

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS DUNNE,
CHAIRMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

December 9, 2013
1:58 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

A P P E A R A N C E S :

DENNIS DUNNE
Chair

JOSEPH BELESI
Vice-Chair

DENISE FORD

MICHAEL VENDITTO

JOSEPH SCANNELL
Ranking

DAVID DENENBERG

WAYNE WINK

WILLIAM J. MULLER III, Clerk

LIST OF SPEAKERS

GREG MAY. 5
TOM DELANEY 6

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: We're going to start the Public Safety Committee. I'll start by calling the roll.

Legislator Wayne Wink?

LEGISLATOR WINK: Here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Legislator Dave Denenberg?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Ranking Member Joe Scannell? Joe Scannell is here.

Michael Venditto?

LEGISLATOR VENDITTO: Here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Denise Ford?

LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Vice Chairman Joe Belesi?

LEGISLATOR BELESI: Here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: And myself. We have a quorum.

First item to come before this committee is Item 563-13, an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the Department of Forensic Genetics/Medical Examiner.

2 Who do we have with us today?

3 First, a motion by Joe Belesi, seconded
4 by Legislator Venditto.

5 And who do we have?

6 MR. MAY: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Karen
7 Dooling from the Medical Examiner's Office could
8 not be here today, she has a family medical issue
9 to take care of, not an emergency. I am here
10 instead.

11 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: We had some time to
12 look this over. Does anybody have any questions
13 on this?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 If not, we'll move it forward then.

16 Any public comment?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 There being none; all in favor indicate
19 by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 Any against?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 So moved.

24 The next item is Item 564-13, an
25 ordinance supplemental to the annual

appropriation ordinance in connection with the Health Department, Police Department, Office of Emergency Management, and the Fire Commission.

Motion by Joe Belesi, seconded by Denise Ford.

Do we have anybody to speak on this?

MR. MAY: We do. This is the urban area security initiative grant. The lead agency is the Office of Emergency Management, so we have Mr. Tom Delaney to handle this area for all of the departments.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Excellent. Thank you.

MR. DELANEY: Good afternoon everyone.

The urban area security initiative is a grant that Nassau County receives because of our proximity to New York City, which unfortunately holds the largest terrorism threat in the United States. As such, they receive more funding than any other city in the United States to fight terrorism.

We received this grant, in addition to other counties that are in proximity to New York City, such as Westchester, Yonkers, in fact Suffolk because it is part of Long Island, and

Port Authority is part of this too, in addition to New York City.

We get a small share of the award; in this case it's \$2,584,000 and that is the exact same amount that Yonkers, Suffolk, and Westchester receive. It's split pretty equally.

The objective with this grant is that we are to assist some of the other departments within the county which have homeland security terrorism interests; in this case, the Health Department, PD, and Fire Commission fall into that.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Okay. Are there any questions from any legislator? Denise Ford. Legislator Ford.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon. I don't know whether or not this pertains to the grant or not. But under this scenario, how about the local townships, can they also get a portion of this grant for, say, communications, maybe new radios or whatever?

MR. DELANEY: We have definitely been helping our communities within Nassau County with these grants. Our fire service, in particular,

has been a great beneficiary of these. We have been working with other grants from other sources too, like radio communications to other towns and villages.

LEGISLATOR FORD: So radio communications, perhaps maybe a new radio system wouldn't necessarily fall under this. This would be for other purposes. But there is a possibility of another grant, so if we wanted to upgrade and provide new radios to all of the local fire departments.

MR. DELANEY: There are interoperable communication grants specific to this, what you're speaking of. Yes.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other legislative comment? Legislator Scannell.

LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Denise, that's a great, great point. Radios are -- communication is a huge, huge issue and problem for everybody, so I think your point is well taken. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other legislative comment?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all in favor indicate
by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any against?

(No verbal response.)

It passes. It goes on to Finance.

The next and last item that comes before
this committee is Item 568-13, an ordinance
supplemental to the annual appropriation
ordinance in connection with the Office of
Emergency Management, Department of Public Works,
Medical Examiner, and Correctional Center.

Motion by Joe Belesi, seconded by Denise
Ford.

Who do we have to speak about this?

MR. DELANEY: This is our state homeland
security program. Unlike the LOSI (phonetic)
program, this is awarded to us from the state.
Again, a risk based analysis but it has nothing
to do with New York City or sharing the award
with them. This is a smaller award. As you can
see, this is only 1.2 million. Again, we take

1 this, we split this with some of our other
2 departments that have interest in homeland
3 security and terrorism.
4

5 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Excellent. Legislator
6 Ford.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: But it also -- you
8 talk about catastrophic events. Would that be
9 something on the level of Super Storm Sandy?

10 MR. DELANEY: It does. All hazards fits
11 into this too.

12 New York State likes to keep the nexus on
13 terrorism; hence the reason why New York City is
14 the largest recipient of the homeland security
15 grant funds in the country, because of that nexus
16 to terrorism. It doesn't preclude all hazard
17 events, as you described.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other legislator?
20 Legislator Scannell.

21 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Thank you.
22 Dennis, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say before
23 my last vote on my favorite committee here at the
24 Nassau County Legislature, Dennis, I've got to
25 tell you, you've done just a great, great job. I

1 chaired it for ten years. I was proud, very
2 proud. And I think you have done an amazing job
3 in following -- as a public safety member,
4 honestly, for 14 years here at the Legislature,
5 it's been just a lot, a lot of fun. You can
6 actually help people and make people safer. This
7 committee, by far, has been my favorite. Working
8 with all the police unions, working with PBA has
9 been just really, really great. Like I said, you
10 can literally make people's lives safer.

12 Dennis, before my last vote on my
13 favorite committee, I just wanted to say thank
14 you and thank you to everybody here for allowing
15 me to serve on this committee for 14 years.
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: I'm honored to hear
18 these wonderful words from you. Thank you so
19 much. It's been an honor to have you on our
20 committee too. You've been doing a great job.

21 Legislator Ford.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'd like to chime in
23 too, Joe. I got to be ranking member sitting
24 next you, especially when we were over at One
25 West Street, and I have to say it was always a

1 pleasure. You led this committee very well and
2 with great distinction. You are going to be
3 missed.

4
5 I know that we are also - today, which is
6 very sad now that I think of it, this will be
7 your last committee. Joe, even for you, we're
8 losing two great guys. I have to say that -- I
9 want to say publicly, it's been a pleasure
10 working with both of you, especially being on
11 this committee with you. And I do think it's the
12 best committee ever.

13 Thank you.

14 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Thank you very
15 much. Thanks.

16 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you.

17 Any other committee from any legislator?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 Any public comment?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 There being none; all in favor indicate
22 by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 Any against?

25 (No verbal response.)

It so passes. It moves on to Finance.

There being no other business to come before this committee -- before the committee ended, Legislator Dave Denenberg has arrived and he indicated his vote as aye in this last item, so it's totally unanimous, not anonymous but unanimous.

Is there a motion to adjourn?

LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

LEGISLATOR BELESI: Second.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by Legislator Ford, seconded by Joe Belesi.

All in favor of adjourning say aye.

(Aye.)

We are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Public Safety Committee adjourned at 3:06 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above mentioned and took stenographic record of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript of the same and the whole thereof, according to the best of my ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of December, 2013.

FRANK GRAY