

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS DUNNE,
CHAIRMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

June 27, 2016
2:20 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

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

DENNIS DUNNE
Chairman

DONALD MACKENZIE
Vice Chairman

VINCENT MUSCARELLA (Not Present)

ROSE MARIE WALKER (Sitting in for Vincent Muscarella)

DENISE FORD

LAURA CURRAN
Ranking

KEVAN ABRAHAMS

SIELA A. BYNOE

MICHAEL C. PULITZER, Clerk

LIST OF SPEAKERS

GREG STEPHANOFF	5
META MEREDAY.	12
KAREN DOOLING	15

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2 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: I will call the Public

3 Safety Committee to order. Would the clerk

4 please read the roll?

5 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela Bynoe?

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader Kevan

8 Abrahams?

9 Ranking Member Laura Curran?

10 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

11 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose Marie

12 Walker?

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairman Donald

15 MacKenzie?

16 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Chairman Dennis Dunne?

18 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum.

20 Legislator Denise Ford?

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: The first item to come

24 before this committee is Item 235-16, a

25 resolution authorizing the signing of the New

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2 York State Department of Transportation
3 supplemental grant agreement for funds to support
4 enforcement of high occupancy vehicle (HOV)
5 traffic laws on the Long Island Expressway.
6 I have a motion by Denise Ford, seconded
7 by Rose Walker.
8 On this item, yes.
9 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Lieutenant Greg
10 Stephanoff from the police department.
11 Item 235 -
12 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: The motion was by
13 Denise Ford, seconded by Rose Walker. I'm sorry.
14 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Item 235-16 is a
15 grant from New York State for HOV lane
16 enforcement. It's for \$501,800. This is a - the
17 state supplemented just for the first six months
18 for this year. This is not a full year. This is
19 going to be a six-month grant.
20 This money is going to be used for extra
21 personnel to go out and patrol the HOV to enforce
22 the laws in relation to the HOV lanes. Also,
23 they will do auto accident, anything that comes
24 up in those HOV lanes will be enforced as well.
25 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: And this comes from the

2 state?

3 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Fully funded. Okay.

5 Any questions by any of the legislators?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 Any public comment?

8 (No verbal response.)

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

11 (Aye.)

12 Any against?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 This passes on to Finance.

15 I'd like to have a motion to suspend the
16 rules.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Moved by Denise Ford,
20 seconded by Rose Walker.

21 All in favor indicate by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any against?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 So we suspended the rules for the

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2 addendum to the Public Safety Committee.

3 The first item on the addendum is 242-16,
4 an ordinance supplemental to the annual
5 appropriations ordinance in connection with the
6 Office of the County Executive.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

8 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Moved by Rose Walker,
10 seconded by our Vice Chairman Don MacKenzie.

11 Now, on the item itself.

12 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon.

13 Lieutenant Greg Stephanoff again. This is a
14 grant from New York State Office of Crime Victim
15 Services. This grant is used by Patty Shay
16 (phonetic) who works under the Police Department.
17 This grant is used to assist victims in obtaining
18 needed services which cover unlimited medical
19 expenses, burial expenses, loss of earnings
20 and/or support and loss or damage to essential
21 personal property, moving expenses and storage
22 expenses.

23 This grant will fund people over 60 and
24 under 18 or who are disabled. This is a
25 reoccurring grant that she works off of to supply

2 services, much needed services to victims of
3 crimes.

4 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Are there any questions
5 from any of the legislators? Yes. Legislator
6 Bynoe.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good afternoon,
8 Officer.

9 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Is there a
11 requirement that the victim cooperate with police
12 in order to be able to obtain these funds?

13 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: I don't believe
14 so. Patty usually goes through our reports and
15 she'll pick out - she does it kind of
16 independently from the officer at the scene. She
17 goes through our reports and she will look for
18 people that need assistance and call them and
19 offer assistance to them.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And so the only
21 eligibility requirement should be the age factors
22 and whether they were actually a victim of the
23 crime.

24 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: That's correct.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No other criteria.

2 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Not that I know
3 of.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Could you verify that
5 for me?

6 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Sure. I'll call
7 her. I know how she operates. I've presented
8 this a couple of times and I've spoken to her.
9 She will actually, independent, like I said, of
10 the police on the street, she will actually call
11 the victim and make the appropriate services to
12 them if they qualify.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay.

14 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: I haven't heard
15 anything about them being cooperative or not as
16 one of the requirements.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. This is a
18 separate pool of money then. We've actually, in
19 the past, assisted some of the residents in being
20 able to connect into this type of funding. They
21 wouldn't have qualified because they weren't over
22 60, under 18, or disabled. So we went through
23 another pool of money and the requirement was
24 that they assisted the police in the
25 investigation. Sometimes people are afraid to do

2 that.

3 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Right.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Especially this
5 population of people, I think would probably be
6 even more nervous about being a part of the
7 police - sorry - court case.

8 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: You sure that's
9 not - like, I know about assisting. Are you sure
10 that's not where they - sometimes they will limit
11 it if they are intentionally obstructing it,
12 where they are not cooperating, do you know what
13 I'm saying?

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I don't know. I
15 would think that probably not cooperating would
16 be -

17 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Sometimes there
18 is intentional obstructing where they will not
19 cooperate period with us, unfortunately. They
20 won't even give us any basis to go on. Then
21 there are people that will assist us as far as
22 they can go.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So I don't know.

24 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: I will find out.
25 I will call her.

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The point is I want
3 to know whether that is ever taken into account
4 and if there is some kind of criteria for that,
5 if I could understand.

6 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Sure. I'll ask
7 her about that detail. Absolutely.

8 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: If you could get that
9 information to the chair and we will share it
10 with the whole committee.

11 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Sure.

12 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you so much.
13 Any other questions?
14 (No verbal response.)

15 Any public comment? There is public
16 comment. Ms. Mereday.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I have a question for
18 you.

19 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Yes.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm sorry. Did you
21 say it has to go through the chair and then be
22 disseminated?

23 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: I'm asking to bring it
24 to the chair and then I'll give it to everybody
25 because -

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You'll make sure that
3 we get it then?

4 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Yeah. We're all
5 interested in the answer. It's a good question.

6 Ms. Mereday.

7 MS. MEREDAY: Thank you. Good
8 afternoon. Mete J. Mereday, Baldwin. Just a
9 couple of questions as it pertains to this. For
10 me, I'm always going to come up front and say
11 that I think it's definitely criminal the way we
12 are treating our veterans. I just find it
13 interesting that we have a service, kind of once
14 a crime happens, that we don't seem to provide to
15 our veterans who are being foreclosed on and put
16 out on a regular basis, but I digressed.

17 I just want to know, I guess as
18 Legislator Bynoe alluded to, first of all, how is
19 this type of information even transmitted to
20 victims? How do they know that they have these
21 types of services and what are the numbers in
22 terms of the geographic breakdown? I know
23 individuals who have been victims of crimes and
24 they have not received any of these types of
25 services. Is there just the one person? I think

2 it's admirable that we have this person doing
3 that. To think that we have millions of people,
4 1.2 million or whatever in Nassau County, and
5 there is one person making a phone call to reach
6 out to somebody who has been a victim of a crime,
7 which is already a trauma, I don't quite
8 understand how that actually functions.

9 The moving expenses, the storage
10 expenses, where exactly are we placing the
11 individuals, one, if they can't go back to their
12 homes, if we are already saying that we have a
13 housing shortage and a shelter shortage, that we
14 can't put people who are about to lose their
15 home. I don't understand how there seems to be
16 the resources available for one side of the table
17 but we don't have the resources for another side
18 of the table and we're using state funding for
19 that. I'm just curious.

20 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Lieutenant, the crime
21 victims' services has always been a part of
22 Nassau County's government for the 43 years that
23 I've been in county government. How does the
24 victim, as Ms. Mereday said, how are they made
25 aware that the services are there for them?

2 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Ms. Shay
3 (phonetic) works under the police department and
4 has access to our reports. She goes through the
5 reports. From what I've seen, she does a good
6 job. Those reports have contact information and
7 she will reach out to the victims of the crimes.

8 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other public
9 comment?

10 (No verbal response.)

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

13 (Aye.)

14 Any against?

15 It moves on to Finance.

16 The next item is -

17 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you, Lieutenant.

19 The next item is 247-16, an ordinance
20 supplemental to the annual appropriation
21 ordinance in connection with the Medical
22 Examiner, Division of Forensic Services.

23 48 is a similar, an annual ordinance
24 supplemental to - wait a minute, let's try it
25 again - an ordinance supplemental to the annual

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2 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
3 Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Services.
4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.
5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.
6 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Moved by Legislator
7 Walker, seconded by Legislator Ford.
8 And we have with us?
9 MS. DOOLING: Hi. Karen Dooling,
10 Assistant Director, Division of Forensic
11 Services.
12 You have two grants before you. 247-16
13 is our annual Age Crime Laboratories Grant. It's
14 used for overtime, equipment, and supplies for
15 the laboratory. It's a New York State Grant, no
16 match.
17 The second item is 248-16. This is a new
18 grant we've received for arson laboratory
19 improvement. It's an award of \$5,000 because we
20 are now able to do arson testing in the
21 laboratory. We've gone online with that
22 services.
23 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Where are we with the
24 labs? Are the labs already up and running or are
25 we still waiting for it to finalize? Where are

2 we with the lab?

3 MS. DOOLING: We're online with biology,
4 DNA services. We were also online with latent
5 prints comparisons. In April we received
6 additional extension of services accreditation
7 for latent print processing, also for conducting
8 chemistry controlled substances for doing fire,
9 debris, arson. And then we can't go online with
10 fire arms analysis until we're in the new
11 laboratory and have a bigger facility.

12 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: So this is going to go
13 for equipment in our lab, overtime, and that's
14 fully state funded, that's 247. Anybody else
15 have any questions on 247?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 No public comment on that.

18 248 is for the lab improvements. It's a
19 \$5,000 new grant that we're getting. Does
20 anybody have any questions on that?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 Any public comment?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 There being none; on Items 247-16 and
25 248-16, all in favor indicate by saying aye.

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2 (Aye.)
3 Any against?
4 (No verbal response.)
5 They both move on to Finance.
6 That concludes the business we have
7 before the Public Safety Committee.
8 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Motion to adjourn.
9 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion to adjourn by
10 Legislator Walker -
11 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Second.
12 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Seconded by Legislator
13 MacKenzie.
14 All in favor indicate by saying aye.
15 (Aye.)
16 Any against?
17 (No verbal response.)
18 Okay. This is concluded.
19 (Whereupon, the Public Safety Committee
20 adjourned at 2:32 p.m.)
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22
23
24
25

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 5th day of July, 2016.

FRANK GRAY