

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

PETER J. SCHMITT,
PRESIDING OFFICER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS DUNNE,
CHAIRMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

September 10, 2012
2:05 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

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

DENNIS DUNNE (Not Present)
Chair

JOSEPH BELESI
Vice-Chair

NORMA GONSALVES

DENISE FORD

HOWARD KOPEL (Sitting in for Dennis Dunne)

JOSEPH SCANNELL
Ranking

DAVID DENENBERG

WAYNE WINK

WILLIAM J. MULLER III, Clerk

LIST OF SPEAKERS

EDWARD SHANK. 5
BOB MCMANUS 8
GREG STEPHANOFF 11
KEITH SATHER. 13
KAREN DOOLING 16

1 Public Safety Committee - 9-10-12

4

2 CHAIRMAN BELESI: I call the Public
3 Safety Committee to order. Clerk, call the roll
4 call, please.

5 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Wink?

6 LEGISLATOR WINK: Here.

7 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Denenberg?

8 He's here.

9 CLERK MULLER: Ranking Member Scannell?

10 LEGISLATOR SCANNELL: Here.

11 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

13 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Gonsalves?

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Present.

15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Kopel,

16 substituting for Chairman Dunne?

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

18 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Belesi, Vice

19 Chairman?

20 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Here.

21 CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

22 The first item is 543-12, an ordinance

23 supplemental to the annual appropriation

24 ordinance in connection with the Department of

25 Probation.

Can I please have a motion?

LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

CLERK MULLER: Moved by Legislator
Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

MR. SHANK: Good afternoon. My name's
Edward Shank. I'm the counsel to the Nassau
County Probation Department. Probation Director
Fowle has asked me to share the following with
you with regard to Item 543-12.

It's an appropriation of \$142,800 from
the New York State Division of Criminal Justice
Services funding to support probation's role in
Operation Impact.

The Nassau County Police Department and
District Attorney's Office are the lead Impact
partners with 2012/13 DEC JS support totaling
\$971,400 locally.

The primary goal is the reduction of
violent crime and, in particular, gun violence.
Impact funds support probation's field
intelligence officer who is embedded at NCPD's
lead development center, and attends Nassau NSTAT
crime analyst and Impact meetings.

2 Routinely sharing information with our
3 Impact partners, the FIO's daily activities
4 including NCPD arrest reports and field
5 interviews with the probation database and
6 sharing debriefing intelligence on probationers
7 who test positive for drugs. Operation Impact
8 also continues to fund Operation Night Watch.
9 Conducted primarily with the NCPD, Night Watch
10 partners also include the Glen Cove and Long
11 Beach City, Hempstead, Freeport, Port Washington,
12 and other village police departments. Teams of
13 probation and police officers conduct off hours
14 on announced searches of the homes of high risk
15 probationers. These are individuals who have
16 sustained arrests, have tested positive for
17 cocaine, opiates, or prescription drugs, are gang
18 members, robbers, burglars, or have been the
19 subject of noteworthy field interviews or are
20 otherwise significantly non-compliant with their
21 probation conditions.

22 From July 2008 through December 2011,
23 Night Watch teams conducted 2,457 homes visits,
24 leading to 1,453 searches to ensure offender
25 compliance with probation conditions. These

2 searches, in addition to warrant sweeps,
3 supported by Impact have, since July 2008, led to
4 174 probationer arrests, including 10 firearms
5 and related charges and 35 other weapons charges.
6 Through the first eight months of 2012, Night
7 Watch teams have visited 354 high risk probations
8 and made an additional 21 arrests.

9 For the second consecutive year, Impact
10 supports probation's Night Light initiative
11 focusing on juvenile delinquents who are truant.
12 Night Light recognizes the connection between
13 truancy, substance abuse, and delinquency. So
14 far, in 2012, 141 juveniles have been visited off
15 hours. Probation, working with other Impact
16 stakeholders, to enhance our ability to collect
17 and share information and using that information
18 to inform resource allocation decisions to
19 further reduce crime in Nassau County.

20 Thank you.

21 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Any questions or
22 public comment?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 All those in favor of this item please
25 signify by saying aye.

1 Public Safety Committee - 9-10-12

8

2 (Aye.)

3 Opposed?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 The item passes unanimously.

6 CLERK MULLER: Clerk Item 550-12, an
7 ordinance supplemental to the annual
8 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
9 district attorney.

10 Please entertain a motion to place this
11 matter before the committee.

12 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

13 CLERK MULLER: Moved by Legislator
14 Gonsalves. Seconded?

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

16 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford.

17 MR. MCMANUS: Bob McManus, Nassau County
18 District Attorney's Office. This appropriation
19 is also related to Operation Impact. The Impact
20 partnership involves the police department --
21 Nassau County Police Department, the sheriff's
22 office, the probation department, and the
23 Hempstead Police Department. The aim is to
24 reduce gun violence and address the crimes of
25 robbery and aggravated assault using a

2 collaborative approach, maintaining a focus on
3 collection of crime data in order to prioritize
4 crime problems and identify opportunities for
5 intervention while considering alternative
6 strategies, when necessary.

7 The project goal is to reduce fire arm
8 related violent crime, residential burglaries
9 through various enforcement, and prosecutorial
10 strategies, and through the enhancement of crime
11 analysis and intelligence, developed by the
12 Nassau County Lead Development Center.

13 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Is there any debate
14 or discussion? Legislator Ford.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: I like this program
16 that we have. I commend the district attorney as
17 well as probation, working with Impact.

18 Just a quick question. Is the county
19 still doing the gun buybacks, where they work
20 with the various, like, either church
21 organizations or neighborhood organizations? I
22 know, like, we did it through Christian Life
23 Church two years ago, I think it was.

24 MR. MCMANUS: Yes. We've done one -- a
25 gun buyback program as recently as about two

2 months ago.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Perfect.

4 MR. MCMANUS: So they are done at least
5 two or three times a year.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very much.

7 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Any public comment?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 All those in favor please signify by
10 saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Opposed?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 The item passes unanimously.

15 CLERK MULLER: Item 564-12, an ordinance
16 supplemental to the annual appropriation
17 ordinance in connection with the police
18 department.

19 Please entertain a motion to place this
20 matter before the committee.

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

23 CLERK MULLER: Moved by Legislator
24 Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator Ford.

25 LEGISLATOR BELESI: The item is before

2 us. Is there anyone to speak on this item?

3 MR. STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon.

4 Sergeant Greg Stephanoff from the police
5 department.

6 This item appropriates 1,500,000 in funds
7 received as amounts seized under the authority of
8 the Federal Forfeiture Act. This is from
9 criminal arrests that are made where forfeitures
10 are able to be obtained. This money will be used
11 to enhance the police department in and above our
12 operating budget.

13 Some of the items -- we're currently
14 using the money for the Presidential debate, to
15 prepare ourselves for it, for our electronic
16 squad. We're currently going to outfit the
17 entire police department with new uniforms, other
18 than what we wear now; that's been paid. We also
19 just received a command bus, that was half asset
20 and half grant funded. So it's going to be used
21 to buy items that will enhance the police
22 department.

23 LEGISLATOR BELESI: What kind of
24 uniforms are they getting, Serge?

25 MR. STEPHANOFF: We're going to get BDU

2 pants, and also we're going to a different shirt.
3 I think it's all going to be where it will be
4 washable instead of dry clean only. But the
5 pants are going to be the BDUs, with the side
6 pockets, similar to the City.

7 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Is that all for all
8 patrols? Are supervisors going to get that too?

9 MR. STEPHANOFF: Yes.

10 LEGISLATOR BELESI: And what color is it
11 going to be, Serge?

12 MR. STEPHANOFF: They're getting away
13 from the Nassau blue. It's going to be a
14 standard off-the-shelf blue.

15 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Okay.

16 Any debate or discussion?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Public comment?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 All those in favor of the item please
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 It passes unanimously.

1 Public Safety Committee - 9-10-12

13

2 CLERK MULLER: 575-12, an ordinance
3 supplemental to the annual appropriation
4 ordinance in connection with the correctional
5 center.

6 Please entertain a motion to place this
7 matter before the committee.

8 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

10 CLERK MULLER: Moved by Legislator
11 Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator Ford.

12 The matter is before the committee.

13 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Anyone here to
14 speak?

15 CAPTAIN SATHER: Good afternoon.
16 Captain Keith Sather, Sheriff's Department.

17 The following item is an appropriation of
18 federal forfeiture funds in the amount of
19 \$132,000, to be used for law enforcement,
20 equipment and training.

21 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Any debate or
22 discussion? Legislator Denenberg.

23 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Thank you. First
24 of all, good job. Thank you.

25 This forfeiture funds, this is federal

2 forfeiture funds or state?

3 CAPTAIN SATHER: Federal.

4 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. There's no
5 other way to use these funds? It's prescribed
6 how we have to use it?

7 CAPTAIN SATHER: There are federal
8 guidelines. It has to be used for law
9 enforcement. We use it mostly for our sheriff's
10 department emergency response team training and
11 hostage negotiation training.

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. And this
13 is what we've always used it for?

14 CAPTAIN SATHER: Yes, sir. That and
15 equipment for the department.

16 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. Thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Legislator Ford.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: I just want to know,
19 like, with the money that you're getting, the
20 132,000, I know you were talking about the
21 training. Can any of this be used toward any
22 equipment for the officers at the jail?

23 CAPTAIN SATHER: It has to fall within
24 federal guidelines on what types of equipment. I
25 could provide you with a copy of that.

2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Okay. So, like, if
3 they needed an expansion of the handheld radios
4 with, like, maybe body alarms and things like
5 that, that would fall under the guidelines of
6 federal or?

7 CAPTAIN SATHER: You have to be careful
8 that we're not using these monies for something
9 that we should already be paying for out of our
10 operational budget.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: So this would be
12 something in addition to what would be required
13 under the regular operating budget, correct?

14 CAPTAIN SATHER: As a general rule,
15 that's how we use it.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very much.

17 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Any other comment?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 Discussion?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 All those in favor say aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 It passes unanimously.

2 CLERK MULLER: 576-12, an ordinance
3 supplemental to the annual appropriation
4 ordinance in connection with the Office of the
5 Medical Examiner.

6 Can I have a motion to place this matter
7 before the committee?

8 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

9 CLERK MULLER: Moved by Legislator
10 Gonsalves.

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

12 CLERK MULLER: Seconded by Legislator
13 Kopel.

14 LEGISLATOR BELESI: The item is before
15 us.

16 Is there anyone to speak on it?

17 MS. DOOLING: Hi. Karen Dooling,
18 Assistant Director of the Crime Lab from the ME
19 Office.

20 This is 100 percent, no match, DCJS grant
21 to support the reoccurring costs for the
22 toxicology lab for accreditation.

23 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: When you say this
24 is for accreditation, is this to restore our
25 accreditation or is this a different lab than the

2 crime lab?

3 MS. DOOLING: No. The medical
4 examiner's toxicology laboratory has never had a
5 problem with accreditation. So this is to
6 maintain the current status of accreditation.
7 This is a grant that we get year after year.

8 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. It has
9 nothing to do then with -- this is all the
10 medical examiner.

11 MS. DOOLING: Yep. Correct.

12 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Thank you.

13 LEGISLATOR BELESI: All those in favor
14 of this item?

15 (Aye.)

16 Opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Unanimous.

19 CLERK MULLER: Could we have a motion to
20 suspend the rules? There's an addendum to the
21 Public Safety Committee.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Second.

24 CLERK MULLER: Moved by Legislator
25 Kopel, seconded by Legislator Gonsalves.

2 Could we have a vote?

3 LEGISLATOR BELESI: We have a motion to
4 suspend the rules.

5 All those in favor?

6 (Aye.)

7 Opposed?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 It's unanimous.

10 CLERK MULLER: These both involve the
11 medical examiner. Can I call them together?

12 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Yes.

13 CLERK MULLER: Clerk Item 591-12, an
14 ordinance supplemental to the annual
15 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
16 Office of the Medical Examiner.

17 Clerk Item 592-12, an ordinance
18 supplemental to the annual appropriation
19 ordinance in connection with the Office of the
20 Medical Examiner.

21 Can I have a motion for both of these
22 items?

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: So moved.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

25 CLERK MULLER: Moved by Legislator

2 Gonsalves, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

3 MS. DOOLING: Hi. Karen Dooling, again,
4 Assistant Director, Crime Lab, Medical Examiner
5 Office.

6 One of these grants is the same as the
7 toxicology grant, New York State funded DCJS for
8 reoccurring costs for the forensic DNA
9 laboratory. The other grant is a federal grant;
10 again, no match, which is the DNA backlog
11 reduction federal grant, which is also for the
12 DNA laboratory.

13 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Any debate or
14 discussion? Denenberg. Mr. Denenberg.

15 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Thank you. Okay.
16 Belesi, thank you.

17 Did you say friends of the medical lab?

18 MS. DOOLING: Forensic.

19 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Oh, forensic.
20 All of a sudden I was like we have friends of.

21 MS. DOOLING: We are very friendly
22 people.

23 LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. So it's
24 not a friends group. Thanks. I misheard you.

25 LEGISLATOR BELESI: Any public comment?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Public Safety Committee - 9-10-12

20

(No verbal response.)

All those in favor of this item please
signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Opposed?

(No verbal response.)

Item carries unanimously.

Motion to adjourn?

All in favor?

(Aye.)

Committee is adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Public Safety Committee
adjourned at 2:19 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 25th day of September, 2012.

FRANK GRAY