 ***Nine.***

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

49 Okay. IR 1348 - Accept -- It was approved, yes; ***1347 was approved***  
50 ***(& placed on the Consent Calendar).***

51  
52 ***IR 1348(-22) - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal grant funds***  
53 ***passed through The New York State Division of Criminal Justice***  
54 ***Services in the amount of \$57,211 for the 2021 Paul Coverdell***  
55 ***Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program administered by the***  
56 ***Suffolk County Office of the Medical Examiner, Toxicology***

1 **Laboratory and to execute grant related agreements (County**  
2 **Executive).** Do I have a motion?

3  
4 **LEG. DONNELLY:**  
5 *(Raised hand).*

6  
7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
8 Motion by Legislator Tom Donnelly. And put on the Consent  
9 Calendar?

10  
11 **LEG. DONNELLY:**  
12 *(Nodded head yes).*

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
15 And second?

16  
17 **LEG. KENNEDY:**  
18 Second.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
21 By Leslie Kennedy. Any discussion? All in favor?  
22 Any opposed? Any abstentions.

23  
24 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**  
25 ***Nine.***

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
28 ***1348 was approved (& placed on the Consent Calendar).***

10:36AM 29  
30 ***IR 1351(-22) - Accepting and appropriating additional grant funding***  
31 ***in the amount of \$45,000 from the State of New York Governor's***  
32 ***Traffic Safety Committee passed through the Stop-DWI Foundation for***  
33 ***the Suffolk County Stop-DWI Program to fund DWI Enforcement related***  
34 ***high visibility road check patrols (County Executive).*** Do I have a  
35 motion?

36  
37 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
38 Motion.

10:36AM 39  
40 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
41 Motion by Legislator Esteban and put on the Consent Calendar.  
42 And a second?

43  
44 **LEG. KENNEDY:**  
45 Second.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
48 Second by Legislator Kennedy. Anybody on the motion?  
49 Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

10:36AM 50  
51 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**  
52 ***Nine. (Approved & Placed on the Consent Calendar).***

53  
54 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
55 ***IR 1351 passed, approved (& placed on the Consent Calendar).***

1 **IR 1359(-22) - Authorizing the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office to**  
2 **apply for a membership to the major County Sheriffs of America**  
3 **(County Executive). Do I have a motion?**

4  
5 **LEG. DONNELLY:**  
6 **Motion.**

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
9 **Motion by Legislator Donnelly.**

10:36AM 10  
11 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**  
12 **Second.**

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
15 **Second by Legislator Mazzarella. Any discussion? All in favor?**  
16 **Any opposed? Abstentions?**

17  
18 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**  
19 **Nine.**

10:37AM 20  
21 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
22 **IR 1359 approved.**

23  
24 **IR 1395(-22) - Appropriating PAYGO funds for the purchase of**  
25 **equipment for Med-Legal Investigations and Forensic Sciences**  
26 **(CP 1132) (County Executive). Do I have motion?**

27  
28 **LEG. DONNELLY:**  
29 **Motion.**

10:37AM 30  
31 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
32 **Motion by Legislator Donnelly. Do I have a second?**

33  
34 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**  
35 **Second.**

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
38 **Legislator Mazzarella. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed?**  
39 **Abstentions?**

10:37AM 40  
41 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**  
42 **Nine.**

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
45 **1395 approved.**

46  
47 **IR 1420(-22) - Authorizing the transfer of funds from the Sheriff's**  
48 **Office Prisoners' Commissary Account to the General Fund (County**  
49 **Executive). Do I have a motion?**

50  
51 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
52 **(Raised hand).**

53  
54 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
55 **Motion by Legislator Esteban. Do I have a second?**

1 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

2 *(Raised hand).*

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

5 Legislator Donnelly. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed?  
6 Abstentions?

7  
8 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

9 *Nine.*

10:37AM 10

11 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

12 *IR 1420 approved.*

13  
14 *IR 1428(-22) - Appropriating PAYGO funds in connection with*  
15 *Renovation to Police Precinct and Other Police Facilities*  
16 *(CP 3184) (County Executive). Do I have motion?*

17  
18 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

19 Motion.

10:38AM 20

21 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

22 Motion by Legislator Mazzarella. I will second. Any discussion?  
23 All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

24  
25 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

26 *Nine.*

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

29 *IR 1428 was approved.*

10:38AM 30

31 *IR 1429(-22) - Appropriating funds in connection with Suffolk*  
32 *County Public Safety Body Camera System (CP 3532) (County*  
33 *Executive). Do I have motion?*

34  
35 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

36 Motion.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

39 Motion by Legislator Mazzarella.

10:38AM 40

41 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

42 Second.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

45 Second by Legislator Bontempi.

46  
47 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

48 On the motion.

49  
50 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

51 On the motion, Legislator Mazzarella.

52  
53 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

54 Yes, I believe we have Inspector Doherty here and before we --  
55 before we vote, just want to have the Inspector give a quick  
56 rundown of what's happening.

1 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

2 Good morning, everyone. Thank you. Again, my name is Inspector  
3 Bill Doherty and I'm the CO of the Police Technology Bureau.

4  
5 The County recently entered into a contract with Axon Enterprises  
6 to provide body-worn cameras to all of our police officers,  
7 currently the PBA members. We've drawn up a rollout plan, and  
8 assuming -- excuse me -- that the funds are appropriated, we'd like  
9 to start training a pilot program in our 7th Precinct and we'd like  
10 to actually start putting body cameras on 7th Precinct police  
11 officers by the end of June. And then after that we'd like to  
12 review to see how the technology is working, all of the policies  
13 and procedures, and then shortly after that we'd like to move on  
14 and do the rest of the precincts sequentially. We haven't picked  
15 the exact order we're going to do the precincts, but starting with  
16 the 7th and then moving on at the Police Commissioner's discretion  
17 to give all of our members -- all of our PBA members at this point  
18 body-worn cameras.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

21 Any questions? Legislator Donnelly.

22  
23 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

24 Inspector, good morning.

25  
26 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

27 Good morning.

28  
29 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

30 Thanks for coming. I know you worked pretty hard on this.

31  
32 Just two quick questions. In terms of the pilot being rolled out,  
33 all of the collective bargaining agreements that go in conjunction  
34 with the body-worn cameras are going to be adhered to, right?

35  
36 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

37 Yes, sir.

38  
39 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

40 Okay. Second is some of the partner agencies, in terms of the data  
41 storage, has there been any discussion about that, particularly  
42 North and South Fork Police Departments? Are they going to have to  
43 do it individually or is it going to be like one central clearing  
44 house, so to speak?

45  
46 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

47 We have spoken with several of our partner agencies and we did put  
48 a portion in the contract that allows outside agencies to  
49 piggy-back off of our contract, so they would be able to avail  
50 themselves of storage and other -- other niceties, I'll call them,  
51 within the contract.

52  
53 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

54 And, you know, I know we chatted for a couple of minutes before the  
55 meeting. I know you put a lot of effort into this, so I just -- I  
56 want to thank you.

1 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

2 Thank you.

3  
4 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

5 It's been a pretty complicated issue, you know, for those of us  
6 that have been involved; Legislator McCaffrey and myself, you know,  
7 served on that committee. But certainly I think that it will  
8 protect our officers and certainly give the public the  
9 accountability that they're looking for. Thank you.

10:41AM 10

11 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

12 Agreed.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

15 Okay. Presiding Officer McCaffrey.

16  
17 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

18 Hello, Inspector. How are you?

10:41AM 20

21 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

22 Good, sir. How are you?

23  
24 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

25 Good, thank you. Quick question about -- because we talked about  
26 all the data storage. How are they doing it; are we doing a  
27 cloud-based system for that?

28  
29 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

10:41AM 30

31 Yes. So, Axon's back end is called *evidence.com*, it is a  
32 cloud-based storage and we were able to negotiate that any digital  
33 evidence produced by an Axon device were given unlimited storage  
34 day one. And we were able to leverage our size and scale to  
35 convince Axon on year two to give unlimited third-party storage,  
36 which means any digital evidence we ingest we can store in  
37 *evidence.com* in an unlimited amount. So we're hoping with that --  
38 we do a lot of our storage on premise now, so we're hoping that our  
39 costs for on-premise storage start to dissipate over the years.

40  
41 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

10:42AM 42

43 Right. The point I'm making is the cloud storage is proven to be  
44 the future of data storage as opposed to that on-site.

45  
46 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

47 Absolutely. With the amount of data that we will be ingesting,  
48 we'd almost have to build our own server.

49  
50 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

51 Yeah. And the security on those --

52  
53 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

54 Correct, they're all --

55  
56 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**

Because the cloud's probably better than the security we could  
provide on our own.

1 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
2 Axon is CJIS compliant.

3  
4 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
5 Right.

6  
7 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
8 They do body-worn camera storage for most of the major police  
9 departments in America including some Federal agencies and I think  
10 even some military.

10:42AM

11  
12 **P.O. McCAFFREY:**  
13 Great. Thank you very much.

14  
15 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
16 Thank you, sir.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
19 Okay. Legislator Esteban.

10:43AM

20  
21 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**  
22 Thank you. So, at what point are the cameras turned on; is it a  
23 regular traffic stop? When does the camera get turned on, when  
24 does it get turned off?

25  
26 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
27 Generally, when there's any police public interaction the cameras  
28 do come on to record that interaction. There are certain times  
29 when they will have to come off when you're in a hospital setting,  
30 if you're interviewing a victim of a sexual assault. But for the  
31 most part, the overwhelming majority of police citizen interactions  
32 will be captured on the body-worn camera.

10:43AM

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
35 Okay. Any other questions?

36  
37 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
38 Yeah.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**  
41 Legislator Trotta.

42  
43 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
44 Who activates them?

45  
46 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
47 Who activates a body-worn camera? The individual police officer.

48  
49 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
50 There's no automatic on or anything like that?

10:43AM

51  
52 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
53 The only automatic option we have available to us is there is  
54 something called signal side arm, so when a police officer draws  
55 his or her weapon, the body-worn camera will automatically turn on.

1 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
2 How does that work?

3  
4 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
5 It's activated by blue tooth. There's a little blue tooth device  
6 that actually gets placed in the holster of the gun and when that  
7 censor discovers a break, when the gun is removed it sends a signal  
8 to the body camera to turn on.

9  
10 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
11 Other than that, the cop has full control over it.

12  
13 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
14 Correct.

15  
16 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
17 Okay.

18  
19 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
20 There is -- it is important to note that there is a 60-second  
21 buffering for video. So if something occurs and I don't  
22 immediately start my body-worn camera, if I'm getting out of a car  
23 and someone is approaching me, the camera's constantly buffering,  
24 so if I turn it on I'll get the previous 60 seconds of video but  
25 not audio.

26  
27 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
28 So the camera is always on.

29  
30 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
31 The camera's always buffering, so it'll buffer and overwrite. If  
32 the police officer doesn't activate the camera, it'll buffer and  
33 keep overwriting, but when the police officer deploys that camera  
34 or activates that camera, it will capture the previous 60 seconds  
35 of video.

36  
37 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
38 My concern is, I mean, I don't want cops -- you know, *Oh, I've got*  
39 *to turn my camera on* if there's a situation where they don't have  
40 time to turn the camera on. They're not going to get in trouble  
41 for that, right?

42  
43 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**  
44 No, every -- listen, every case -- as you well know, every case is  
45 unique. And what's nice about the Axon product is it can provide  
46 metrics to the command staff and supervisor. So if we have police  
47 officers that are constantly not turning the camera on for some  
48 reason, that will become apparent to us, we can address that.  
49 Again, if a police officer gets out of his car and has two or three  
50 people on top of him, I think we'd be hard-pressed to, you know, to  
51 discipline that officer.

52  
53 **LEG. TROTТА:**  
54 Are there requirements that they have to turn it on under certain  
55 circumstances?

1 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

2 Yes, the pending rules and procedures do direct the officers during  
3 any interaction with the exception of the ones that I mentioned, in  
4 a hospital setting or a victim of a sexual assault, they will have  
5 to have the camera on.

6  
7 **LEG. TROTТА:**

8 So --

9  
10:46AM

10 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

11 I'm sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off. Talking with other  
12 agencies during the training, after a certain point in time it  
13 almost becomes like muscle memory where the police officer will  
14 get out, pop it on and then do their business.

15  
16 **LEG. TROTТА:**

17 So on a car stop he's required to put it on.

18  
19:46AM

19 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

20 Correct.

21  
22 **LEG. TROTТА:**

23 Any call he's -- an alarm call, he's --

24  
25 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

26 Alarm calls, yeah. Well, any interaction with the public.

27  
28:46AM

28 **LEG. TROTТА:**

29 So if there's no one home at the house he doesn't -- and he's  
30 walking around the house, he doesn't necessarily have to put it on.

31  
32 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

33 I'd have to check on that, but I'm not -- I'm not necessarily sure  
34 on that one.

35  
36 **LEG. TROTТА:**

37 Okay. All right, thank you.

38  
39:47AM

39 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

40 Anyone else? Okay. So we have -- oh, Legislator Thorne.

41  
42 **LEG. THORNE:**

43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate it. Thank you, Inspector.

44  
45:47AM

45 My question is currently Suffolk County Police respond to what you  
46 call aided calls, we call ambulance calls or EMS calls. Is that --  
47 is that going to be on while people are treating patients and is  
48 that not a violation of their HIPPA regulations? And honestly,  
49 Inspector, I'm honestly not sure, but I'd be concerned about  
50 liability and also the right of privacy to our patients in the  
51 streets.

52  
53 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

54 Yeah, once the -- once the policy is complete and finalized we can  
55 make it available to this body. I'm going over some of the policy  
56 in my mind right now and the ones that I do remember distinctly are

1 the sexual assault victim in a hospital setting. I don't think we  
2 would want to necessarily capture, you know, medical treatment per  
3 se, but we can provide a copy of the guide once it is finalized.

4  
5 **LEG. THORNE:**

6 I think it's something we should have on our radar because -- and  
7 again, I'm not an attorney, and Counsel can look into it, but I'd  
8 be concerned about patients' right of privacy as well --

9  
10 **INSPECTOR DOHERTY:**

11 Absolutely.

12  
13 **LEG. THORNE:**

14 -- in an emergency street situation, so. Thank you so much,  
15 Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

18 Okay. Well, we had a motion and a second. Any other discussion?  
19 I think we're complete. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

20  
21 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

22 *Nine.*

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

25 *IR 1429 approved.*

26  
27 Okay, that's the last on that part of the agenda.

28  
29 **Procedural Motions**, there's none.

30  
31 **Home Rule Messages**, none.

32  
33 **Subject to Call**, none.

34  
35 Before I adjourn --

36  
37 **LEG. FLEMING:**

38 Mr. Flotteron? I'm sorry; point of personal privilege before we  
39 adjourn the meeting. If I could just put a question to Counsel?  
40 To Legislative Counsel.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

43 Go right ahead.

44  
45 **LEG. FLEMING:**

46 Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Duffy. I just wanted to clarify,  
47 earlier in the agenda the Presiding Officer, it sounded as though  
48 he was instructing me or telling me that I should not or could not  
49 file a resolution, and I just wanted, for the public who might be  
50 listening and also for my own understanding of my duties and  
51 responsibilities, I just wanted to clarify. As a duly elected  
52 member of this Legislative body, is it not my responsibility and  
53 also my authority to file a bill? Mr. McCaffrey said *we're in the*  
54 *majority now* and that's true and maybe the bill won't survive or  
55 get a majority vote, but isn't it the case that I should be free to  
56 file a resolution if I felt that was consistent with my duties?

1 **P.O. McCaffrey:**

2 Legislator Fleming, if I may. I never said you couldn't file a  
3 bill, but I just said there was a more expeditious (*sic*) way of doing  
4 it which we're going to take up. You can file a bill, you can file  
5 all the bills that you want, okay, but we'll fix the problem before  
6 your bill makes any affect on any of the animals or any of the  
7 people that work there. That was my point, okay? Feel free to  
8 file a bill.

9  
10 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11 Okay. Well, then I don't have a question, Mr. Duffy. Thank you,  
12 Mr. Flotteron.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

15 Okay. In conclusion, the K-9 -- we had some wonderful discussion  
16 really this morning; the K-9 facility, the 911 operators. I'm  
17 going to be reaching out to try to get us a little bit more of a  
18 timeline from the Administration and everyone else of where we're  
19 at and we'll share it to the whole committee, because we discussed  
20 just now, for example, just K-9, the different steps and we'll just  
21 make sure we're all on the same page so we could help move this  
22 forward. There was controversy in the past and it seems like we're  
23 all going to be very supportive, which we always were supportive  
24 before but the concerns were when we had large budgetary problems  
25 and eight Bond downgradings, we wanted to try to do things in-house  
26 and not keep on bonding out engineering. And that was the only, I  
27 think, slight push back that was ever happened and that was over  
28 four years ago, because I -- that July 3rd tour was -- I was newly  
29 elected and I learned what the facility was like; but again, it was  
30 a simple design which we could have done in-house. But let's move  
31 past that and get this project done, and that was why I asked the  
32 department to send speakers here. I want to know months before  
33 Bonds come up, not an hour before like we had historically my first  
34 four years here. Thank you.

35  
36 **LEG. FLEMING:**

37 Mr. Chair?

38  
39 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

40 This meeting is adjourned.

41  
42 *(\*The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. \*)*  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56