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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 July 21, 2022.

Members Present:

Legislator Steve Flotteron - Chairman

Legislator Sarah Anker

Legislator Stephanie Bontempi

Legislator Tom Donnelly

Legislator Manuel Esteban

Legislator Leslie Kennedy

Members Not Present:

Legislator James Mazzarella - Vice-Chair (Excused Absence)

Legislator Bridget Fleming - (Excused Absence)

Also in Attendance:

Legislator Dominic Thorne - District Office No. 7

Legislator Robert Trotta - District Office No. 13

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

Erika Hershberger - Aide to Legislator Kennedy

Greg Atherton - Aide to Legislator Bontempi

Karen Klafter - Aide to Legislator Donnelly

Michelle Zarifis - CE's Office/Intergovernmental Relations

Emily Dwyer - CE's Office/Intergovernmental Relations

Jamima Chowdhury - CE's Office/Intergovernmental Relations

Anthony Calandrillo - Lieutenant/Crime Section Unity-5th Precinct

Felix Adeyeye - Director of Program Evaluation/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

Dan Berezny - Investigator Lieutenant Deputy Sheriff/SCSO

John Hnat - Treasurer/Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association

Renita Certain - Spin The Yard

Devon Toney - AINT Project

Latoya Bazmore

Sherri Godfrey

All Other Interested Parties

1 **Minutes Taken By:**

2 Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

3
4 ***(*The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. *)***

5
6 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

7 I would like to call the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to
8 order. I'll ask you all to please stand and we'll have Legislator
9 Donnelly lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

10
11 ***Pledge of Allegiance***

12
13 Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our prayers for
14 our First Responders and also all our military that are overseas
15 and who have come home.

16
17 ***Moment of Silence Observed***

18
19 Okay, we can be seated.

20
21 Welcome, everyone. And if the Clerk can do a roll call.

22
23 ***(*Roll Called by Brett Robinson - Chief Deputy Clerk*)***

24
25 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

26 Here.

27
28 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

29 *(Not Present).*

30
31 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

32 Excused absence.

33
34 **LEG. FLEMING:**

35 *(Not Present).*

36
37 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

38 Excused absence.

39
40 **LEG. ANKER:**

41 Here.

42
43 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

44 Here.

45
46 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

47 Good morning, here.

48
49 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

50 Present.

51
52 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

53 Present.

54
55 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

56 *Six.*

1
2 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

3 Okay, thank you. We're now at the public portion. There's no
4 correspondence, correct?

5
6 So the Public Portion, our first speaker -- you have three minutes
7 to speak, it's question/answer -- but Receda (*sic*) Certain.

8
9 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

10 Hi. Good morning, everyone. Thanks for hearing me out. I am
11 Renita Certain from the organization Spin The Yard. I was on my
12 way to Wyandanch to go to work and this is heavy on my mind. So,
13 I want to address an issue or two, if I may.

14
15 I do workforce development. I work with the Sheriff's Department.
16 I do re-entry as well as families and youth at risk, I work with
17 numerous organizations. And housing is the foundation of anyone's
18 livelihood. I'm originally from the City, so to see what's going
19 on with DSS, parole, the connections between the families. As we
20 know, COVID has hit us hard, there were working people who lost
21 their jobs, there are people trying to recreate. For those people
22 who got one-shot deals, they're no longer able to get another
23 one-shot deal in Suffolk County. Right? That's the only
24 Department of Social Service that does that in New York State.

25
26 The second thing is housing. They said they stopped doing hotels.
27 They do have hotels still going, but they only stopped as far as
28 whoever the individual is.

29
30 On the news this week I had a young man who came home from jail who
31 did everything that I asked him to do, who got every certification
32 that was needed, that had health problems, that had a kidney
33 transplant, that really needed housing. And they are being housed
34 like cattle, right? So we're talking about people being housed 15,
35 20 people in a house, which is alarming. It's a hundred degrees.
36 I don't think any of us could imagine 15, 20 people in a three,
37 four-bedroom house right now. So, he was killed; he was killed by
38 his roommate. And he begged everybody. I made phone calls. He
39 told everyone that he felt like he was in trouble in this house and
40 the result of it is he was killed. Right?

41
42 And so I just want, you know, to be mindful of the laws. I can
43 educate people, I can get them the training, I can, you know, get
44 them to the resources they need. But if they can't be mobile
45 around Suffolk County, if they can't connect the dots, right, if
46 they can't get the help from the people they're calling on, then
47 what I'm doing is for nothing. And, you know, I would hate to
48 spend all these years -- I'm a taxpayer. I'm retired from the Post
49 Office. I have kids in law enforcement, right, so this is my
50 passion. I don't only educate people, I want them to be
51 homeowners, right, and so I need your help. And that's all I have
52 to say. Thank you.

53
54 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

55 Thank you. Legislator Kennedy.

1 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

2 Hello. Thank you for coming out and thank you for what you do. I
3 just have a question. The gentleman who was killed in the housing
4 that he was given, was he on probation or parole?

5
6 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

7 He was on probation.

8
9 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

10 Okay. All right, thank you.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

13 Legislator Donnelly.

14
15 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

16 Hi, good morning. Thank you for coming.

17
18 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

19 Good morning.

20
21 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

22 Thank you for your testimony. So, just a couple of quick
23 questions. I think it's really important that particularly you
24 raised a pretty alarming DSS point about housing. So if you are
25 aware that there are -- there's overcrowding in a specific housing,
26 I think it's important that you reach out to the individual
27 Legislator in that district so that we can at least try and find
28 out what's going on. I think many of us share your concerns about
29 DSS, I know that I do.

30
31 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

32 Right.

33
34 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

35 But I just -- I wanted to thank you for coming and just make that
36 point to you, that if you know of an overcrowding situation --

37
38 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

39 Right.

40
41 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

42 -- you have to get in touch with somebody. Like, you know, I tell
43 folks this all the time, we can't respond to something if we don't
44 know about it.

45
46 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

47 Okay.

48
49 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

50 Okay, thank you.

51
52 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

53 Thank you. Okay, thank you.

54
55 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

56 One second, Legislator --

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RENITA CERTAIN:

Sorry.

CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:

-- Thorne.

LEG. THORNE:

Hi. Good morning, ma'am.

RENITA CERTAIN:

Good morning.

LEG. THORNE:

Thank you for sharing your -- this event with us. It is something I am concerned about. Do you happen to know -- and you may or may not, we'll find out. But do you happen to know if this was a County-run shelter or just a place that's taking our vouchers? Because I know of the problem, I have a very similar one in my district.

RENITA CERTAIN:

Right.

LEG. THORNE:

So my concern is that with the overcrowding, because often the local municipalities have been blocked from actually inspecting these properties, and I do know that those things are going on and we're working on that. But do you know what town this actually happened in?

RENITA CERTAIN:

In Coram.

LEG. THORNE:

In Coram; it's the one that just recently happened, ma'am?

RENITA CERTAIN:

Yes.

LEG. THORNE:

Yeah, you can -- you and I should speak. I would love to speak with you and we are on this.

CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:

You have her information.

RENITA CERTAIN:

Okay, thank you.

LEG. THORNE:

I'll get your information and we'll talk, okay?

RENITA CERTAIN:

Okay, thank you so much.

1 **LEG. THORNE:**

2 Thank you so much for -- thank you for your care and compassion of
3 people.

4
5 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

6 Thank you.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

9 Thank you.

10
11 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

12 Mr. Chairman?

13
14 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

15 You have a great day.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

18 Oh, one second.

19
20 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

21 Okay.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

24 One more question. Legislator Esteban.

25
26 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

27 Hi. Good morning. Thank you for sharing this information with us.
28 You know, for some of the audience who may not be familiar with the
29 term one-shot, can you explain that? And also, explain to us,
30 please, what you mentioned about that some people are getting
31 hotels and some folks are not.

32
33 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

34 Okay. So, a one-shot deal is where you may go to Social Service.
35 I've had a young lady who I sent to Social Service, I worked with
36 her. I helped her get gainful employment. Two kids, she went to
37 Social Service, got a one-shot deal. They require a deposit to get
38 an apartment, so she needed help to receive the apartment. She got
39 a one-shot deal, a supplement of \$2,000. However, in Central Islip
40 the houses went on fire in Fairfield Apartments, which she ended up
41 homeless; not her fault, but still homeless. I actually had to do
42 a fund-raise of \$8,000 for this young lady and her family. Because
43 Red Cross did contribute \$800, but as we know, \$800 is not enough
44 to get another apartment. So, her son was a straight A student,
45 went to Bay Shore High School. We raised, me and the coach, money
46 to get her an apartment because she was employed, right. So you
47 get that one-shot deal from Social Service and that's it.
48 Regardless of what happens, you know, you can't say *my house went*
49 *on fire, my apartment went on fire* because you already got that
50 one-shot deal. So that's the one-shot deal. I'm sorry; the second
51 question?

52
53 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

54 You mentioned some folks are getting the hotels and some folks are
55 not.

1 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

2 Okay. So, right? There is a part in -- I wish I would have
3 brought it, in Social Services where if you can provide doctor
4 notes, some people can't live with other people. You know, some
5 people are coming home from doing 24 years in jail and some people
6 just were on -- you know, had luck where they were home health
7 aides and lost their job. They're all being put in the same house.
8 There's no intake, there's no thorough who am I, right? Because
9 some people are just -- like I said, you lost your job and one
10 person came home doing 24 years. We don't know who's who, we just
11 know these people need housing.

12
13 DSS is not having that intake of am I placing working people in a
14 home with working people. Am I placing people who work with me?
15 I work directly with the Sheriff's Department; when somebody is
16 released they come to me, I can tell you this is a good fit. I've
17 been working with this person for six months, he's changed his
18 life, he's doing what he's supposed to. There is a lack of
19 communication. And so I don't know if I answered your question,
20 but that's it.

21
22 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

23 You did, thank you. Thank you so much.

24
25 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

26 Okay.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

29 Perfect. Thank you so much.

30
31 **RENITA CERTAIN:**

32 Thank you.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

35 Our next speaker is Devon Toney.

36
37 **DEVON TONEY:**

38 Hello, good morning. My name is Devon Toney with the AINT Project,
39 All Included and Treated. And to piggy-back off what she said,
40 somebody asked about the motel/hotel placement, that's something
41 that I've been going through for -- since 2017. And the doctor's
42 letters that she's talking about, if you remember, I've spoken
43 about the doctor's letters that I had. I had two doctor's letters
44 that stated that I cannot be placed in a shelter, it's out. I have
45 to be placed in motel/hotel placement or single occupancy housing,
46 that's why I started fighting for people when it comes to single
47 occupancy housing.

48
49 Department of Social Services and Francis Pierre, who's the
50 Commissioner, told me personally out of their mouths *We don't give*
51 *motel/hotel placements*. But when you go around Department of
52 Social Services and you hear people asking, *Does anybody know how*
53 *to get to the Deer Park Motor Inn*, and I would ask, *Why is that?*
54 *Well, they just placed me in the Deer Park Motor Inn*. So it --
55 they're allowed to literally tell anybody anything just to get them
56 away from the window. But Jon Hall, who's 55 years old that died

1 in Coram, that was her friend, that was my friend, that's LaToya
2 Bazmore's friend, that's somebody we all worked with and it was a
3 housing situation. And people are not just dying in these houses,
4 these people are stressed out.

5
6 We just came from cleaning First Avenue in Brentwood, there was a
7 young, Hispanic man that came to us and I asked him why he was out
8 there that early and he said, *Well, I have three roommates in Bay*
9 *Shore, I have to get out as early as possible.* These are strenuous
10 situations. And when something happens, say that man kills
11 somebody or somebody kills him, taxpayers are going to pay for this
12 man's trial. People are going to have to give up 10, 15, \$20,000
13 to the family for this man's -- the other man's casket. Like if
14 the public knew, I believe, that this was going on, it would be
15 more than the people that are struggling, that are out crying,
16 because Department of Social Service and all these funds come out
17 of tax-paying dollars and these are citizens that are also
18 struggling to keep up their home bills and being evicted from their
19 homes and nobody just wants to be paying anybody for nothing. But
20 it seems like you have vagrants and people going out there on a
21 limb just selling used drugs, but it's not. It comes from the
22 government and it starts with the Department of Social Service
23 because that's who has main control over places like Wyandanch and
24 Brentwood and Coram and Bellport.

25
26 So like I said, was it yesterday or the day before, they're piling
27 people up from Wyandanch, Amityville and places in Bellport and
28 Coram. When people have a long time in jail they have old
29 conflicts, they end up in new conflicts and people end up getting
30 hurt and that's something that needs to be corrected. Sammy
31 Gonzalez; is Legislator Sammy Gonzalez on?

32
33 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

34 No.

35
36 **DEVON TONEY:**

37 Well, Sammy Gonzalez, if you remember a few months ago they said
38 they had a house, they had a facility, they're working with Francis
39 Pierre for me. I have not been put in that home yet, I have not.
40 So there's struggle after struggle after struggle. They said
41 they're waiting for a house manager, but who's managing me in the
42 streets if I have to go out there and do something?

43
44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

45 Excuse me. Your time's up, if you could wrap it up.

46
47 **DEVON TONEY:**

48 No, I'm finished now. Thank you.

49
50 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

51 Thank you.

52
53 **DEVON TONEY:**

54 Yep.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

2 Our next speaker, LaToya Bazmore.

3
4 **LATOYA BAZMORE:**

5 Hello.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

8 Good morning.

9
10 **LATOYA BAZMORE:**

11 Good morning. Thank you for hearing me. Once again, just to
12 reiterate what I was saying yesterday and to piggy-back off of what
13 Devon was saying.

14
15 He was promised these -- this housing; this was probably about
16 three, three months ago. Samuel Gonzalez, Richberg and Pierre all
17 said they had a house and that it was available to him and it was
18 three apartments or something like that. It's still a dangerous
19 situation and nothing is being done. We tried to get in touch with
20 Sam, nothing; we tried to get in touch with Jason. We just got in
21 touch with him because of us coming yesterday and the day before.
22 So, some -- the ball is being dropped somewhere. People are being
23 put into danger and nobody's paying attention to it. It seems like
24 lives are just being lost because you don't have, and it's not
25 fair. There's enough to go around for everybody in Suffolk County.
26 Suffolk County gets millions of dollars toward Opioids, they get
27 millions of dollars towards homelessness, they get millions of
28 dollars toward mental health. There should be no ball dropping or
29 anybody falling through the cracks.

30
31 I advocated for Devon twice at DSS. He had all of the
32 documentation and a Judge from Albany said that they had to give
33 him single occupancy housing, and he sent the manager from DSS,
34 whoever he was, to come in here and yell in my face about how they
35 don't have it and they're not going to do this and they're not
36 going to do that and their policies.

37
38 Disability laws override DSS policies; we all know this. But yet
39 and still, people are still being put out onto the street, putting
40 all of us in danger, that need help, that need a foundation, like
41 Renita said, a foundation that will help them to get the mental
42 health they need. Foundation is a home, someplace they feel safe.
43 Not three and four and sometimes even five women or men living in a
44 room together. And this is what's happening; we were discussing
45 this with the Comptroller yesterday. In all of these houses in
46 Suffolk County they're being piled on top of each other and
47 everybody is expected to just live normally. I don't think anybody
48 in this room could live in a room where there's six different
49 people or five or four different people you don't know and be
50 successful. No, you're going to be stressed out. You're going to
51 be angry, and most likely you're going to be addicted to something;
52 alcohol, some type of drug, weed, it happens. Because when I was
53 in the same situation in 2016 they piled me and a whole bunch of
54 families into the housing in Amityville that was shut down, and it
55 was families piled on top of each other and it was very
56 uncomfortable, it was uncomfortable for me and it was definitely

1 uncomfortable for my daughter.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

4 Thank you. If you could wrap up, your time's up.

5
6 **LATOYA BAZMORE:**

7 I'm asking that you all reach out, please, please. These
8 situations are not going to get any better. No help is being
9 given, funds are being cut from programs and people are dying.
10 Thank you.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

13 Thank you. And our last speaker is Sherrie Godfrey.

14
15 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

16 Good morning, Board.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

19 Good morning.

20
21 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

22 I thought today's topic was pretty much for safety reasons. So, my
23 purpose for being here is because I brought safety issues regarding
24 what's going on in my town, the Town of Babylon. Although I do
25 live in Copiague, the incident that -- or what I'm noticing is in
26 the 14th district, Mr. Kevin McCaffrey's area, and Lindenhurst.
27 When I do my morning exercise and my walk I notice that these
28 low-hanging power lines that are a danger to the people whose house
29 it is hanging from. So I did send an email to Mr. Nazir about
30 that, Thursday, July 14th, 2022, and it's a public safety area and
31 those wires, the power wires have been hanging for months, even
32 during the school system -- or season.

33
34 So, you know, I just want to find out, being that it's the 14th
35 District, who can jump on that issue and get it done ASAP.
36 Because, again, it's unsafe, low power hanging wires. I tried to
37 speak to someone at the PSEG at the Lindenhurst office which every
38 time that I went there the door was locked, so that's why I brought
39 it to his attention. But I first brought it to Mr. Trent who is
40 with the Suffolk County Town of Babylon's Town Hall, Citizen
41 Services Department, and he said there was nothing that they could
42 do because they don't handle that situation. So again, I
43 communicate via e-mails and I'm still waiting for Mr. Nazir to get
44 back to me, but I want to address the Board with it because maybe
45 you or somewhere here could recommend that that gets done. So, the
46 houses that the low wire is in front of is between West Hoffman and
47 Victoria Street off of South Strong Street and it needs to be done
48 ASAP, it's very dangerous.

49
50 My second issue is related to the follow up with Ms. Trish Bergin
51 pertaining to placing a safety monitoring camera on the pole where
52 people are dumping garbage and whatnot. So what I was told by the
53 town is that, well, they're going to make that a regular stop. But
54 we need to find out who continues to do that, one, so we can hold
55 them accountable. Also, to see if there could be a garbage can or
56 Town of Babylon garbage trash can be placed there so it would, you

1 know, pretty much put people's mindset, *Oh, there's a garbage can,*
2 *we can put this here.* And if that's a regular stop then that stuff
3 should be cleaned up ASAP, but the way that's going on, you have
4 children going in that area, you have all kinds of nonsense that's
5 in there that they don't need to see because there's a bus stop
6 right there. And on this issue for months now, but yet nothing has
7 been taken place.

8
9 Trish Bergin said that she would sign so and so and I went to her
10 office, you know, trying to get some feedback, but what is going
11 on? Why are you shunning me, you know? At least have your Chief
12 of Staff, Ms. -- whatever her name is to, you know, follow up.
13 What's going on? You guys should be able to communicate with
14 whoever's district that is to have the conversation to get it done.
15 I'm addressing you as a Board because I can't get it done through
16 my own Legislature, so it should be an issue where you guys
17 consider it and get it done ASAP because it's something that needs
18 to be done ASAP. Everybody has received the e-mails, your names
19 are on all the e-mails that I've sent regarding this issue. So
20 please, if you can follow up with me, have him follow up with me
21 ASAP so we can see what they've done and it's not lingering because
22 the power lines are a big issue. If you see it for yourself. I
23 sent him pictures and video so have him share that with you --

24
25 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

26 Thank you.

27
28 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

29 -- and send it to your e-mail so you all are aware of it.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

32 Thank you. Thank you and we'll make -- Mr. Nazir did hear.
33 And also, there was a question from Legislator Trotta.

34
35 **LEG. TROTТА:**

36 Yeah, just so you know, probably the low-hanging wires are probably
37 not power, they're cable.

38
39 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

40 Uh-huh.

41
42 **LEG. TROTТА:**

43 And the cable company, I have it in my own neighborhood. They hang
44 low and they don't seem to care about it; I've called many times
45 myself. So it's not the power lines, it's probably the cable
46 lines.

47
48 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

49 Can you have Mr. Nazir forward everything to you?

50
51 **LEG. TROTТА:**

52 Well, what I suggest to you is that you call whoever your
53 Legislator is.

54
55 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

56 I don't speak with him, he's not qualified. He's incompetent.

1
2 **LEG. TROTТА:**

3 Who is it?

4
5 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

6 That's Richberg. I tried to work with --

7
8 **LEG. TROTТА:**

9 Look, if there's anybody who will -- Jason will take care of it for
10 you.

11
12 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

13 No, I can't have the conversation with him. I have tried in the
14 past and when people have shown me that they're unwilling, first of
15 all --

16
17 **LEG. TROTТА:**

18 Well, he's not going to go out there and lift them up --

19
20 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

21 That's why I address you all as a Board. That's -- the reason why
22 I'm addressing you as a Board is to have one of you speak to him,
23 you know, because I try to avoid conflict at any --

24
25 **LEG. TROTТА:**

26 Well, if the odds are -- the odds are it's not a power line, it's a
27 cable line, like 99% it's a cable line.

28
29 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

30 Okay. But being that Mr. Ali Nazir said that he would handle that,
31 I'll need him to do --

32
33 **LEG. TROTТА:**

34 Okay. All right.

35
36 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

37 -- the communication with him. It makes it better. Because I
38 don't want to get any conflict and be wrongfully and falsely
39 accused of anything else.

40
41 **LEG. TROTТА:**

42 Okay.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

45 I'm sure you'll get an e-mail and it'll be forwarded. Thank you.

46
47 **SHERRIE GODFREY:**

48 Thank you.

49
50 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

51 Okay. There's no other speakers, it looks like, so we're closing
52 the public portion.

53
54 **Appointment Resolutions**, there's none.

55
56 Now we have under **Presentations**, the first presentation will be

1 Suffolk County Sheriff's Department will present information on the
2 New York State Firearm laws. And when you come up, if you could
3 state your name for the record and you could even sit in the front
4 middle chairs unless you want to be at the podium, whatever you
5 prefer.

6
7 **CHIEF BROCKMEYER:**

8 Good morning. Chris Brockmeyer, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Suffolk
9 County Sheriff's Office. Just wanted to say thank you to the
10 committee for allowing us the opportunity to speak with you today.

11
12 Today I have Investigator Daniel Berezny, he's going to be giving
13 you a brief overview of our Pistol License Bureau, along with the
14 recently enacted legislation that will be affecting our Pistol
15 License Bureau in the coming months.

16
17 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

18 Good morning, Legislator -- oh. Good morning. As Chief Brockmeyer
19 said, I'm an Investigator Lieutenant with the Sheriff's Office.
20 I'll give you a brief overview of the responsibilities and
21 operations of our Pistol License Bureau.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

24 Also, anyone listening on-line that's a Legislator, you did get an
25 e-mail yesterday that has this handout that we just received.

26
27 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

28 Okay. We'll give a brief overview of the operations. The new
29 legislation that has been enacted and what the anticipated effect
30 is going to be within our office.

31
32 So our Sheriff's Office Pistol License Bureau covers the five
33 eastern towns which is Riverhead, Southampton, Shelter Island, East
34 Hampton and Southold. We provide the licensing for all residents
35 within those townships. Our Pistol License Bureau is comprised of
36 an Investigator Sergeant and three Deputy Sheriff Investigators, a
37 civilian, and it's overseen by an Investigator Captain and an
38 Investigator Lieutenant.

39
40 The hours of operation within the Pistol License Bureau that's open
41 to the public is 9 to 4:30 p -- 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through
42 Friday excluding holidays. Our staffing does work a rotating
43 schedule to work evenings also, or nights I should say, to complete
44 their investigations when the general public -- when it's closed to
45 the general public. So they are working in the office and also out
46 on the road.

47
48 So the eastern towns that we cover, we provide licensing for all
49 the residents and also for businesses. If there's a business owner
50 within the town, they can get a business license or employment
51 license. Even if they do not reside within those towns, if there's
52 a business that operates there, they can get a business license to
53 carry or an employment license to carry. The employment would be
54 where their employer requires them to carry a firearm. In such
55 cases of an armored car company or something like that, we would
56 cover those licenses.

1
2 Currently there's approximately 5,600 licensees that our office
3 takes care of through the Pistol License Bureau.

4
5 So, the duties of the Pistol License Bureau that we have really
6 just relating -- the first part is relating to the application and
7 the process of monitoring and taking care of any changes that are
8 going to New York State. We'll start with the application and the
9 fingerprint processing. They'll come in, they first pick up the
10 application they're going to complete which also includes the State
11 form, they'll return it to us, get fingerprinted and then we will
12 file the application and it's going to -- when we get to it as a
13 first-in/first-out basis. We take care of dealer applications in
14 our jurisdiction, we have dealer licenses, any business that sells
15 or does transactions of firearms has to be licensed as a dealer.
16 So, we have the dealer applications renewals and inspections. In
17 order for that business to open up, it has to follow town codes,
18 whatever town they're opening up in. We will go there physically
19 with our Investigators to look at the business before we approve a
20 dealer license for them to operate. Thereafter, once they're in
21 operation, once a year our policy is to conduct a inspection of
22 those premises to make sure they're still in compliance with the
23 laws.

24
25 I take care of all transfers of pistol licensees. They come in and
26 out of the jurisdiction, that could be whether it's from a County
27 outside the area in New York State or even within this County
28 because, you know, we have two licensing agencies within this
29 County, Suffolk County Police Department which does the five
30 western towns and we do the five eastern towns. So, there are
31 transfers back and forth between people moving or changes of
32 businesses. Every purchase or transaction of a handgun does need a
33 voucher, so we have high traffic volume of residents coming in to
34 pick up vouchers which they need to purchase the weapon and then
35 they'll come back to us to put those weapons on their license and
36 that gets reported to the State.

37
38 Another big part of it is the confiscation of weapons, whether it's
39 suspensions, revocations or due to arrests or say a deceased
40 person. Any of these guns that are out there, we want to make sure
41 that we account for, so we're always -- on a licensee that moves
42 out of the area or if that licensee is deceased we make sure that
43 we account for whatever weapons that are on their license.

44
45 The current law has a five-year renewal process and that was part
46 of the SAFE Act. So every five years, any licensee does need to
47 come into our office to renew their license. And then we also have
48 investigations that we do involving any license holder. A lot of
49 them have to do with domestic violence issues, orders of
50 protection, arrests and lost and stolen handguns.

51
52 In addition to the licensing requirements that we take care of for
53 the five East End towns, other things that are managed by that
54 specific office, the Pistol License Bureau, is the handguns for all
55 sworn officers within our department. We have about a little over
56 a thousand sworn officers, so any transaction that they have of a

1 personal firearm and also as a job related -- the issued firearms
2 is taken care of through our Pistol License Office. All ID cards
3 for sworn members, civilians, the non-sworn members within our
4 office are also -- within the Sheriff's Office are produced and
5 issued out of the Pistol License Bureau. We also take care of ID
6 cards for outside agencies, that would be Southampton -- for
7 example, Southampton Town Police, we design and issue the cards for
8 their police officers and also fire departments throughout the
9 entire County, the Fire Police, we'll have them come in, we design
10 and issue the ID cards for them also.

11
12 Another big part of the ID end of it is any retired employees that
13 have an HR218 ID which is the Federal law to carry a firearm
14 throughout the country, we do that for our own officers that are
15 retired and also outside agencies such as Southampton Town PD.

16
17 So the current application process, it is an extended process and
18 does take some time. As I said, the licensees will pick up an
19 application from our office, they'll return it, get fingerprinted,
20 we file them pretty much by month in the order in which they come
21 in and we start out with background checks when we get to their
22 file. We do traffic summons inquiries, their criminal history,
23 mental health history, we contact the local police departments at
24 the jurisdiction that they're in so we can do a background. If
25 there's anything, even if it's not criminal but if there's police
26 department activity dealing with the individual or at their
27 residence, we're notified of that.

28
29 The current backlog that we have right now is approximately 150
30 applications that are filed that we have not begun investigations
31 on, which correlates to about a seven-month backlog. The -- on
32 average, each Investigator within the office, the three that we
33 have, will simultaneously work on approximately seven applications
34 at a time. So, if we didn't receive any more at this point it
35 would be about seven months that we would expect that we would
36 catch up with where we are.

37
38 We provided a few charts here just to show the -- our breakdown of
39 the classes that we have, that we provide. And then also the
40 voucher purchases, new applications and it's over a 7-year period
41 that we provided. You could take a look at that after we're done
42 with the presentation; if you have any questions we'll answer any
43 questions in relation to these numbers.

44
45 So, we'll get into the new legislation that's been enacted, I'm
46 sure that, you know, many are familiar with hearing it in the news.
47 The Supreme Court decision was one of them for the full carry
48 within New York State where licensing agencies were denying full
49 carry license, and the other that was just recent was the
50 registering of semi-automatic rifles to mirror the licensing of
51 pistols within New York State.

52
53 Currently, like I said, the renewals were every five years except
54 for a dealer, a dealer was every three years. If somebody now
55 transitions from a sportsman to a full carry license, the
56 requirement by law is that they're going to have to be renewed

1 every three years at this point, which that's going to, again,
2 increase the traffic of the public coming in to take care of the
3 renewals.

4
5 There's a new legislation for social media accounts. Over the --
6 they need to provide social media accounts, whether they're --
7 they've been closed or they're still active for anybody applying
8 for a license so we know what they are and that we can look at the
9 history on those accounts. There's a training course that they're
10 requiring for the full carry, at least a 16-hour course. DCJS is
11 the one that's going to be coming up with the requirements for that
12 course, that has not happened yet, we're still waiting on when that
13 will take place. DCJS created an appeals board for anybody that we
14 deny to have a license that we revoke or we suspend. Right now
15 there really isn't a process in place to -- besides getting a
16 lawyer and filing a lawsuit if they're denied or they feel that
17 they were wronged, DCJS is going to create a board -- again, that
18 hasn't taken place yet but they're creating a board to review these
19 cases.

20
21 Again, the legislation that already came out with the licensing of
22 a semiautomatic rifle, that is going to mirror the same procedures
23 that are taking place currently with the pistol licensing. And
24 they also have a list of sensitive locations for carrying now that
25 they're going to be allowing a full carry. The -- it's -- the
26 sense of locations are any public transportation, parks, libraries,
27 schools and they created a -- it's a Class E Felony if a person,
28 even if it's a licensee, is caught carrying in these restricted
29 areas.

30
31 So the effect of the new legislation within our office. So, one of
32 the big things is that semiautomatic rifle legislation. Anybody
33 that's going to purchase a semiautomatic rifle now has to have a
34 pistol license -- I'm sorry, a license for purchase -- to make that
35 purchase or to make a transfer. So, I have a feeling a lot of the
36 public doesn't know that yet, they're going to find out when they
37 go into the store thinking that they can purchase the rifle,
38 they're going to be told that they can't unless they have a
39 license.

40
41 Now, we did contact the State, the State says that the pistol
42 license at this point, if you already have a pistol license that is
43 going to be sufficient to purchase the rifle. Again, it's going to
44 be similar licensing just with a -- an addition of the rifle on it.
45 We're not sure how many -- it's kind of unknown right now how many
46 people are purchasing license -- purchasing rifles. Some of them
47 are semiautomatic rifles within our jurisdiction. It's an unknown
48 but we know it is going to increase the number of applicants and
49 the number of licensees that we have.

50
51 So, at this time in our office we're really at capacity right now
52 where we're located in the front office, of the administrative
53 offices in the Riverhead Correctional Facility, with the number of
54 people that we're able to take in on a daily basis from the public
55 and also our staffing level within that office and Records
56 Management, within that office.

1
2 The social media aspect of the new legislation, we've actually met
3 with the Suffolk County Police Department already, we're going to
4 try to work in conjunction with them to come up with a couple of
5 different plans. One is the paperwork involved in these changes
6 and also -- so we're all -- so it's all uniform within Suffolk
7 County, and since there's two licensing agencies, so one agency is
8 not telling their licensees one thing and we're telling them
9 another. So, we're looking into some kind of software to be able
10 to get in to look at the social media that we're provided to kind
11 of make the investigation process a little smoother, because this
12 is all new. We're going to be updating -- again, in conjunction
13 with Suffolk County Police Department -- the application, the
14 handbook, the forms, again, to try to make it universal for
15 everybody, and also the potential of trying to get some of this
16 on-line, at least the beginning stages of it, for the application
17 process.

18
19 Our staffing right now, again, we're about seven months out where
20 we stand now for the approval or denial of a pistol license. You
21 know, we're going to have to -- moving forward with this new
22 legislation, we have seen as soon as the Supreme Court decision did
23 come out, it's only been a few weeks, we did see a spike in the
24 applications that people have come to our office for. Again, we'll
25 have -- do we need more time to see what that's really going to do.
26 You know, there are things nationally that do cause spikes, whether
27 it's an election or a decision like that that can cause a spike,
28 but we have seen right now the applications doubled over the last
29 few weeks, people coming in, we'll have to see where that goes.
30 We'll keep -- we'll monitor that and, you know, we'll review our
31 staffing requirements as we go on to see to ensure that we can
32 continue to provide the services to the residents of our County.

33
34 All right. If there's any questions with -- you know, in regard to
35 the new legislation, any questions in regard to the numbers that we
36 have provided, we'd be more than willing to answer anything.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

39 A couple of clarifications, I'm just wondering. It's my
40 understanding other counties, like Nassau or the City, get to
41 charge more. What are we -- we're stuck at, what, \$10 or something
42 like that?

43
44 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

45 Well, for the vouchers you're talking about, for the purchase of
46 handguns we're at \$5 --

47
48 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

49 Five dollars.

50
51 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

52 -- is where we are.

53
54 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

55 Okay. And also the backlog, you say you're not going to be able to
56 look -- if I came in today, you're not going to be able to look at

1 that file for seven months. From that point, how many more months
2 is that; is it from today to 12 months the process, or how quick is
3 it once you get it?

4
5 **CHIEF BROCKMEYER:**

6 No. As Dan mentioned earlier, we -- the backlog is seven months,
7 so that is -- so from the time you give it to us to the time you
8 receive it, it's about --

9
10 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

11 It's about seven months turnaround time.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

14 The turnaround time, okay.

15
16 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

17 Yeah, to issue the license.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

20 I guess how you presented it, I thought you meant like, oh, that's
21 when you get to look at the file. Okay, I just wanted to make
22 sure.

23
24 There's a lot of different numbers and grids, it's a little
25 confusing. What is -- from pre-pandemic to now, did things double
26 or it just went up 20%, what is the increase?

27
28 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

29 Well, so --

30
31 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

32 Except for maybe the last two weeks we don't know yet.

33
34 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

35 Right, we don't know yet. So you'll see the -- the numbers really
36 probably stay within a 10 to 20% range over the years. The
37 pandemic, it was interesting what happened with that. We did have
38 a spike in applications during the pandemic, I think because people
39 were home and, you know, they were off work and they had the time
40 to apply, in reality. So when we opened back up, you know, we saw
41 that spike. You know, after that spike it, you know, kind of
42 leveled back off and went back to the normal numbers.

43
44 Again, you know, I say like a national -- a national election,
45 we've seen -- you know, in 2016 we saw a spike prior to the
46 Presidential election and, again, after that spike it goes back
47 down. The only thing this time with the change in legislation is
48 we know for a fact the semiautomatic rifle is going to be an
49 additional -- you know, an additional load that's coming into our
50 office. Because the State -- it is the licensing agencies of the
51 City or the County that's going to be licensing for these rifles.

52
53 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

54 Understandable. So, before the law changed two weeks ago, because
55 a lot of times you hear rhetoric that, you know, it spiked a lot in
56 the last so many years. So over the last 10 years it's been the

1 normal ups and downs, pretty much.

2

3 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

4 It has been. It has been.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

7 Okay.

8

9 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

10 Again, you know, the semiautomatic rifle legislation, that's not
11 the decision that just came out recently, that was the legislation
12 by the State that had to do -- that came about after the incident
13 in Buffalo. The latest legislation with the pistol licensing for
14 the full carry, that came out of the Supreme Court decision to New
15 York State.

16

17 You know, the biggest thing with us -- you know, our -- on the
18 graph, you know, we have the sportsman license. The sportsman
19 license is the vast majority of what we supply which is really home
20 premises and to target practice, to and from the range. We do know
21 as far as the full carry, the minute that that decision came down
22 we were getting calls, we were getting people coming in, you know,
23 *when can I change over to my* -- when can I get my full carry
24 license. Along with that, we do have a file full of letters that
25 are written to the Sheriff requesting that they can have a full
26 carry license. We do issue full carry licenses at the present time
27 but it's a heavy load, and when this happens with the -- with New
28 York State actually now accepting this for -- you know, on a mass
29 basis, every licensee that wants to go to full carry needs to come
30 in and fill out an amendment to their license. We have to give
31 them a new license, an amendment has to be sent to the State that
32 now that instead of sportsman they are now full carry. You know, I
33 believe that it was -- so we're a little over 3,000 just sportsman
34 alone. You know, we're thinking there's a high percentage of those
35 that have that sportsman now that are going to be going over to a
36 full carry, or requesting a full carry.

37

38 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

39 Right now it's budget season figuring out for next year. Is there
40 something in the budget that you're putting -- you're at least
41 aware that you're doing something in the budget where if you need
42 another position or something else.

43

44 **CHIEF BROCKMEYER:**

45 Yes.

46

47 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

48 You're trying to correct that so that's coming longer than the
49 seven months.

50

51 **CHIEF BROCKMEYER:**

52 That is correct. Just prior to, actually, this legislation being
53 enacted we had already anticipated adding some civilian positions
54 to the unit. But of course now with this new investigation load
55 that we'll most likely be looking at, we are working with the
56 Sheriff, we're going to have to work with budget, potentially

1 amending our budget for next year to account for additional
2 personnel.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

5 Okay. Thank you. Legislator Trotta?

6
7 **LEG. TROTТА:**

8 What about the million semi-automatic rifles in people's houses
9 now?

10
11 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

12 So, that new legislation that was passed does not address any
13 current semiautomatic rifle. So, that's -- they're grandfathered
14 in. It's from this point forward that anybody purchasing it or
15 transferring a semiautomatic rifle will have to have a license for
16 it.

17
18 **LEG. TROTТА:**

19 Any regular hunting rifle has to be --

20
21 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

22 As long as it's -- if it's a semiautomatic, then -- which could be
23 three rounds. You know, it does not -- you know, it doesn't have
24 to be a 10 round or anything like that, but any semi-automatic is
25 going to have to be registered and you're going to have to have a
26 license to purchase or transfer that weapon. But again, anybody
27 that previously owns one and possesses one, they're -- it's
28 grandfathered in and there's no requirement for that.

29
30 **LEG. TROTТА:**

31 And you can't give a full carry now because the State passed a law
32 that says you have to have the 16 hours of training. So can the
33 Sheriff give it now or you can't?

34
35 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

36 So -- so prior to the legislation we were issuing full carry
37 licenses. Right now, as far as transferring the licenses from a
38 sportsman, say, to a full carry, we're kind of in a holding pattern
39 til New York State comes up with -- you know, they enacted this
40 legislation or passed this legislation, but they don't have the
41 parts of it there yet. So, DCJS needs to provide the requirements
42 for that course and what's an approved course, because in order to
43 get that full carry license they're going to need to come in and
44 show us that they've taken this course. That course does not exist
45 yet.

46
47 I believe that there is a specific date, I don't have that
48 information in front of me now, but there is a specific date when
49 they are to have an approved course available. But again, as of
50 this point it's not.

51
52 **LEG. TROTТА:**

53 I think Suffolk County is like two years behind, so seven months
54 isn't bad.

55
56

1 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

2 I think that they may be, yeah.

3
4 **LEG. TROTТА:**

5 All right, thank you.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

8 Legislator Bontempi.

9
10 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

11 Hi. So, did I understand this correctly? So if you want to change
12 from a sportsman to a full carry there's an amendment that needs to
13 be made. Does that mean that you have to go through -- I'm
14 assuming not the whole process again with all the character
15 witnesses, all of this; what does the amendment entail?

16
17 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

18 The -- you do not have to go through the process again. The
19 amendment entails coming into our office, completing amendment
20 paperwork that needs to be sent to New York State and also
21 receiving a new physical pistol license with the change in
22 category.

23
24 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

25 Okay. And then just to make sure I understood it correctly, the
26 16-hour course does not exist so you truly can't get a full carry
27 license yet.

28
29 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

30 Well, you (*laughter*). Again, it's kind of -- you know, it's the
31 way things are playing out. There are people that have the full
32 carry license. You can -- again, I would have to look further into
33 that legislation, but I believe that anybody that has the full
34 carry now, when they come to renew there's a window of when they
35 have to have that course --

36
37 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

38 Right, but not --

39
40 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

41 -- to satisfy.

42
43 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

44 But not for someone who does not have the full carry yet.

45
46 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

47 Correct.

48
49 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

50 If you have just the sportsman, there really is no mechanism yet
51 because the course does not exist yet.

52
53 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

54 Correct.

1 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

2 Okay. And will -- I guess there will be eventually, once that
3 course is established, there will be a list of, you know,
4 providers, I guess, who -- and that will be listed somewhere?

5
6 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

7 It'll be a private business that's going to be -- from what we
8 understand, it's going to be a private business that'll be
9 supplying this approved course that they'll pay for and then show
10 us some kind of certificate or some kind -- you know, something
11 that we accept that they took this course.

12
13 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

14 That's going to be backlogged, too, most likely (*laughter*).

15
16 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

17 It's going to be. It's going to be.

18
19 **CHIEF BROCKMEYER:**

20 We just had a call recently with the New York State Sheriff's
21 Association. Some Sheriff's Offices within the State, primarily
22 the majority of their licenses are full carry now, and they
23 actually provide the training, some of these agencies provide the
24 training. So it is -- that is going to be a sticking point, not
25 only waiting for the course to be approved by DCJS but also the
26 providing of that course by -- you know, at least in this County by
27 most likely private entities, and there aren't that many of them.
28 So that will, undoubtedly, be another backlog for that to happen.

29
30 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

31 Thank you.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

34 Thank you. Legislator Thorne.

35
36 **LEG. THORNE,**

37 Good morning; yes, we're still in morning, I think. One editorial
38 comment and then a question for you.

39
40 You folks in the Sheriff's Department as well as Suffolk County
41 Police have dropped again on a dime to change the way you do
42 things, and we appreciate your hard work. You guys are just -- in
43 a moment's notice you had to revamp what you do.

44
45 So, my question part of that is is that we have a licensed duty
46 officer permits -- duty permits for like, say, an armed guard or
47 things like that. That -- do we know if that class is going to be
48 enough to change them over to full carry; like would that satisfy
49 the requirement or it's just not something you know yet?

50
51 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

52 There really -- as far as we understand with the Supreme Court
53 decision, it entitles everybody to get a full carry license. As
54 far as New York State is concerned within the Penal Law, they're
55 still going to have the different -- they still list the different
56 classifications as of now. So if somebody wants to still get an

1 employment license they can still get an employment license, if
2 they want to get a business license they can still get a business
3 license. I would think at some point why would they be doing that;
4 I'm not sure of the advantage of doing it. But if you already have
5 a business license or an employment license, even when you come to
6 renew -- I guess one thing to keep that license would be you
7 wouldn't have to take that course for the full carry, you know,
8 that's a requirement of the full carry. So these other classes are
9 still going to exist.

10
11 **LEG. THORNE:**

12 That is the question; I'm sorry if I didn't ask it properly. But
13 the question is if somebody's already been trained because they
14 require training to become an armed guard or, you know, an armored
15 car guard -- that should, I would think, cover the required
16 training if they transition to full carry.

17
18 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

19 Yes. Yeah. Well, as far as the training, if you're saying did
20 they have to take training to be -- for their employment?

21
22 **LEG. THORNE:**

23 No, I know they do; that was a statement. My question is is that
24 going to satisfy the needs of the Sheriff's Office?

25
26 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

27 We don't know because the DCJS -- that's going to be up to DCJS to
28 come out with that training requirement. That's unknown at this
29 time. They have not provided us or the public with what those
30 requirements are yet. There's a mention of at least the 16-hour
31 safety and operation course or something like that, but there's no
32 approved course at this time so it's really an unknown. So if
33 somebody already has that training, I don't know whether that will
34 satisfy the requirement or not yet.

35
36 **LEG. THORNE:**

37 In other words, common sense is a dirty word in government but
38 hopefully they don't waste your time with people that have already
39 taken yearly trainings.

40
41 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

42 Correct, hopefully that will satisfy it. Again, we really don't
43 know, though, at this point because there's nothing approved.

44
45 **LEG. THORNE:**

46 Thank you, Sheriffs. And thank you for the work you're doing for
47 the County, we appreciate it.

48
49 **INVESTIGATOR LIEUTENANT BEREZNY:**

50 Thank you.

51
52 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

53 Before we close out you as our speaker, I'm saying this really
54 basically to the Sheriff's Department, maybe also to the Police
55 Department to Lieutenant Calandrillo. If we could -- I recommend
56 maybe sending an e-mail out to all 18 Legislators, because we are

1 all getting phone calls. And I would say in the e-mail a couple of
2 things; one, I didn't know even prior that there's two different
3 places you can get pistol licenses. So, you might just point out
4 it's the five eastern towns, some Legislators represent two areas
5 so, you know, just point out the five towns. And sometimes all of
6 us Legislators get phone calls from other areas because maybe they
7 felt they couldn't get through to that Legislator. So again, I
8 might be -- would like to know who is the contact, phone number, an
9 e-mail that we can give out to residents or if we want to check for
10 a question, this way you can control your messaging. It's really
11 more to help you also besides us, because, you know, sometimes you
12 get different answers and this way we're all on the same page of
13 what information we're giving out as you're going through these
14 large changes right now with the State law. So I'd recommend,
15 again, if you're able to do an all-18 --

16
17 **CHIEF BROCKMEYER:**
18 Absolutely.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
21 -- e-mail, who to contact at the Sheriff's Department, and I say
22 the same thing for the Police Department, so we know who to ask and
23 questions, e-mails and phone numbers.

24
25 **CHIEF BROCKMEYER:**
26 Very good. We'll take care of it.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
29 Thank you so much for the great presentation.

30
31 And our next speaker is Lieutenant Calandrillo who will be going
32 over similar points about the Police Department, besides also
33 update on the K-9 facility because there's bonding we're voting on
34 and plus a couple of other topics, I believe.

35
36 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
37 Good morning. My name's Anthony Calandrillo, I'm a Lieutenant with
38 the Suffolk County Police Department, I'm currently working in the
39 5th Precinct Crime Section Unit. Lieutenant -- Captain Manfredonia
40 could not be here today, so I'm filling in for him.

41
42 Do you want to start with --

43
44 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
45 Whatever way you like.

46
47 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
48 Okay. Is it K-9, is that where we're at? Pistol?

49
50 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
51 I would say right now we just went over pistol, why don't you stay
52 on the same topic.

53
54 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
55 Sure. All right, so the Sheriff's did -- the Sheriff's Office did
56 an outstanding job of explaining the changes in the law. We're

1 going to face similar challenges and we currently have a backlog
2 that is way beyond what they have; we have over 6,000 cases
3 backlogged right now.

4
5 The issue came in with the -- where we really got behind in 2020.
6 Before 2020 we averaged approximately 2,000 cases a year. In 2020
7 we had 6200 new applications that year, so it's basically three
8 years worth of applications in one year. 2021 we had 4,000 come
9 in, so we had double what we normally get in a year. And really
10 what really set us behind, in addition to the increase in
11 applications, was COVID. We were shut down for seven months in
12 2020 and investigations could not be completed. So, right now our
13 -- we're doing everything we can to try to increase staffing in the
14 unit to try to bring down this backlog, catch up a little bit.
15 Currently we have 10 Investigators, we have seven Police Officers,
16 three Civilian Investigators. In addition, we have two supervisors
17 in the unit and we have an admin support staff of six civilians.
18 We also currently have two recruits helping out in the unit.

19
20 The department's looking at potentially adding light duty police
21 officers to address some of the workload and that would not
22 increase costs significantly. And that's all I have. I'll take
23 any questions.

24
25 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

26 Okay. On that, so you are addressing -- like you said, you're
27 getting a couple of more people on.

28
29 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

30 Yes.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

33 Also, I remember speaking to you earlier in the department, also
34 you're looking at things for budgeting for next year and everything
35 else.

36
37 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

38 That is correct, we're looking at budgeting and what we can do in
39 this area.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

42 Has -- are some of these people in the position now? Because I
43 know, again, a lot of us have gotten phone calls because some
44 people are over two years and stuff.

45
46 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

47 Yes, we -- yeah, the backlog -- you know, some of these
48 applications are 18 months old, potentially two years; you know, I
49 don't have an exact number for you. You know, we're definitely
50 well beyond the six months we like to adhere to but, you know, this
51 started -- you know, over a two-year period we got 10,000
52 applications, that's five years worth and staffing in the unit is
53 the same as it had been. So, we are looking at ways to expand
54 staffing to meet that demand.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
2 And you already got some of the bodies in place --

3
4 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
5 Yes.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
8 -- so, perfect.

9
10 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
11 Yes, sir, we do.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
14 You heard the request I had before with the Sheriff's Department;
15 if you could let all 18 of us know who we should contact or what
16 name or phone number we can give out when there are problems. So
17 this way, especially now with all the changes, we can control the
18 message so we don't get three different answers, each one of us,
19 when we call up the department.

20
21 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
22 Yes, sir. I'll take that back to Pistol Licensing.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
25 Okay, thank you.

26
27 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
28 You're welcome.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
31 Any questions on this topic?

32
33 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
34 Uh-uh.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
37 Oh, Legislator Kennedy.

38
39 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
40 Hi. You may not know this, but the last time I called the Pistol
41 Licensing they said they were 17 months behind, and that during the
42 COVID time it picked up just like it did with the Sheriffs. My
43 question is I've been getting a tremendous amount of calls on this
44 and my district is not covered by the Sheriff's Department. Will
45 the Police Department -- and I know it's not Pistol Licensing that
46 makes -- determines the rules. Will they be coming out with
47 something equivalent to what the Sheriff's Office just put out as
48 to, you know, rules and regs and how it's going to work in Pistol
49 Licensing? Something that I can share with my constituents.

50
51 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**
52 I haven't seen what the Sheriffs have put out. I'll take a look at
53 that and I'll bring it back to Pistol License and make a suggestion
54 if it's helpful to the Legislators.

55
56

1 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

2 Yeah, that would be great. Thank you very much.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

5 Continue on to I guess your next segment.

6
7 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

8 All right, moving on to the K-9 facility. So today we have
9 Introductory Resolution 1517 on the table, and I'm just going to
10 speak briefly. I'm going to give you a brief overview reiterating
11 the need for the new facility, the new K-9 facility, and then I'll
12 give an update on the cost of the facility.

13
14 So, IR 1517, the Police Commissioner is requesting funds for the
15 construction of a new police K-9 section office and classroom
16 building with a kennel facility. K-9 conducts thousands of hours
17 of training each year for K-9 teams as well as associated towns and
18 villages, and training is what enables the K-9 section to perform
19 to the level that has become expected of them.

20
21 The current office and classroom is a modular structure and it was
22 donated over 15 years ago from a local school district that was
23 getting rid of it. It's well past its useful life. It requires
24 constant maintenance for roof leaks, lack of heating and cooling
25 and no longer meets the needs of the K-9 section. Cold weather
26 renders the kennel structure unusable and the exposed outdoor
27 kennels are open to snow while the current drainage is inadequate
28 as ice buildup often renders the K-9 uninhabitable for weeks at a
29 time during the winter.

30
31 Members of the department rely on the services of K-9 now more than
32 ever and K-9 has continued to outgrow the decaying headquarters and
33 building that they have. There is sufficient funding within the
34 2022 Capital Budget to cover the cost of said construction under
35 CP 3526.

36
37 Resolution 1027-2020 established the use of a new priority ranking
38 system for Capital Projects and that was effective January 1st,
39 2021, and this project has a ranking of 58 under that resolution
40 and it's eligible for approval in accordance with the provisions of
41 that resolution. So we are requesting proceeds of \$2 million in
42 Suffolk County serial bonds to be appropriated for 2022. So I'm
43 just going to give a brief overview of the cost update on this
44 facility.

45
46 Construction costs have increased, as have sewer costs. DPW is now
47 estimating this project at \$2.8 million. We had \$150,000 allocated
48 for planning in 2018, but we wound up doing that planning in-house
49 so we didn't spend that \$150,000, that is available to us. An
50 additional 1.1 million has been requested in next year's Capital
51 Budget. Operations has confirmed that DPW will cover the cost of
52 sewers, those are estimated to be between 500,000 and \$750,000.
53 So as of now the cost breakdown is as follows: It's 2.8 million
54 for buildings and grounds, estimated \$750,000 for sewers, and
55 that's a total of 3.5 million.

1 There is some opportunity that could potentially save up to
2 \$500,000, but at this point we don't have that in place yet. So
3 the allocation would be as follows: 2018 Capital funding of
4 \$150,000, 2022 funding of \$2 million, 2023 of \$1.1 million, and an
5 additional 500,000 requested from DPW for the sewers. Again, total
6 cost is 3.75 million.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

9 Do you know if the drawings and stuff are complete yet or -- also,
10 any plan of when they're going out to bid on the project.

11
12 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

13 I do not know that. I can speak to K-9 and get back to you later
14 today on that.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

17 Yeah, they can -- send us an e-mail and I can forward it to the
18 rest of the committee with the timeline plan. Legislator Kennedy.

19
20 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

21 Just to confirm. So right now we will be bonding out only for the
22 2 million; is that correct?

23
24 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

25 Two million, correct.

26
27 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

28 Okay, thank you.

29
30 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

31 And we have 1.1 for next year.

32
33 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

34 Okay, thank you.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

37 And we have the 150,000 from the prior.

38
39 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

40 That we already did.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

43 That we already did.

44
45 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

46 Yes.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

49 From the engineering that we -- we were able to do in-house. Okay.

50
51 Okay, it looks like there's no other questions on this. Is there
52 anything else you needed to go over or are we all --

53
54 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

55 No.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

2 Okay.

3

4 **LIEUTENANT CALANDRILLO:**

5 Thank you.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

8 Okay, thank you very much.

9

10 Okay, the public -- the presentations are complete. Let's go back
11 to the agenda.

12

13

Tabled Resolutions

14

15 ***IR 1512(-22) - Adopting Local Law No. -2022, a Local Law to amend***
16 ***Chapter 721 of the Suffolk County Code regarding the sale of***
17 ***catalytic converters (Piccirillo).*** Do I have a motion?

18

19 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

20 Motion to approve.

21

22 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

23 Motion to approve by Legislator Kennedy.

24

25 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

26 Second.

27

28 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

29 Second by Legislator Bontempi. Any discussion? All in favor?
30 Opposed? Abstentions?

31

32 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

33 *Six.*

34

35 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

36 ***IR 1512 passed (VOTE: 6/0/0/2 - Absent: Legislators Mazzarella &***
37 ***Fleming).***

38

39 ***IR 1514(-22) - Adopting Local Law No. -2022, a Local Law to***
40 ***strengthen the County's All-Terrain Vehicle law (Mazzarella).***

41 Do I have a motion?

42

43 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

44 Motion.

45

46 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

47 I have one clarification. We -- is this a motion to approve or
48 it's for the public hearing to continue? I just want to make sure
49 we use the right wording.

50

51 **MR. DELUCA:**

52 (Inaudible).

53

54 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

55 So the motion should be to table.

56

1 **MR. DELUCA:**

2 If it's recessed it needs to be -- the motion is for tabling for
3 public hearing.

4
5 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

6 Yeah, we're tabling it for public hearing.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

9 So tabling for -- okay. So motion to table for public hearing --

10
11 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

12 Motion to table for Public Hearing.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

15 -- from Legislator Donnelly and a second from Legislator Kennedy.
16 Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

17
18 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

19 *Six.*

20
21 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

22 IR 1514 is approved -- approved for table to be in the next public
23 hearing (*VOTE: 6/0/0/2 - Absent: Legislators Mazzarella &*
24 *Fleming*).

25
26 **Introductory Resolutions**

27
28 *IR 1517(-22) - Appropriating funds in connection with Canine*
29 *Headquarters and Student Training Facility with Kennel (CP 3526).*
30 *(County Executive).* I'll make a motion and cosponsor on this.
31 And do I have a second?

32
33 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

34 Second.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

37 Second by Legislator Kennedy. Any discussion? All in favor?
38 Opposed? Abstentions?

39
40 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

41 *Six.*

42
43 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

44 *IR 1517 passed (VOTE: 6/0/0/2 - Absent: Legislators Mazzarella &*
45 *Fleming*).

46
47 *IR 1536(-22) - Amending the Suffolk County Classification and*
48 *Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the District*
49 *Attorney's Office: Discovery Expediter (County Executive).*
50 Do I have a motion?

51
52 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

53 Motion.

54
55 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

56 Motion by Legislator Donnelly. Second by Legislator Bontempi.

1 Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

2

3 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

4 *Six.*

5

6 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

7 *IR 1536 passed (VOTE: 6/0/0/2 - Absent: Legislators Mazzarella &*
8 *Fleming).*

9

10 *IR 1543(-22) - Accepting two fat tire bicycles from Ocean Bay Park*
11 *Association (OBPA) to be used by the Suffolk County Police*
12 *Department with 100% support (County Executive). Do I have motion?*

13

14 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

15 Motion to approve.

16

17 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

18 I'll second; motion by Legislator Kennedy. Second by Legislator
19 Flotteron. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

20

21 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

22 *Six.*

23

24 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

25 *IR 1543 was passed (VOTE: 6/0/0/2 - Absent: Legislators Mazzarella*
26 *& Fleming).*

27

28 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

29 *IR 1557(-22) - Adopting Local Law No. -2022, A Local Law to Amend*
30 *Chapter 796 by adding Article II towing of vehicles from accident*
31 *scenes (Caracappa). Do I have a motion to table for a public*
32 *hearing?*

33

34 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

35 Motion.

36

37 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

38 From Legislator Kennedy.

39

40 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

41 Second.

42

43 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

44 And second by Legislator Donnelly. Any discussion? All in favor?
45 Opposed? Abstentions?

46

47 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**

48 *Six.*

49

50 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**

51 *IR 1557 was approved -- I mean is tabled for a public hearing*
52 *(VOTE: 6/0/0/2 - Absent: Legislators Mazzarella & Fleming).*

53

54 *IR 1558(-22) - Adopting Local Law No. -2022, A Local Law to expand*
55 *laws and strengthen penalties against unlawful speed contests,*
56 *sideshows and races (Kennedy).*

1
2 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
3 Motion to table for public hearing.

4
5 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**
6 I'll second.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
9 Motion to table for a public hearing by Legislator Kennedy. Second
10 by Legislator Bontempi. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed?
11 Abstentions?

12
13 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**
14 *Six.*

15
16 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
17 IR 1558 was tabled for public hearing.

18
19 **CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK ROBINSON:**
20 Sorry, five on that one. (**AMENDED VOTE: 6/0/0/2 - Absent:**
21 **Legislators Mazzarella & Fleming**).

22
23 **CHAIRMAN FLOTTERON:**
24 Okay. And that concludes our Introductory Resolutions.

25
26 **Procedural Motions**, none.

27
28 **Home Rule (Messages)**, none.

29
30 **Subject to Call (Resolutions)**, none.

31
32 So, I declare the Public Safety Committee is adjourned. Thank you.

33
34 ***(*The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m. *)***
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