

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS DUNNE,
CHAIRMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

June 30, 2014
2:21 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

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

DENNIS DUNNE
Chair

DONALD MAC KENZIE
Vice-Chair

VINCENT MUSCARELLA

DENISE FORD

LAURA CURRAN
Ranking

DAVID DENENBERG

KEVAN ABRAHAMS

WILLIAM J. MULLER III, Clerk

LIST OF SPEAKERS

BOB MCMANUS 5
GREG STEPHANOFF 7
EDWARD SHENK 10
JOHN PRIEST 14

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Public Safety Committee is in order. I'll do the attendance.

Kevan Abrahams?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Legislator Denenberg?

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Ranking Member Laura Curran?

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Legislator Denise Ford?

LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Legislator Vincent Muscarella?

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Vice Chairman Donald MacKenzie?

LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: And I am here. We have a quorum.

The first item to come before this committee is -- we're going to call two in the district attorney's office. Item 242-14, an

ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriations ordinance in connection with the district attorney's office.

243-14 is also an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriations ordinance in connection with the district attorney's office.

And we have with us?

MR. MCMANUS: Bob McManus from the district attorney's office.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Okay. First of all, a motion was made by MacKenzie, seconded by Denise Ford.

Mr. McManus, would you explain 242 to us?

MR. MCMANUS: Yes. This item appropriates funds from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. The grant funds will be utilized to support the prosecution of repeat violent and serious felony offenders by maintaining a staff of highly experienced prosecutors who are strictly assigned to achieve convictions and maximum sentences for such defendants. This is the prosecution program which has been in existence for over 20 years.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Are there any questions on this item, 242, from any legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; okay, 243.

MR. MCMANUS: Item 243 appropriates funding from -- also from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. The funds are used by the district attorney's office, the Nassau County Police Department, the sheriff's office, and the Freeport and Hempstead Police Departments to support a cooperative effort to target firearm and violent crime reduction efforts within the county.

The goal of the grant program is to reduce shootings and homicides by building on information sharing between these agencies and engaging communities in the fight against gun violence.

This grant program continues the efforts previously conducted under Operation Impact.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: I understand it's been

very successful.

MR. MCMANUS: Yes, it has.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Are there any questions from any of the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all in favor of 242-14 and 243-14 indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any against?

(No verbal response.)

They both pass on to Finance.

MR. MCMANUS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: The next two items, they both deal with the police department.

245-14 is a resolution authorizing the signing of a New York State Department of Transportation Supplemental Grant Agreement for funds to support the police enforcement of high occupancy vehicle laws on the Long Island Expressway.

270 is an ordinance supplemental to the

annual appropriations ordinance in connection with the police department.

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon. Sergeant Greg Stephanoff from the police.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: First -- I'm sorry. Legislator MacKenzie made the motion, and Denise Ford seconded it.

Now the first one about the HOV lanes.

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: Item 245 is an HOV grant for \$971,000. This grant is going to focus on violations in the HOV lane. Each year with the grant, this is a recurring grant that we get yearly, we write approximately 15,000 tickets under this grant.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Let me just ask you something. This grant comes to us and we spend it. The money we collect on those tickets goes to the state, so it's almost a wash, right?

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: The tickets are sent back to TPVA. I don't know if all of it goes back to the state. I believe it's per the guidelines of the tickets. They are regular traffic tickets that are written under this

grant.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you.

Are there any other questions from the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

The next item is the one about the annual appropriations ordinance, 270.

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: The next item is 270-14, which is the same item the district attorney just presented. This grant is a New York State Department of Criminal Justice grant for \$441,500. It's going to be for this GIVE partnership, which is going to be with the DA, the sheriff, probation, and the police department. GIVE is Gun Involved Violence Elimination. We're going to use this money to focus on investigations and street level enforcement, with the focus on reducing gun violence in targeted communities.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Excellent. Are there any questions from any of the legislators?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor of 245-14 and 270-14 indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any against?

(No verbal response.)

They both pass and they both go on to Finance.

SERGEANT STEPHANOFF: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: The next two items are dealing with the probation department. The first one, 271-14, is an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriations ordinance in connection with the Nassau County Department of Probation.

272-14 is an ordinance supplemental appropriations ordinance in connection with the Nassau County Department of Probation.

Legislator Muscarella makes the motion, and seconded by Legislator Ford.

Okay.

MR. SHENK: Edward Shenk, Probation

Department.

Item 271 is Division of Criminal Justice Services Grant. It appropriates \$37,782 in funds for the defender based advocacy program, which provides pretrial release and bail reports to the court, post arraignment, including recommendations on release, status, and community-based treatment plants and supervision.

This supplemental appropriation has not net impact on the budget since it recognizes an equal amount of revenue and expenditure.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you, Mr. Sherk. Is there any question from any legislator?

(No verbal response.)

Is there any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, we'll go on to 272.

Mr. Sherk.

MR. SHENK: Thank you. This item appropriates \$250,690 in funds from New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. The pretrial screening and release

program is one of the three state mandated programs for Nassau's alternatives to incarceration program. The service plan requires counties to operate programs that divert offenders from costly local incarceration, especially at the pretrial level. Release of an offender at arraignment provides the most substantial cost savings, as this first several days of confinement are typically the most expensive. And again, this will have no net impact on the budget since it recognizes an equal amount of revenue and expenditure.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you for that explanation, Mr. Shenk.

Are there any questions from any legislator? Legislator Denenberg.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: The revenue on this one comes from where?

MR. SHENK: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: So it's just a grant that fully funds what we're doing?

MR. SHENK: Yes.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

Okay. There being none; all in favor of
-- I'm sorry. Legislator Curran.

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thank you. Can you
just give me some more specificity about what
this program does and how it prevents that money
from being spent in those early days of
incarceration?

MR. SHENK: Yes. The program has been
one that's been an ongoing one for a number of
years. It goes back - it goes back at least 20,
25 years. The program has been in effect that
long. It allows the county to release people who
have not been convicted from the county
correctional facility at an earlier state.
They're low risk individuals. There's a
screening program done by the Department of
Probation. As a result, they are released on
their own recognizance prior to trial.

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Are there any other

legislators that have any comments?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all in favor of Items 271-14 and 272-14 indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

It passes unanimously, and they both move on to Finance.

MR. SHENK: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you, Mr. Shenk.

The last item of today of our committee is Item 282-14, an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriations ordinance in connection with the fire commission.

We have a motion by Legislator Vincent Muscarella, seconded by Legislator MacKenzie.

Who do we have from the fire commission?

MR. PRIEST: Good afternoon. Assistant Chief John Priest, Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office.

The item before you is to accept the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Services Grant for the fiscal year '13 hazardous materials targeted grant.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Are there any questions from any of the legislators? Legislator Denenberg.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Thank you, Mr. Priest.

MR. PRIEST: Good day.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: How are you?

MR. PRIEST: Very well.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Does the funding that we get fully support the services that we need to provide under the grant?

MR. PRIEST: This grant is actually a grant applied for by the fire commission and administered, but it is funding that is shared amongst our hazardous materials team and a number of fire department hazardous material teams. It's shared money. This certainly does not fund our full -- not at all.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: It's a grant that

we can apply towards the funding that we have for
hazmat training --

MR. PRIEST: Training and equipment.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: and services?

MR. PRIEST: Training and equipment.

LEGISLATOR DENENBERG: Okay. Thank you.

MR. PRIEST: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other legislators?

(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.)

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

(Aye.)

Any against?

(No verbal response.)

This passes on to Finance.

Can I have a motion to adjourn?

LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Moved by Denise Ford,
seconded by Vinny Muscarella.

All in favor indicate by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any against?

(No verbal response.)

This committee has ended.

(Whereupon, the Public Safety Committee
adjourned at 2:32 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 11th day of July, 2014.

FRANK GRAY