	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 02.06.2023
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2	NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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4	COMMITTEES MEETING
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6	*****
7	RICHARD NICOLELLO
8	PRESIDING OFFICER
9	*****
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11	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
12	DENISE FORD
13	CHAIRWOMAN
14	
15	County Executive and Legislative Building
16	1550 Franklin Avenue
17	Mineola, New York
18	
19	*****
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21	Monday, February 6, 2023
22	2:36 p.m.
23	
24	TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
25	
	TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516)414-35161

	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 02.06	5.2023
1		
2	APPEARANCES	
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4	LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD	CHAIR
5	LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER	VICE CHAIR
6	LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP	
7	LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI	
8	LEGISLATOR JOSH LAFAZAN	RANKING MEMBER
9	LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE	
10	LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE	
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12	****	
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14	MICHAEL PULITZER	
15	Clerk of the Legislature	
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_____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516)414-3516 _____2 _

1	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 02.06.2023
1	TOBBLE SHIELT COLLILITED 02.00.2023
2	ALSO APPEARED
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4	INSPECTOR FIELD, POLICE DEPARTMENT
5	MAURICE CHALMERS, OLBR
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8	PUBLIC COMMENT:
9	META J. MEREDAY
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_____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516)414-3516 _____3 __

	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 02.06.2023
1	TOBLIC SAFETT COMMITTEE 02.00.2023
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3	CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Good afternoon, at
4	this time, I will call the Public Safety
5	Committee to order and I will ask the
6	Clerk to call the roll.
7	CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Madam
8	Chairwoman. Public Safety roll call.
9	Legislator Debra Mule?
10	LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.
11	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela
12	Bynoe?
13	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.
14	CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
15	Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?
16	LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.
17	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
18	Ferretti?
19	LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.
20	CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
21	Pilip?
22	LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.
23	CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairwoman
24	Rose Walker?
25	LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

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CLERK PULITZER: Chairwoman Denise Ford?

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum, $\mbox{Ma'am}$.

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very much, sir. There is one item on the agenda today, which is Clerk Item 43-23.

Clerk Item 43-23 is an ordinance supplemental to the annual appropriation ordinance in connection with the Police Department.

May I have a motion? Moved by
Legislator Walker, seconded to by
Legislator Pilip. The item is before us.
Good afternoon, sir.

INSPECTOR FIELD: Good afternoon.

William Field, Inspector with the Police

Department.

Item 43-23 is several supplemental appropriations with mostly grant items. I could do them quickly one at a time if you want.

The first one is \$218,000 in funds

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to be received from New York Homeland

Security. This is part of our bomb squad
initiative grant to assist us in
preventing terrorist attacks and
strengthening our response to Homeland
Security threats.

The second one is a supplemental appropriation of \$172,413 also from the Office of Homeland Security regarding domestic terrorism plans and overtime to assist, as well as to help coordinate a team for designing and developing this program.

The next one is \$162,500 received from New York State Governor Traffic Safety Committee. This is for seatbelt and aggressive driving enforcement.

Fifty thousand dollars was also received from New York State Traffic and Safety Committee. This is for overtime to be set aside to assist in reducing auto crashes involving serious injuries and deaths on New York roads.

And the last one is \$145,869 from

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the New York State Division of Criminal
Justice. This is part of the Surveillance
Apprehension Vehicle Program, which is to
assist in combating auto theft and
insurance fraud.

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very much. It's a lot. All right. Any debate or discussion by any legislators?

(Whereupon, no verbal response.)

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: All right. Any public comment? Thank you.

MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday.

Again, always in favor of any types of resources that we can get in for our Police Department, our public safety, etc. We need as many as possible.

Again, this may not tie specifically to these particular grants, but I need to put it out there. As far as the awareness. I'm glad that the crossing guard in Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton's area is doing better. We appreciate that, value that. But, unfortunately, we still

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have a pressing need. I know locally in

the communities we have our officers who

attend the local community meetings

asking the community for their input to

increase the number of crossing guards.

I've spoken to police officers on the

streets. If we're talking about

addressing domestic terrorism and things

of that nature, and when the officer has

to patrol and they have to man that

street -- and I live on an avenue off of

Southern State Parkway, that is a danger

zone. And unfortunately, a lot of the

danger are the parents who are trying to

get their kids -- they can't leave to go

address that issue. They can't leave to

help the New York State Troopers on the

parkway to get a potential terrorist

because they have to stay on that street

corner to protect our seniors and our

children.

I am begging this audience, I am

begging the elected officials to step up

their efforts to increase the resources.

The \$25 an hour -- I stood before this body, as you well know, to try to get the 18 to 25. Okay, fine. But they need some benefits. The officers need the backup support. They're willing to provide the work for crossing guards in these officers so that they can be out here and do this type of work. But we need you to make those choices that are helping us to protect the lives of our residents where we live.

The \$25 without benefits: Not working. It's not a recruitment tool for them to get the qualified individuals to protect our young people and our seniors. Our officers cannot leave their post and they are now clearly jeopardizing their own safety by trying to provide that.

So I'm asking that we look into that seriously, not just me wasting my time when I should be literally back home on my computer trying to fight for veterans, for their families, for widows, to address the rise in suicides, the rise of

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medical debt that's impacting our seniors, our veterans and our young people.

So again, I am putting it on the table on the record. This is 2023. We can do this. I have every confidence that you can put something together that is going to increase the awareness and the access and the viability to get more individuals to work as crossing guards for our future. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very much. And I think that your comments and your feelings are shared by some of us up here. Unfortunately, in the matter of the crossing guards years ago, many years ago, a vote was taken to change them from full time employment status to part time. And that was the beginning of the end of having a lot of crossing guards on hand. And the Police Department has had problems trying to recruit because it's \$25 an hour, two hours in the morning, two hours at lunchtime to us at the end

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of the day, where a school crossing guard used to have that crossing.

So it is an issue that I agree with you. I think it's a disgrace. I have been pushing and I know I could speak for Legislator Walker the same way, we have been pushing. And we had the sentiment, I think, of the Police Commissioner when we were at that hearing that, yes, I think that we need to start reversing the trend and change it so that we could start bringing back school crossing guards on a full time basis provided with benefits. Because they do make they are of a great service and they provide a lot of security for the children who cross at their crossings. So, yes, we will keep working on that. Thank you.

MS. MEREDAY: Thank you so much.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: wanted to add one quick thing. Thank you for mentioning Carlos Vasquez. I'm trying to get him to come up here. He's doing well, but he's so lucky to be alive.

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But the other thing is, when you look at the police overtime because of empty cross walks or posts, whatever they call them, if you added all that up, it probably would balance out or come close to balancing out the cost of going full time.

MS. MEREDAY: You would save a lot more money.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: believe you're right.

MS. MEREDAY: You would definitely save more money with regard to giving them, if nothing else, at least giving them six hours for full time. They could come into the office. And we've spoken to the officers on the ground. And I'm telling you, at least three officers only almost been hit on Grand Avenue where we are.

And they have to keep assessing the locations where they're crossing, and they have to cut back and they have to decide which is crucial and which isn't.

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We still have kids that are crossing at dangerous locations, particularly in communities of color, where we don't have the backup supports to put somebody else out there on the guard. We don't have the incorporated villages, we don't have that sort of thing. So unless we want to have more compromised and settled with somebody's life or somebody's child or somebody's parent, let's try to be proactive in this.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I agree with you, and Legislator Bynoe and I and I'm sure Debra Mule, we all support that.

Legislator Bynoe just mentioned we should try to do some type of study with the Police Department just to see just for the cost effectiveness. I think that was the only reason there was a change initially. It's something we're very much in favor of.

MS. MEREDAY: This would be an opportunity to get funding from the State with regard to this type of study. So

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again, it's not necessarily coming from our pockets. We have all these commissions, We have federal support. You know, Chuck Schumer wants to put money in in terms of this type of public safety initiative. But if we don't ask for the money, if we don't ask for the resources to protect our young people and to support these types of endeavors, other communities are getting it and they're benefiting from it and our communities are suffering.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: totally agree. And I think it's a great opportunity for moms, too. The hours are good for a lot of women. So you're talking about the women owned businesses -- it's not a woman owned business, but it's an opportunity for women that are responsible for children also to have those days off when the kids are off from school, to have the hours that are similar to their kids. So I would love to see their salaries improved, as well as

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the opportunity for healthcare and a pension possibly.

So I totally agree with you and maybe we should do a joint letter or something to pursue the funding for the study and whatever study we need. Because again, if it's a matter of money and we're not saving any money with this effort, then I think it's something that's a no-brainer. So thank you.

MS. MEREDAY: Great. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you.

Maurice, I guess we're going to ask if you would be able to take a look at that and do a study for us to see what the comparison is, if we then made an effort to switch the school crossing guards back to full time.

MR. CHALMERS: Maurice Chalmers, Budget Review. We'll see what we could prepare on that for you.

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Because I'm sure that if they take a look at all of the crossings that had to be taken over by a

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police officer, it's true, they cannot leave that post regardless of what is happening. So I guess when you equate basically their salaries as compared to the \$25 an hour, you know, we might pay somebody to work -- but then I don't know what the school crossing guards are getting now on full time I don't think their salaries went up that much along

with their benefits.

MR. CHALMERS: The financial part of it should be pretty easy to figure out. What's going to be difficult is finding out how many posts and all the people that are covering that. That part is probably going to have to come from the Police Department. But the cost of a crossing guard now at a part time status versus the full time is is easy to figure out. How many people, that will probably have to come from the PD.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Hi, Maurice.

MR. CHALMERS: Hello, Siela.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So your point is

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valid. That's going to be the challenge,

right? Figuring out the PD number. Because it's not always the officer who's at the crossing that's getting the overtime. It could be officers that are there being held over because these officers are now off the street. So that's probably where the challenge comes in. But if we can't identify that number in a very clear and concise way, then I would I would ask that you come back to us and let us know that, because then perhaps our next request then is to the Police Commissioner to request that he isolate that overtime number for us moving into the future so that we can make the projection and determine what's the cost benefit analysis of going full time.

MR. CHALMERS: Okay, We'll do that.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

MR. CHALMERS: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN FORD: All those in favor of passing this item, please signify by

	DUDITO OFFERN COMMITTEE OF OC 2022
1	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 02.06.2023
2	saying, "Aye".
3	(Whereupon, all members of
4	the Public Safety Committee
5	respond in favor with, "Aye".)
6	CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Opposed?
7	(Whereupon, no verbal
8	response.)
9	CHAIRWOMAN FORD: The Item passes
10	unanimously. There's no other business in
11	front of this Committee.
12	May I have a motion to adjourn? Move
13	by Legislator Bynoe, seconded by
14	Legislator Walker. All those in favor?
15	(Whereupon, all members of
16	the Public Safety Committee
17	respond in favor.)
18	CHAIRWOMAN FORD: The Committee is
19	ow adjourned. Veterans Committee is next
20	up.
21	(Whereupon, the Public
22	Safety Committee is adjourned,
23	2.42 n m \

____TOP KEY COURT REPORTING, INC. (516)414-3516 _____18 ___

	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 02.06.2023
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2	CERTIFICATE
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4	STATE OF NEW YORK)
5	: SS.:
6	COUNTY OF NASSAU)
7	
8	I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public
9	for and within the State of New York, do
10	hereby certify:
11	That the above is a correct
12	transcription of my stenographic notes.
13	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
14	set my hand this 6th day of February, 2023.
15	
16	<u>Karen Lorenzo</u>
17	Karen Lorenzo
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