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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO,
Presiding Officer

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENISE FORD, Chairwoman

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, September 9, 2019
3:51 P.M

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

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4 DENISE FORD,
 Chairwoman5 STEVE RHOADS,
 Vice Chairman

6

7 VINCENT MUSCARELLA (Substituted by
 Rose Walker)

8 JOHN R. FERRETTI

9 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON,
 Ranking

10

11 SIELA BYNOE (Substituted by Joshua Lafazan)

12

13 DEBRA MULE

14

15 MICHAEL PULITZER
16 Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

3

4 BOB MCMANUS 5

5 JOHN BUDNICK 11

6 PAUL HERTZFELD 44

7 META J. MEREDAY 29

8 DOUGLAS LANDSMAN 73

9 DEPUTY INSPECTOR GREG STEPHANOFF 75

10 NARDA HALL 79

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2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: At this time I
3 will call the Public Safety Committee to
4 order and ask the clerk to call the roll.

5 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
6 ma'am. Public Safety Committee roll call.
7 Legislator Mule?

8 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
10 Joshua Lafazan substituting?

11 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
13 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
15 Here.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
17 Ferretti, Jr.?

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose
20 Walker for Legislator Muscarella?

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chair
23 Steven Rhoads?

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Here.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Chairwoman

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2 Denise Ford?

3 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
5 quorum, ma'am. There are seven items on the
6 regular agenda today which are Clerk Items
7 281-19, 291-19, 292-19, 293-19, 298-19,
8 299-19, 328-19.18, 78-18 and 80-18.

9 Clerk Item 281-19 is an ordinance
10 supplemental to the annual appropriation in
11 connection with the District Attorney's
12 Office. May I have a motion?

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
16 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
17 Rhoads. The item is before us.

18 Who is here from the
19 administration to speak about this item?

20 MR. MCMANUS: Bob McManus,
21 District Attorney's Office.

22 The item before you is a gun
23 involved violence elimination initiative
24 which is a grant. This is the third year
25 that we've received this grant from the New

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2 York State Department of Criminal Justice
3 Services. It involves allocating funding to
4 attempt to reduce gang involvement and also
5 investigate and prosecute gun crimes in
6 Nassau County.

7 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Does anybody
8 have any questions?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Any public comment?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 I see none. All those in favor
13 of passing this item please signify by
14 saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Those opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 The item passes unanimously.

19 Thank you very much, sir.

20 Clerk Item 291-19 is a local law
21 to amend title 45 of the miscellaneous laws
22 of Nassau County.

23 May I have a motion?

24 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
3 Legislator Ferretti, seconded by Legislator
4 Rhoads. The item is before us.

5 So bicycle riding has been in the
6 news recently for the wrong reasons and, as
7 a result, legislation has been filed that
8 will address not only the dangerous rates
9 that children are riding bicycles which will
10 be discussed in a few minutes but will
11 increase the age for wearing bicycle
12 helmets.

13 Children enjoy many health and
14 social benefits from riding bicycles but
15 unfortunately this activity can be dangerous
16 as accidents happen and children can suffer
17 serious and even fatal injuries with
18 injuries causing the most fatalities.

19 Bicycle helmets are 85 percent to
20 88 percent effective for mitigating head and
21 brain injuries and are the most effective
22 way to reduce head injuries and fatalities.

23 Accordingly, it is within the
24 best interest of Nassau County residents to
25 increase the age requirement to wear helmets

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2 from under 14 years old to under 18 year
3 olds.

4 Additionally, this legislation
5 adds riding on motorized bicycles, scooters
6 or skateboards or skating or gliding on
7 inline skates as activities that require
8 children under 18 to wear helmets.

9 I meant to have you read this,
10 Legislator Ferretti, but I know you probably
11 have a few comments on this.

12 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
13 Chairwoman. Yes. Look at New York City
14 just from January through July of 2019
15 alone, I believe there were 17 deaths.

16 Obviously bicycle helmets are
17 extremely beneficial to every one but
18 certainly to youth.

19 Currently with the age being 14,
20 the only way that that law can be enforced
21 is against the guardian or parent of the
22 adolescent. So if a 13 year old is seen by
23 a police officer without a helmet, unless
24 the parent or guardian is present and aware
25 that the minor is not wearing a helmet, no

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2 fine can be imposed because you can't impose
3 a fine on a 13 year old.

4 Under this bill, raising the age
5 to 18 aside from requiring 14, 15, 16, 17
6 year olds to wear helmets, 16 and 17 year
7 olds can be fined directly. There is no
8 requirement that a parent has to be present
9 or aware.

10 Now, just to be clear there are
11 two separate pieces of legislation that deal
12 with bike safety that are currently before
13 this committee. The penalties for helmets
14 under this bill for failure to wear helmets
15 in this bill do not change, it's still a \$50
16 fine. Because I know that was a source of
17 some confusion with some of my constituents.

18 That being said, it's certainly I
19 know as a parent my children are not allowed
20 to go past the driveway without a helmet on.

21 I know it can be a challenge when
22 children get older and in their teens
23 there's almost a stigma with wearing a
24 helmet.

25 But I like to compare it to

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2 skiing, and I don't know if there are any
3 skiers here today, and I'm an avid skier.
4 When I was a child wearing a helmet, was
5 something that a kid would get made fun of
6 for, even an adult wouldn't be seen with a
7 helmet. Now if you go skiing, you're an
8 outcast if you are not wearing helmet.

9 In my opinion where we need to
10 get to in Nassau County. To me it's a no
11 brainer. Suffolk County has already done
12 this and it's a bill that in my opinion
13 could very well save lives.

14 Obviously since I introduced it
15 along with Legislator McKeivitt I'm in favor
16 of it and I'm hoping my colleagues in this
17 committee join me.

18 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you. I
19 know that New York State Department of
20 Safety we have Cindy Brown and Mark and they
21 go around and demonstrate to the school
22 children why it's beneficial and very
23 important to wear a helmet, especially when
24 you're bicycle riding. They show an example
25 and take an egg and they drop it from I

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2 guess chest high and of course the egg
3 breaks and splatters.

4 Now they take another egg and it
5 in a helmet -- something that would be
6 similar to what we wear on our heads and
7 they drop it on the ground and the egg stays
8 whole.

9 So it is something where the
10 children are putting themselves in great
11 danger without wearing helmets and
12 unfortunately you can suffer from very bad
13 concussions and even some things that can be
14 worse.

15 This is an important piece of
16 legislation. Do I have any debate or
17 discussion from anyone else up here?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 Any public comment? Mr. Budnick.

20 MR. BUDNICK: John Budnick,
21 Massapequa Park. I'm going to suggest
22 somebody look at the idea of creating a
23 situation whereby young people who are not
24 wearing helmets can be the subject of a
25 person in need of supervision petition in

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2 family court. So that somehow especially as
3 of the first of the year when they minimum
4 age for criminal liability goes to 18,
5 somebody can do something to address the
6 issue of those under the age of 18
7 particularly those who are habitually
8 driving bicycles recklessly, not using
9 helmets continually, et cetera. Thank you
10 very much.

11 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very
12 much for sharing your thoughts. But I think
13 that we are going to first see, once we
14 implement it and the response of the public
15 once the police start going around.

16 I think that the parents are
17 aware of the fact that we are mandating this
18 for up to 18 years old and hopefully they
19 will be joined with the schools in sort of
20 encouraging the students.

21 If we all join together to
22 protect our students and our children, I
23 think we don't have to worry about having to
24 go to family court but thank you very much.

25 All those in favor of passing

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2 this item signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 Those opposed?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 Passes unanimously.

7 Clerk Item 292-19, a local law to
8 add a new title to the miscellaneous laws of
9 Nassau County to authorize the impoundment
10 of bicycles that are operated in a dangerous
11 manner in contravention of the rules of the
12 road.

13 May I have a motion?

14 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR MULE: Second.

16 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
17 Legislator Ferretti, seconded by Legislator
18 Mule. I will hand it over to Legislator
19 Ferretti. Thank you.

20 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
21 Chairwoman Ford. This bill was introduced
22 as a result of events that have been going
23 on throughout really all of Long Island
24 known as ride outs. What a ride out is,
25 it's an organized bicycle ride by groups of

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2 adolescents usually authorized on social
3 media where the intent of these minors is to
4 ride together and ride their bike recklessly
5 in an attempt to "swerve cars" basically
6 just mess with drivers. Videotape it on a
7 go pro camera and upload the video onto You
8 Tube or social media.

9 What their goal is to get as many
10 hits, clicks, or likes on that video as
11 possible.

12 This has been going on for at
13 least six to eight months in my district. I
14 have been working with the Eighth Precinct
15 to try to prevent this, and police stop the
16 kids, try to educate the kids.

17 What they were running into was
18 eventually the kids came to learn that there
19 was really nothing that the police could do.
20 They couldn't arrest them. They had no
21 statute to point to and say these
22 adolescents were violating.

23 So, eventually it got to the
24 point where the kids were telling the cops,
25 you can't do anything to us and ride away.

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2 So in working with the POP officers in the
3 Eighth Precinct they had actually requested
4 that we work on a bill that would give the
5 police department the authority to tackle
6 this issue. So we did.

7 This authorization would allow,
8 first of all, it specifically defines the
9 behavior that it's looking to punish.

10 What it does is, it allows a
11 police officer to impound the bicycle
12 scooters, motorized scooters, of any
13 operator that is riding a bicycle between
14 road lanes, in between vehicles, while
15 performing tricks and stuns within two feet
16 of an automobile or pedestrian, weaving and
17 swerving into roadways, or sidewalks with
18 the intent of distracting or disturbing
19 other motorists, pedestrians, or bicycle
20 riders.

21 If any of you have seen these
22 videos on You Tube or on Facebook you would
23 see the extreme danger that this behavior
24 causes, not just to the riders but to the
25 drivers, to pedestrians who are walking on

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2 the sidewalks.

3 To be clear, we want, we should
4 want kids to ride bicycles, we want families
5 to ride bicycles. We should encourage it.
6 It's good exercise, good activity.

7 But what we've been seeing is
8 these groups intentionally going out to
9 engage in this reckless behavior and it's
10 now gotten to the point where there are
11 drivers of automobiles who are stopping and
12 engaging these group of kids.

13 I had a constituent that stopped
14 after they were essentially terrorized by a
15 group of kids, got out of the vehicle and
16 confronted the group of kids and thrown to
17 the ground. It's only getting worse and we
18 need to give the police the tools that they
19 need to put an end to it.

20 So what this bill does is it
21 would allow the police to impound the
22 bicycle of any age of any person operating
23 the bicycle in this way.

24 If they're 12 or older, they can
25 be charged with a misdemeanor offense,

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2 punishable by up to \$100 fine.

3 I understand that it may seem
4 like an extreme measure to some, but I think
5 the circumstances and behavior that we are
6 seeing is extreme. In my opinion we need to
7 implement something to prevent an accident
8 or serious injury or God forbid death and be
9 proactive in this rather than reactive.

10 I hope that I have the support of
11 my colleagues in this and I thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Legislator
13 Mule.

14 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you.
15 Legislator Ferretti, I have become aware of
16 this behavior fairly recently as you have
17 and it is extremely alarming.

18 So I certainly support this
19 effort to tackle it. I was glad to hear in
20 your presentation that you worked with the
21 police in trying to craft a solution.

22 What I would be interested to
23 know and I suspect it will be passed
24 unanimously is that I would love to hear a
25 report after the law is enacted to see if

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2 it's been helpful and, hopefully, yes, the
3 answer is yes. If not, would there be
4 something we can do to amend or to change
5 the law.

6 Because of course what we want to
7 do is change that behavior and make the
8 roadway safer again for everybody still.

9 I applaud this legislation but I
10 really would be interested in hearing some
11 sort of report six months, a year down the
12 road to see if it's been effective.

13 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Yes, and
14 thank you, Legislator Mule. Yes, I have
15 been working with, as I'm sure many of my
16 colleagues have been working with the
17 precincts in our districts, but I've been
18 working with the Eighth Precinct on this
19 issue going back to the beginning of the
20 year, and it was actually one of the POP
21 officers who called me and said, Can we do
22 something here?

23 Because we've gone as far as we
24 can without actually having some authority
25 here. The education is not working.

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2 But education in my opinion needs
3 to continue to be part of this equation to
4 really knock this out.

5 No officer, none of us, I'm sure,
6 wants to have a 13, 14, 15 year old arrested
7 on a misdemeanor for this. That's not the
8 goal.

9 It's really to act as a
10 deterrent. But for it to act as a
11 deterrent, we really have to educate the
12 kids.

13 Just a quick story. I held a
14 community meeting on this about three weeks
15 ago, about 120 people showed up. Many of
16 which brought their kids which they were
17 encouraged to do.

18 Additionally, about six kids who
19 I recognized from one of the video, by the
20 way, showed up and stood in the back of the
21 room. I think their intent was to come and
22 throw a monkey wrench into the meeting to
23 some extent. Commissioner Ryder was there
24 along with a bunch of officers. The kids
25 left with a different perspective than they

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2 thought they would have.

3 When you are told by the
4 Commissioner of police they could get
5 arrested for continuing this behavior, I
6 think it really opened up their eyes.

7 I plan on continuing to educate
8 my constituents on this and really engaging
9 the parents, hoping that they talk to their
10 kids about this and let them know that we
11 take in seriously here in Nassau County.

12 I truly hope this is never
13 enforced against anyone. I hope if we get
14 that report in six months to a year, that
15 it's not enforced against anyone, but at the
16 same time we haven't seen anymore of these
17 videos on You Tube. That's my goal. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Legislator
20 Walker.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I have been in
22 contact with our legislators with this for a
23 long time and also our police department,
24 and, as Legislator Ferretti said, we really
25 need to put some teeth into this. The kids

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2 are just saying you really can't do anything
3 and going on their merry way.

4 But I have seen it first hand not
5 just on videos. This isn't happening on
6 your local -- not that it isn't happening on
7 your little local street, but it's on Old
8 Country Road or Levittown Parkway, on
9 Merrick Road, on major streets.

10 I say it's really amazing that we
11 haven't read that there were more accidents.
12 However, we don't really know. There could
13 have been car accidents that might have been
14 caused by a situation like this, it just
15 doesn't state that in the paper.

16 But it's certainly very, very
17 scary to drivers. They certainly don't want
18 to hurt a child so they swerve in a
19 different direction but could be into a
20 another car, could be a home or on to a
21 sidewalk. It's something that we do have to
22 address.

23 I had also reached out to
24 Legislator Ferretti and thought maybe as far
25 as the helmet law goes, kids get a little

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2 older, they think they don't look so cool in
3 a bike helmet, like it's going to mess up
4 their hair. I don't have great hair so I
5 get that, hat heads, you might say.

6 But maybe working with our night
7 riders, our fire fighters, some motorcycle
8 groups that are very, very committed to
9 different things we do in the county with
10 our veterans, with our fire fighters and our
11 young people. Get them to help us with the
12 publicity to wear that helmet, this is
13 important.

14 Kids look at them and they think
15 of them as being cool, stronger people. Not
16 just we're telling them you need to wear a
17 bike helmet. Not that we have to have
18 others, but whatever we can do to reinforce
19 and educate. I already reached out to the
20 Hicksville School District and many of other
21 school districts in my legislative districts
22 and I know the other legislators will.

23 But to reinforce the bicycle
24 safety not just the helmets but this
25 reckless driving. It kind of goes in fad so

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2 to say and this is a new thing to do. But
3 now they're back in school so they don't
4 have as much free time to be out on the
5 road, the weather will change. They might
6 not be outside as much but as time
7 progresses and we head into next summer, we
8 have to see and hopefully this will make a
9 big difference and I thank you for moving
10 forward with that.

11 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I agree and
12 thank you very much because it is absolutely
13 dangerous. Thankfully we haven't seen any
14 bad accidents as a result of this.
15 Hopefully this message will be sent to the
16 parents of children that do this.

17 Even though with this
18 misdemeanor, and understand it would go to
19 family court and be sealed, but just having
20 two sons, one who went for the New York City
21 Fire Department and one for the police
22 department and I know children who went for
23 other law enforcement. And believe it or
24 not, these little actions that you take,
25 they come back and get you when you are

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2 trying to get a job that you really truly
3 like, even though the records could be
4 sealed.

5 So, for parents, not only you
6 don't want the fine, but you really have to
7 start waking up and watching what your
8 children are doing. One day they may want
9 to become something and if this is something
10 that can be revealed, it could very well
11 keep them from getting a job they want.

12 Let's all wake up before
13 something serious really happens.
14 Legislator Ferretti.

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: One more
16 thing for me. Some of the feedback I have
17 gotten from residents is, you're going to
18 hit my kid with a misdemeanor for doing a
19 wheely in front of my house, that's not my
20 intent of this, that's not what the bill
21 says. This is very targeted to address this
22 ride out type of behavior which of course is
23 basically playing chicken with cars.

24 I've worked together with the
25 police on this bill, so if you are riding

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2 responsibly, and if your intent is in the
3 right place, you're okay under this bill.

4 Where you will be faced with a
5 problem is if you ride in an attempt to
6 intentionally play chicken with cars.

7 So when people contact me and ask
8 me, I always say to them, have you seen one
9 of these videos. You really need to see it
10 to get a full grasp of what these groups are
11 doing.

12 Lastly, it's not only children.
13 I had this one experience with a motorized
14 experience with an adult in his late 20s or
15 early 30s and it's a very scary thing. So
16 just keep that in mind, it's not limited to
17 just children.

18 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Any public
19 comment? Mr. Budnick.

20 MR. BUDNICK: My compliments to
21 you, Mr. Ferretti.

22 Just a couple of observations.
23 Authorizing police to seize property, unless
24 there is a follow-up provision that
25 authorizes some sort of a hearing before a

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2 "neutral and de-tasked magistrate" you are
3 going to have a constitutional issue that
4 you can't win.

5 I would suggest something be
6 added to allow hearings somewhere, maybe
7 consumer affairs, Nassau County PBA or
8 another location. It can't be within the
9 police department.

10 Number two, in addition to
11 declaring it a misdemeanor, allowing a JD
12 prosecution of a child who is endangering
13 people this way, by the way, this has
14 happened to me twice in the past two months.
15 I had to literally screech to a stop because
16 of the idiocy being done by these young
17 people, perhaps as a possible alternative to
18 a JD, one may consider allowing under the
19 law a petition in the nature of a person in
20 need of supervision. But I will leave that
21 up to you. But my compliments to you.

22 God bless you, speaking as an old
23 assistant district attorney for about nine
24 years and a park ranger before that who had
25 all sorts of amusing fecal matter that I had

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2 to deal with.

3 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very
4 much for sharing that. All those in favor
5 of passing this item please signify by
6 saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Those opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 The item passes unanimously.

11 Thank you.

12 Clerk Item 298-19 is a local law
13 to establish within the Nassau County Police
14 Department the health and wellness division.

15 May I have a motion?

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
19 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
20 Walker.

21 Police officers face many
22 stresses and challenges that are unique to
23 their job. While an officer may not suffer
24 visible physical injury as a police officer,
25 he or she may be struggling mentally or

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2 emotionally unknown to their friends and
3 loved ones.

4 Unfortunately, even though police
5 officers work to keep neighborhoods safe for
6 residents in recent years, they have faced
7 increased hostility towards them and too
8 many have taken their own lives.

9 It is imperative that the Nassau
10 County Legislature create the health and
11 wellness division within the Nassau County
12 Police Department.

13 In sum the division must provide
14 health and wellness training to the Nassau
15 County Police Department, create an app and
16 website to signs of depression and suicidal
17 behavior, establish peer support, establish
18 a mental health action plan, and coordinate
19 with the NYPD to maximize mental health
20 services offered to Nassau County residents
21 who are Nassau County Police Department
22 officers.

23 Also, the police Commissioner can
24 assign duties as he or she may see fit.
25 This is very timely and very important.

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2 We have seen just this year alone
3 nine suicides in the New York City Police
4 Department. Ten now. Thank you very much.

5 It's sad when you see these brave
6 men I guess mostly men that committed
7 suicide to reach that point after they
8 served their communities and going through
9 all this training.

10 So, for us, we have to make sure
11 we protect those who make it their life's
12 mission to protect us.

13 So I'm very happy to be in
14 support of this and I just want to know if
15 there is any debate or discussion? Anyone
16 else on the floor? Any public comment?
17 Ms. Mereday.

18 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
19 Baldwin resident.

20 I'm definitely in support of a
21 health and wellness unit for our police
22 officers. One of my concerns that I have
23 been working with the Commissioner and the
24 brass within Nassau County is identifying
25 and alerting those officers who have yet to

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2 actually get themselves checked who worked
3 down on 911. We still have a number of
4 police officers who unfortunately, as in the
5 case with Detective Alvarez, his cancer was
6 detected in 2016, and we are at the high end
7 of the curve for the cancer detection time
8 period. They're saying between 2015 and
9 2020 will be that containment period for
10 cancers and we have a number of officers who
11 still have not stepped up, they have gone on
12 with their lives. Unfortunately their
13 bodies are going through some challenges
14 that will result in that stage four stage
15 five cancer diagnosis. That will impact
16 them and their families.

17 But, as I said, with regard to
18 this health and wellness unit, I am in
19 support of that and it is my hope that we
20 can extend and broaden this because a number
21 of our police officers also served in
22 military, again, as was the case of
23 Detective Alvarez.

24 So I'm looking at this as
25 hopefully not a missed opportunity to

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2 address again the unmet needs within our
3 veteran community, to expand on that because
4 veteran suicides are on average 22 per day.

5 So we need to look at that
6 seriously not just talk about it but as the
7 expression goes, we need to be about it.

8 So I am willing to offer whatever
9 assistance or expertise, but we need the
10 resources. That's going to be my other
11 question. I hope this is not going to
12 follow a New York State model where we have
13 all these mandates that are unfunded.

14 So if we are going to seriously
15 be about this, then we need to make sure we
16 put the resources in place with social work,
17 social support, family support, and make it
18 real that this is not an opportunity for
19 them to say there is nothing wrong with me,
20 and something is going to happen to me if I
21 step up and say that I need help, because we
22 have a wide range of our law enforcement
23 officers, male and female, you may not see
24 the numbers because females don't
25 necessarily commit suicide to the rate that

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2 males do, but there is a growing need in the
3 depression and the support services that our
4 female officers need as well.

5 So we need to be able to step up
6 with the resources not just the rhetoric,
7 not just the photo op. Let's broaden this.
8 Let Nassau County be first in something
9 besides lawsuits. Let's be first helping in
10 helping wellness for our law enforcement and
11 military. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very
13 much. And I'm sure this is going to be
14 backed. Because aside from the
15 administration, we also have Commissioner
16 Ryder who is very concerned about the police
17 force. These are the men and women he
18 considers his family.

19 They are also protected even with
20 their unions, I'm sure the unions will make
21 sure that we put the money, the resources
22 behind this. And hopefully they'll be able
23 to reach out to these officers, especially
24 those that did serve in the military,
25 because sometimes there's a chain reaction.

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2 So maybe those officers that are now in the
3 police department see the help they can get
4 through maybe dealing with this and talking
5 about this, they also know people that may
6 not be in the police department but served
7 with. So you can see all of a sudden they
8 may realize that they want to reach a hand
9 out to someone they served with.

10 So hopefully, like you said, we
11 can be on the cutting edge of something and
12 start something that will be very positive
13 for many people that need the help we're
14 offering to give. Thank you. Mr. Budnick.

15 MR. BUDNICK: I do believe that
16 if you create a health and wellness unit,
17 you will need to staff it. It will need to
18 be staffed not only by professional social
19 workers, but it should also be staffed by
20 various chaplains who also have
21 qualifications and are either licensed CSWs
22 or MSWs. There needs to be, for the sake of
23 everybody, a veil of confidentiality to
24 allow the officers to speak freely and that
25 the people in the health and wellness unit,

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2 counselors and/or chaplains, only have to
3 report to police if there is a clear and
4 present danger of injury to the individual
5 officer or other persons.

6 This must be carefully put
7 together, carefully carefully put together
8 and tailored in conjunction with the needs
9 of the department and also the needs of the
10 officers that are troubled.

11 It's very important to remember
12 that police officers are human beings. They
13 can and have been terribly traumatized by
14 things that they have had to deal with over
15 the years. We need to reach out to them.

16 Another thing we need to do is
17 increase our level of respect to them and
18 for them for all the things that they do to
19 help keep our community our society and our
20 nation together. Thank you.

21 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you. All
22 those in favor of passing this item please
23 signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 Those opposed?

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2 (No verbal response.)

3 This item passes unanimously.

4 Now we are on to Clerk Item

5 299-19 which is local law to establish

6 within the Nassau County Sheriff's

7 Department the health and wellness division.

8 May I have a motion?

9 LEGISLATOR MULE: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by

12 Legislator Mule, seconded by Legislator

13 Walker. Correction officers like police

14 officers face unique challenges in their

15 job. They work in a closed environment and

16 face threats of possible violence.

17 Correction officers consistently

18 suffer from health ailments at a greater

19 frequency than the general population.

20 Accordingly a health and wellness

21 division within the Nassau County Department

22 of Sheriffs will greatly benefit the

23 department's members. The division must

24 provide health and wellness training to the

25 members of the department, create an app and

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2 website to provide signs of depression and
3 suicidal behavior, establish peer support
4 and establish a mental health action plan.
5 Also, the division can perform duties
6 determined by the sheriff.

7 When you think about these
8 correction officers, they work in a closed
9 environment. Their whole day is spent
10 within the confines of the jail.

11 For them, they don't carry
12 weapons. They have to live amongst the
13 inmates. It's not always the best of
14 situations, especially with the number of
15 gang members in there.

16 For us, even their stresses and
17 perhaps even some depression or some of the
18 issues that may impact them, I think that
19 this is also very timely for them as well.

20 I have to say I'm proud to be
21 supporting this legislation as well.

22 So any debate or discussion from
23 anybody on the floor?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Is there any public comment?

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2 Mr. Budnick.

3 MR. BUDNICK: I used to have a
4 number of friends who were correction
5 officers. Very few of them are left.

6 Nassau County and other
7 correction departments around the state used
8 to have a terrible problem that by the time
9 their correction officers were ready to
10 retire sometimes within weeks, months, not
11 even years they were dead because of the
12 stresses that are placed upon them.

13 I hope that there is sufficient
14 funding and there is sufficient resources to
15 be able to provide the correction officers
16 with the help that they need for the traumas
17 that they are exposed to and very often take
18 place upon their bodies. Each and every
19 day.

20 Thank you. My compliments to you
21 and God bless you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: All those in
23 favor of passing this item, please signify
24 by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

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2 Those opposed?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 It passes unanimously.

5 Clerk item 328-19 is a local law
6 to prohibit harassment of a police officer,
7 peace officer, or first responder.

8 May I have a motion?

9 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR MULE: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
12 Legislator Lafazan, seconded by Legislator
13 Mule. The item is before us.

14 Over the summer, cell phone video
15 emerged of New York City police officers
16 being doused in water when responding to a
17 disorderly conduct call. This is outrageous
18 behavior that should not be tolerated in
19 Nassau County.

20 The minority introduced
21 legislation prohibiting the intentional
22 throwing or spraying of water on a police
23 officer, peace officer, or first responder
24 while they are performing their official
25 duties. The penalty was \$1,000, but the

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2 legislation before us at this time has been
3 increased to a penalty of \$5,000.

4 Any debate or discussion? Josh.

5 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you,
6 very much, Madam Chair.

7 Put frankly, we cannot keep or
8 community safe if we do not keep our
9 officers safe. The incidents of water being
10 dumped on officers in New York City were
11 vial examples of behavior unbecoming of
12 participants in a civil society.

13 Our officers must not that if
14 anybody deliberately hinders their ability
15 to carry out their duties, that they are
16 fully within their rights to arrest this
17 individual and officers must know that their
18 government has made it categorically clear
19 that individuals that target first
20 responders will face justice.

21 That's why I filed this bill to
22 prohibit harassment if a police officer,
23 peace officer or any first responder. Let
24 me be clear that no person, in no occupation
25 should be ever be subject to an attack for

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2 simply doing their job. As we saw in Dayton
3 and El Paso, our cops are the very first
4 people called in the presence of clear
5 danger. They deserve our respect and
6 anything less simply cannot be tolerated.
7 So I thank my colleagues for their steadfast
8 commitment to the safety of our officers and
9 of course I urge unanimous yes vote. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Any one else?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 Is there any public comment?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 All those in favor signify by
16 saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 Those opposed?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 The item passes unanimously.

21 I did skip an item so I'm going
22 to go back to Item 293-19 which is a local
23 law in relation to establishing a
24 demonstration program imposing owner
25 liability for failure of an operator to stop

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19
2 for a school bus displaying a red visual
3 signal and stop arm and amending the Nassau
4 County administrative code in relation to
5 the jurisdiction of the Nassau County
6 Traffic and Parking Violations Bureau.

7 May I have a motion?

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Second.

10 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
11 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
12 Ferretti. The item is before us.

13 This item I guess was introduced
14 by the minority. Would you like to say
15 something? We will hear from Legislator
16 Drucker. Thank you so much.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
18 Madam Chair. Just like my colleague Joshua
19 Lafazan just said, I also want to applaud
20 the majority for supporting this legislation
21 that Legislator Bynoe and I were working on
22 for quite some time recognizing the urgency
23 of this problem.

24 We received many many calls from
25 residents in our districts, shocked and

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2 terrified of drivers who recklessly go
3 around school buses with the safety arm out.
4 We've tried to get police enforcement but
5 there's just not enough cops to go to every
6 single bus stop around Nassau County this.

7 So this camera legislation will
8 operate similar to the red light cameras.
9 And through TPVA it will be enforced.

10 This is an enabling statute.
11 Albany passed it and the county has to pass
12 it to enforce it. We will work in
13 conjunction with the school districts. Not
14 going to cost the school districts any
15 money. The fines will be assessed by TPVA
16 and just the same way red light violations
17 are the same way.

18 We are just hoping that now with
19 the start of school, it's really imperative
20 that we do whatever we can as a Legislative
21 body to protect our children. This is a
22 very scary thing and the opportunity now to
23 change driving habits and patterns of people
24 who, just like we had to change driving
25 habits when they passed legislation about

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2 using your cell phone, and about texting and
3 driving, this is another opportunity about
4 changing behavior, change patterns of
5 driving. There is an urgency to it and I'm
6 hopeful that -- I thank the majority for
7 supporting our legislation and I'm hoping we
8 can get unanimous support for it as well.

9 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very
10 much for bringing this to the floor. I know
11 even with the school buses, years ago we
12 used to do operation safe stop and that
13 would be on a designated day a police
14 officer would ride a school bus with an
15 officer following.

16 The purpose of it was when the
17 school bus stopped and letting children out
18 with the arm up, the officer on the bus
19 would note all the people that passed the
20 stopped school bus going in either
21 direction, report it to the patrol car, and
22 they would stop. It was amazing just on
23 that one day the number of tickets that were
24 issued for people that totally ignored these
25 school buses.

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2 Unfortunately we have experience
3 and read about it I'm sure people know
4 people who had children that were either
5 hurt or killed because some driver failed to
6 stop when that red arm is out.

7 So believe it or not, just
8 learning about this, the technology for this
9 actually comes from the Humvees that are
10 used in the wars over in Iraq and
11 Afghanistan to be able to scan for bombs or
12 what it was so this probably a very high
13 tech piece off equipment.

14 I, for one, I have to say this,
15 I'm happy about this because I have seen too
16 many cars going past it. It just amazes me
17 that they just blindly drive past it. So

18 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Madam Chair,
19 someone is here from the County Attorney's
20 Office and would like to speak about it.
21 Paul Hertzfeld, I think he's here.

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I didn't
23 realize.

24 MR. HERTZFELD: Paul Hertzfeld
25 from the County Attorney's Office, Deputy

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2 County Attorney.

3 I'm just here to clarify that
4 it's our objective, as with the red light
5 camera program, that we hope that we can
6 procure a vendor that will absorb all of the
7 costs of performing this program. It will
8 be a percentage of the revenue.

9 So there will be no cost, out of
10 pocket cost to the county. And are there
11 any questions?

12 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Legislator
13 Walker.

14 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I had a
15 question. From what I can understand from
16 the legislation, it pertained to county
17 roads.

18 MR. HERTZFELD: Well, actually --

19 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I would hope
20 that meant all the roads in Nassau County
21 because, most of our stops, not that there
22 aren't any on county roads or the major
23 roads, but most of our stops are in our town
24 roads and people run stop signs all the
25 time.

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2 MR. HERTZFELD: Well, I believe
3 actually if the county enters contracts, its
4 school district dependent, and if the county
5 enters a contract with the school district
6 to operate the school bus monitoring
7 program, then the county is responsible for
8 doing it regardless of where the roads are.
9 It is not dependent on it being county
10 roads.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: To be clear,
12 Madam Chair, from what I understand in the
13 statute, if it's a stationary bus or stop
14 regulation place that is only on a county
15 road, but any moving bus that has this
16 camera, the enforcement of it can take place
17 on any county road.

18 MR. HERTZFELD: That's correct.

19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Any road in
20 the county.

21 MR. HERTZFELD: That's correct.
22 And just to amend my statement slightly, one
23 thing that the county would need to do is,
24 if we adopt this legislation, is post signs
25 in the jurisdictional boundaries of the

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2 county advising people who enter that we
3 have a program, a school bus photo
4 enforcement program. So DPW would need to
5 post signs at roads that cross county
6 boundaries.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I would just
8 want to make sure our legislation covers
9 that because, like I said, the majority of
10 our stops are probably on our local roads.
11 Every time that arm goes out, that sign goes
12 out, it would snap a picture of someone
13 going by.

14 But I would hate to see us
15 thinking that it was covering that and then
16 it ends up not covering that.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Our counsel
18 just looked it up and informed us it does
19 cover for a bus that's moving throughout the
20 county or any of the towns or villages this
21 law covers those roads.

22 MR. HERTZFELD: Right. That's
23 correct. Right. Just like the police
24 department can enforce moving violations in
25 any of those places within the county police

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2 district.

3 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Legislator
4 Rhoads.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Just so I'm
6 clear on the conversation we're having,
7 we're referring to specifically Article 1,
8 section B, subsection one, no stationary
9 school bus, photo violation monitoring
10 system shall be installed or operated by the
11 county except on roadways under the
12 jurisdiction of the county.

13 Your reading of that is
14 specifically is, this isn't one that is
15 mounted to a school bus? This is a
16 stationary camera on a pole?

17 MR. HERTZFELD: That's right.
18 For those that would have to be on a county
19 roadway.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: On a county
21 roadway, and, two, no mobile school bus
22 photo violation monitoring system shall be
23 installed or operated on any such school
24 buses unless the county in such district
25 enter into an agreement for such

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2 installation, operation.

3 So there would be have to be a,
4 whether it's a district that operates its
5 own buses or someone who has a contract with
6 an outside vendor, obviously we wouldn't be
7 able to issue any kind of tickets unless
8 there was an agreement between the school
9 district and the county with respect to
10 those buses in that jurisdiction; correct?

11 MR. HERTZFELD: That's absolutely
12 correct.

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The only
14 thing that we might want to take a look at,
15 in addition to school districts, you do have
16 private and parochial schools that do have
17 school buses. We may want to consider
18 capturing that as well because obviously
19 they face the same dangers as those in a
20 public school district, but I certainly
21 support the legislation.

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Good point. I
23 know in some school districts and I know
24 where I live, the Catholic school uses the
25 Long Beach transportation system, so they

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2 would fall under Long Beach. I guess in
3 some of the other areas we would have look
4 and see.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: The statute
6 says all school districts, so, yes, we would
7 have to try to capture the parochial schools
8 as well.

9 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I'm sure they
10 would probably agree, it's anything to
11 safeguard these children, definitely.
12 Anyone else? Legislator Ferretti.

13 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
14 Chairwoman Ford. I'm totally in favor of
15 this. I'm a dad, I drop off my 7 year old
16 every morning for school at the stop down
17 the block from my house. I see it, not
18 every day, but I would say at least once a
19 week you see some person.

20 And, really, I don't say there
21 should be zero tolerance, but I'm sure
22 there's always an emergency that it would be
23 justified but it's as close to zero
24 tolerance if my opinion as possible that we
25 should give people that just blow around

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2 school buses.

3 But I know Legislator Rhoads
4 asked some questions to clear it up. So,
5 just mounting on a pole you can only do on
6 county roads; correct?

7 MR. HERTZFELD: Correct.

8 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: That would
9 be the case under this bill where there are
10 bus stops?

11 MR. HERTZFELD: Well, that would
12 be the most logical place.

13 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: And under
14 this bill in terms of mounting on the actual
15 bus, as long as the school district agrees,
16 then it can be mounted on the bus and
17 enforced by Nassau County, correct?

18 MR. HERTZFELD: That's correct.

19 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Even if
20 it's on a town road?

21 MR. HERTZFELD: Correct.

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So if the
23 bus stop is on a town road it can be mounted
24 on the bus if the school district agrees and
25 the ticket can be levied on a violator?

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2 MR. HERTZFELD: Wherever the
3 camera is mounted on the bus, where ever it
4 captures a picture of a car passing the bus
5 on any road within the County of Nassau a
6 ticket can be issued.

7 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Great.

8 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Anyone else?
9 Thank you. Any public comment?
10 Mr. Budnick.

11 MR. BUDNICK: John Budnick. I
12 have not examined this proposal. My
13 recollection of the vehicle and traffic law
14 provision that would be violated states
15 that, number one, the school bus must be
16 "national school bus chrome." Also that
17 there be at least two lights at the top of
18 the bus that are red and flashing at the
19 time the vehicle is stopped for the pick up
20 and discharge of children.

21 I don't remember a provision in
22 that law that noted or talked about an arm
23 coming out and having the red lights on the
24 arm or not.

25 I would hope somebody would have

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2 spoken to somebody in the District
3 Attorney's Office or the Parking and Traffic
4 Bureau to make sure that everything is
5 coordinated legally so that there aren't any
6 slips.

7 Next of all, is there a provision
8 in this law that where an owner of a vehicle
9 receives a notification for this, he can
10 literally plead, I was not the operator of
11 this vehicle. Irving Jones was or somebody
12 else and escape liability and transfer it to
13 Mr. John Doe. I would hope.

14 Otherwise I would find that there
15 is a potential issue of constitutionality.
16 That's all thank you very much.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Mr. Budnick,
18 the legislation will operate just like the
19 red light camera situation in which the
20 violation receives a summons in the mail and
21 it's assessed against the owner of the
22 vehicle.

23 MR. BUDNICK: Doesn't receive a
24 summons, receives a notice of violation.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: A notice of

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2 violation, yes. But it's assessed to the
3 owner of the vehicle, not the driver.

4 MR. BUDNICK: Respectfully
5 submitted, holding the owner the vehicle
6 liable for the acts ever another person
7 would be unconstitutional under New York
8 State and federal constitutional provisions
9 and you should speak to the Office of the
10 District Attorney with regard to those
11 questions because they may be familiar with
12 more recent pronouncements of the State
13 Court of Appeals and the Appellate Division
14 than I am.

15 I'm just suggesting, just check
16 with them.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: We will look
18 into it, Mr. Budnick, but as an attorney, a
19 practicing attorney, I have not seen or read
20 about any successful challenges based on
21 constitutional grounds to the red light
22 camera system. But I will check into it
23 further.

24 MR. BUDNICK: Thank you for
25 putting up with me.

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2 MS. MEREDAY: I guess it gets
3 into the sixth inning stretch for those who
4 wonder why it's just Mr. Budnick and I who
5 gets up to speak. This is what it's called,
6 public comment. So for those of us in the
7 public who are here and concerned about the
8 community and costs, unfortunately it is
9 what it is.

10 I had a couple of questions,
11 first of all as we are talking about school
12 districts and making sure you have majority
13 or if not full compliance, there are some
14 school districts have that private
15 enterprises, so as far as those private
16 vendors who would in fact be installing and
17 maintaining those cameras on someone's
18 actual equipment?

19 And is there an initial warning
20 or do you go straight to the ticket or
21 whatever that is?

22 When we are talking about
23 replicating what is happening with the red
24 light camera, when you get that violation
25 notice, you can specifically see what it is,

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2 you can see on the picture that it is a red
3 light and the car with a license plate is
4 clearly ahead of it.

5 What actually do you actually see
6 on the picture that is taken in this camera
7 that would, as Mr. Budnick said, not be
8 suspect in terms of getting it thrown out of
9 court?

10 So there are a couple of issues
11 there that need to be addressed. For the
12 most part I'm definitely for this, but we
13 also have to look at, there are cars that go
14 past flashing lights on ice cream trucks. I
15 have been almost torn off the road on Grand
16 Avenue myself from parents who have ridden
17 through red lights on those intersections
18 where we don't have red light cameras to
19 pick up their children in their haste. So I
20 think, again, we need to make sure that we
21 focus on what the devil is in the details.

22 We do have to put the signage up
23 as was noted at our boundaries but it would
24 also help to know for those people who
25 potentially might violate this what the

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2 actual fine would be.

3 So I think we need to make sure
4 we iron out all of these specific details.
5 But, again, with these school districts how
6 are you going to make sure you get all of
7 these school districts involved? Because
8 most of those buses do travel on town roads,
9 you have a lot of private companies that
10 operate not just for the school districts
11 but for private schools and other entities
12 and who is going to be responsible for the
13 installation and maintenance and again what
14 are going to be the fees that would result
15 in the county recouping some of that income?
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you. I
18 believe Mr. Hertzfeld indicated, I think he
19 he's still here, that we will be selecting a
20 vendor like we did with the red light
21 cameras, so they will be installing them on
22 the buses and whatever, and I believe the
23 fine has already been set by New York State
24 at \$250. That's what you are going to be
25 starting with.

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2 I think when we look at this, we
3 are not even at the point of looking at the
4 equipment, but I think that we will be more
5 cautious when we roll out.

6 But I think that the way the
7 state law was written, we would work with
8 the school districts, but I do not believe
9 we could compel a school district to
10 participate; am I right?

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That is
12 correct. But the entire cost for the
13 procurement and installation and maintenance
14 of the equipment is going to be by the
15 county, so theoretically it will not cost
16 the school districts any money. So there
17 really wouldn't be any reason for them to
18 opt out of it.

19 MS. MEREDAY: We shall see.

20 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Legislator
21 Walker.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: One other
23 quick question. If the cameras are going to
24 be on the buses, would there be a need to
25 also put them on poles on county roads

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2 because they're going to be on the bus
3 already? So if the bus is on the county
4 road, it would take the same picture.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Great
6 question.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: This way,
8 this year the bus stop could be here, and
9 next year they are not there any more and
10 move those cameras and put in new cameras,
11 so if they're already going to be on the
12 buses --

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That's a
14 great question. The complaints that my
15 office gets are really from people who
16 complain about going through a bus, passing
17 a bus. So I don't know. We'll have to
18 discuss that with I guess the police
19 department and see what they think about
20 putting it in a stationary location. I
21 don't know.

22 But, really, the concern that we
23 have and as Legislator Ferretti who
24 witnesses it too, it's really the safety of
25 kids getting on to and getting off of the

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2 school bus.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: And,
4 especially, I think it's on -- it's at many
5 bus stops, but especially on bus stops that
6 are on somewhat a long stretch of road and
7 not a lot of turns, so people kind of wiz
8 down. We get those calls all the time. God
9 forbid. It's very sad to say it's often our
10 own parents like you say. Those issues in
11 front the schools where people are triple
12 parking and kids are running between cars.
13 These are our own parents picking up kids.
14 We all have to work together in whatever we
15 can to make our situation safe.

16 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you. All
17 those in favor of passing this signify by
18 saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 Those opposed?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 The item passes. Thank you very
23 much.

24 Now we are going to the addendum
25 calendar so I'm asking for a motion to

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2 suspend the rules.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

4 LEGISLATOR MULE: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by

6 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator

7 Mule. All those in favor signify by saying

8 aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 Those opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 The rules are suspended.

13 Clerk Item 319-19 is an ordinance
14 supplemental to the annual appropriation
15 ordinance in connection with the District
16 Attorney's Office.

17 May I have a motion?

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

19 LEGISLATOR MULE: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by

21 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator

22 Mule. The item is before us. Who is here
23 to speak on this item?

24 MR. MCMANUS: Bob McManus,

25 District Attorney's Office. This funding

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19
2 will support the creation of a new
3 organizational unit called the victim
4 service unit.

5 We received a grant from the New
6 York State Division of Criminal Justice
7 Services and currently the Nassau District
8 Attorney's Office prosecutes approximately
9 30 new criminal cases each year.

10 However we only have three crime
11 victim advocates on our staff. This grant
12 will enable us to add to that staff and to
13 increase our level of assistance to crime
14 victims in Nassau County.

15 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Very good. Any
16 debate or discussion?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Any public comment? Mr. Budnick.

19 MR. BUDNICK: I'm very strongly
20 in favor of this. Speaking as a crime
21 victim. On numerous occasions where crimes
22 have been committed to people that I've had
23 to deal with on multiple levels or to
24 myself.

25 It hasn't been easy or possible

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19
2 to contact who are the crime victim
3 advocates in the District Attorney's Office.
4 They need more people.

5 Speaking of needing more people,
6 the Nassau County Police Department
7 desperately needs more police officers, more
8 detectives and more crossing guards
9 immediately as soon as humanly possible.
10 There are things that are happening out
11 there on the streets, in the fields, in the
12 county in of Nassau that are bad that the
13 police don't have the ability to deal with
14 because they don't have enough personnel
15 resources. We must help to correct that
16 problem. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you. All
18 those in favor of passing this item please
19 say aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 Those opposed?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 The item passes unanimously.

24 Now clerk item numbers 322-19,
25 323-19, 324-19, 325-19, 326-19, 343-19,

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19
2 344-19, 345-19, 346-19, 348-19, 351-19 are
3 ordinances supplemental to the annual
4 appropriation ordinance in connection with
5 the Office of Emergency Management.

6 May I have a motion?

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

8 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

9 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
10 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
11 Walker. The item is before us. Good
12 afternoon, sir.

13 MR. DELANEY: Thomas Delaney,
14 Nassau County OEM. Thank you for calling
15 all these together. Make life easier.

16 These all relate to two grants we
17 get from DHS FEMA passed through New York
18 State.

19 One of the grants is our state
20 Homeland Security grant program. Every
21 county in New York State is afforded a grant
22 by the state for that. It's all based on
23 risk and population size. We have a large
24 population and a lot of risk so we get a
25 good award.

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 The total award for this year for
3 SHSP, as we call it, was \$1,462,075. The
4 actual award is a little higher than that
5 because 25 percent of that does go to law
6 enforcement.

7 The other grant that we get is
8 the Urban Area Security Initiative. We get
9 that award based on our proximity to New
10 York City. It's actually New York City's
11 grant and we are for it because we are
12 contiguous with them. Our award on that is
13 \$2,649,658.

14 The reason why we see all these
15 supplemental appropriations is that OEM
16 takes the money and disburses it to agencies
17 that are involved in disaster preparedness
18 response recovery mitigation.

19 To that, I could go along each
20 one and say what each one of these is. I
21 will just give you --

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: You can give us
23 a quick synopsis.

24 MR. DELANEY: Under UASI we give
25 funding to corrections, fire marshal's

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19
2 office, PD, along with OEM keeps money too.
3 On the state Homeland Security side SHIP
4 Grant. We give money to health, to medical
5 examiner and public works and also OEM.
6 There is no match on this. It's just 100
7 percent funding from the federal government
8 through the state to us.

9 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very
10 much, sir. We know how important your
11 agency is and appreciate the update
12 especially with Dorian heading up north and
13 the fine work that all of you do regardless
14 of whatever disaster hits us.

15 So thank you very much and well
16 deserving of this funding because we need
17 you to be there.

18 MR. DELANEY: Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Appreciate it.
20 Any public discussion?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 Any public comment?

23 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
24 Baldwin resident.

25 My concern again with regard to

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19
2 Homeland Security and the distribution of
3 grants and resources is because of the
4 vulnerability of our region and kind of
5 being FEMA certified and part of New York
6 City Office of Emergency Management, I
7 continue to not question but challenge what
8 our resources are actually doing in terms of
9 preparing our residents because we are
10 continuing in a vulnerable state
11 particularly on the South Shore and really
12 have not provided any type of training or
13 support systems for our most vulnerable
14 populations when it comes down to moving and
15 transport for these types of situations and
16 we have not learned lessons from Sandy as it
17 pertains to trying to move residents to
18 Nassau Community College when there was a
19 Mersa outbreak. They were pretty much set,
20 sheltered in place at locations such as
21 Freeport Rec Center and things of that
22 nature.

23 I feel like we have wasted
24 locations particularly I'm speaking of the
25 Freeport Armory which is situated and it is

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 bolstered to the capacity that it was able
3 to withstand much of the damage post Sandy
4 that many of the residents, as I said
5 before, who are still living on pallets,
6 their houses are on pallets, can't live in
7 them. But we are still not preparing those
8 residents or preparing the type of emergency
9 or evacuation support that they need to get
10 to either higher ground or safer locations.

11 So I'm hoping we can utilize some
12 of those funds to do more training and
13 resiliency and upgrades in those areas as
14 well as education including language
15 supports.

16 I mean with FEMA, we had
17 individuals who were here trying to give
18 residents locations to places they couldn't
19 get to. To tell somebody that lives in
20 Freeport where English is not their first
21 language that there is shelter or a place
22 for them to live in Riverhead and not
23 provide them transportation to get there,
24 that's a problem and we still need to
25 address that.

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 We are now in hurricane season
3 and as we consider what is happening to
4 residents who are still impacted on our
5 shores and in our neighboring countries
6 considering, for example, there are
7 residents of Bahamas who were refused
8 transport to Florida over some Visa
9 technicality, these are the types of things
10 that are happening to our own residents who
11 don't have transport and resources.

12 So I'm hoping that we can look at
13 these resources that we are getting through
14 these grants to be a little more creative, a
15 little more diverse and a little more
16 inclusive to make sure all of our residents
17 are safe. Most importantly, our most
18 vulnerable, our seniors, our veterans, our
19 children, our disabled. Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I just want to
21 point out that we learned a lesson. Sandy
22 took us all by surprise despite the many
23 meetings we had prior to that trying to
24 educate the residents on hurricane emergency
25 preparedness because I hosted many of those

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 meetings. Many people opted not to show up
3 and that was their choice.

4 But, even with Sandy, a storm of
5 that magnitude, there are a lot of lessons
6 that have been learned.

7 I know that OEM just doesn't rest
8 on like this is what we're going to do.
9 They continually go through training, go to
10 other disaster areas to see their response
11 and how to react and I'm sorry if I speak
12 for you, sir, but we also have included with
13 the many languages for people that are
14 seniors and that have special needs, looked
15 at the shelters, they're making changes to
16 there, especially those who have pets so now
17 that people who are going to be moved can
18 stay with their pets rather than having them
19 moved to a different location pet shelter.

20 We have even gone with languages,
21 we even have signing now so that people who
22 are hearing impaired will be able to realize
23 what is happening. There is a lot more that
24 we need to do, but I have to say that even
25 that -- other than storms, there are other

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19
2 disasters and other issues that have
3 impacted this county. When we had an E Coli
4 scare with water down in Long Beach, OEM and
5 the County Executive almost immediately
6 jumped in on this and provided thousands of
7 bottles of water to residents because we
8 couldn't drink the water. They had to take
9 care.

10 This was like overnight and it
11 wasn't where they came at 3 o'clock in the
12 afternoon and left. They were there like 10
13 o'clock at night and then there at 6:00 in
14 the morning. Even with these hurricanes,
15 every single one of us gets emails from OEM
16 giving us an update. They stay. They're
17 there at OEM. They're not out fishing
18 somewhere and hoping that everything will
19 blow over. They're there to make sure
20 they're responding. I appreciate that.

21 So I know from Sandy and a lot of
22 things that have gone on, the response at
23 that time was wanting, wasn't necessarily
24 because of them but probably other levels of
25 government because I'm still living the

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 Sandy dream, but we are I think making a lot
3 of great inroads into what needs to be done.

4 MS. MEREDAY: Again, it was not a
5 knock. It was an observation and just
6 providing suggestions so we can continue to
7 do better. We still have vulnerable
8 homeowners in a region and in your
9 constituency that are losing their homes.

10 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Don't I know
11 it. Sad.

12 All those in favor of passing
13 these items please signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 Those opposed?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 These items pass.

18 Clerk item 337-19 is an ordinance
19 supplemental to the annual appropriation
20 ordinance in connection with the probation
21 department.

22 May I have a motion?

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

24 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Second.

25 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
3 Lafazan. The item is before us.

4 MR. LANDSMAN: Douglas Landsman,
5 Nassau County Probation. The item before
6 you, 337-19, is Nassau County Re-Entry Task
7 Force Grant. This is a renewal grant from
8 New York State DCGS. Been in existence for
9 over ten years.

10 The purpose of this grant is to
11 simply assist parolees in a smooth
12 transition from incarceration. Many times
13 they have been in incarceration for many
14 many years. Now we're integrating them back
15 into our community to lead productive lives
16 and become good citizens.

17 This grant is for \$201,272.

18 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very
19 much. I happen to know somebody who
20 benefitted from this because she is in jail
21 for a while and to be able to transition to
22 a safe home where they learn and got a job.
23 To be quite honest, she is doing very well
24 these days.

25 MR. LANDSMAN: It's a very

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 valuable grant.

3 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Saved her life
4 to be quite honest. No going back for her
5 which is really really good. Thank you very
6 much.

7 Any other public discussion?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 All those in favor signify by
10 saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Those opposed?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 The item passes unanimously.

15 Thank you, sir.

16 Clerk item numbers 338-19,
17 339-19, 340-19, 341-19 and 349-19 are
18 ordinances supplemental to the annual
19 appropriation in connection with the police
20 department.

21 May I have a motion?

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
25 Legislator Ferretti, seconded by Legislator

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 Walker. These items are before us.

3 DEPUTY INSPECTOR STEPHANOFF:

4 Good afternoon. Deputy Inspector Greg
5 Stephanoff from the Police Department. Item
6 338 of '19 is a supplemental appropriation
7 for the 2019 state law enforcement terrorist
8 prevention program. This is a Homeland
9 Security grant for \$487,359. This money
10 will be used for training exercises and
11 equipment.

12 The equipment is going to be --
13 the bulk of it is personal protective
14 equipment for the members. Go on to the
15 next?

16 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: You can go on
17 with everything.

18 DEPUTY INSPECTOR STEPHANOFF: 339
19 is a supplemental appropriation for state
20 forfeiture funds for asset forfeiture for
21 \$4,800,000. It's going all into the
22 equipment line. The asset has to be used to
23 further the department. What is being
24 considered is vehicles and license plate
25 readers for this.

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 340 of '19 is a supplemental
3 appropriation for the Federal Forfeiture
4 Act. This is 8A program for \$600,000 into
5 the general expense.

6 341 is supplemental appropriation
7 for \$250,000 in the federal forfeiture act
8 for the 8900 Program. \$250,000 into the
9 general expense. We've been using general
10 expense money recently for Too Good For
11 Drugs in schools and for the GRAET training,
12 gang resistance and education training.
13 This money will also be used for future
14 purchases.

15 349 of '19 is a supplemental
16 appropriation for the misdemeanor forfeiture
17 fund for asset for \$25,000 into the
18 equipment line. The money has to be moved
19 first before we can use it.

20 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very
21 much. I appreciate the efforts on the part
22 of the commissioner to wisely use a lot of
23 this money that he brings in, he gets
24 through these grants and forfeitures.

25 I'm really going to sugarcoat it

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 because I like the idea of the license plate
3 readers. I'm going to be very sweet to say
4 that I hope that we get them in my district
5 soon. But I thank you very much. Any other
6 public discussion on this?

7 MR. BUDNICK: John Budnick. Once
8 again I respectfully submit, we need more
9 police officers, more superior officers,
10 more detectives, more crossing guards very,
11 very badly. These people are trying to do
12 work that requires more people to do. They
13 are only human. They are being grossly
14 over-stressed.

15 Why do you think they need
16 counselors all the time? Because they're
17 being over-stressed because there aren't
18 enough of them and there aren't enough
19 resources available to them.

20 I respectfully submit, please
21 correct this default and defect before it
22 creates a major problem for us one and all
23 in the county. Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you, sir.
25 We agree we need more police officers, and

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 superior officers and detectives.

3 Glad to say though, through the
4 efforts of the police Commissioner, because
5 we took at least for the part timers, they
6 got an increase and we do have a number
7 great of school crossing guards. Some still
8 in training.

9 Hopefully by the end of September
10 we should have the full compliment of them
11 at our school crossings. Thank you very
12 much for that.

13 All those in signify of passing
14 these items signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Those opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 These items pass unanimously.

19 Last item is Clerk Item 342-19,
20 an ordinance supplemental to the annual
21 appropriation ordinance in connection with
22 the correction center.

23 May I have a motion?

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Second.

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
3 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
4 Ferretti. This item is before us.

5 MS. HALL: Narda Hall,
6 correctional center.

7 Item 342-19 is a supplemental
8 appropriation request for \$312,431 to
9 receive from the drug asset forfeiture
10 funding. The funding is used toward the
11 canine and handlers. It's used for
12 equipment, transportation, food, veterinary
13 service and grooming supplies for the
14 canines.

15 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Any debate or
16 discussion?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Is there any public comment?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 I see none. Thank you very much.

21 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Those opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 The item passes unanimously.

1 Public Safety Committee/9-9-19

2 There is no other business in front of this
3 committee, may I have a motion to adjourn?

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

5 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Moved by
7 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
8 Ferretti. All those in favor?

9 (Aye.)

10 Those opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 This committee is now adjourned
13 and thank you very much.

14 (Whereupon, the Public Safety
15 Committee adjourned at 5:12 p.m.)

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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 stated:

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 30th day of September, 2019.

FRANK GRAY