

SIELA A. BYNOE
LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 2



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May 29, 2020

Hon. Laura Curran
Nassau County Executive
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York 11501

Dear County Executive Curran,

Recent events have confirmed the critical importance of using video technology to record interactions between police officers and the civilian population. Video recording establishes an objective factual record that has become widely accepted as an essential tool in accurately evaluating those encounters. The most effective and reliable method of creating such a record is through the use of the now-familiar technology of police officer body cameras.

Minority Leader Abrahams, Legislator Solages and I sponsored a legislative resolution in 2014, as you may recall, to introduce police body cameras to Nassau. Although the then Presiding Officer never advanced the resolution, the Minority Caucus was subsequently able to secure a public commitment from the prior County administration to launch a body camera pilot program. Unfortunately the program became permanently sidetracked when the Police Benevolent Association ("PBA") commenced a PERB proceeding claiming that body cameras were a mandatory subject of negotiation. (Importantly, the union did not oppose the concept of body cameras and actually recognized their value.) Accordingly, it is clear to me that the County's ongoing PBA collective bargaining negotiations present a perfect opportunity to rectify that problem and negotiate the introduction of body cameras to our County's police force.

I believe the time to take this step is long overdue. Nassau is lagging far behind other jurisdictions on the deployment of body camera technology. In order to finally break this

logjam and bring Nassau in line with current best practices in law enforcement, I urge you to include the implementation of body cameras as a County priority in the collective bargaining negotiations with the PBA, as well as the Superior Officers Association. I sincerely believe that police officers, as well as law abiding citizens, are the primary beneficiaries of body cameras. The collective bargaining process presents the best chance to bring law enforcement on board as a willing partner in this initiative and to remove the final obstacle to adopting this indispensable technology in Nassau County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Siela A. Bynoe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Siela A. Bynoe
Legislative District 2