



Public Safety

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: Terry Clements

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

4:15 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

With a quorum present, Chair Clements called the meeting to order at 4:21 PM.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, Board Staff Alessandra Restiano

GUESTS: Michael Hagan, PBA President; Khalid McClendon PBA 1st Vice President; Michael Hagan Jr., PBA Recording Secretary

Present: Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Gashi

Absent: Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Johnson

Remote: Committee Vice-Chair Smith

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[ACT-2023-103](#) [ACT - City Of Yonkers - National Night Out](#)

Legislators David Tubiolo and Jose Alvarado discussed the funds for Yonkers National Night Out.

Alessandra Restiano also stepped in to explain how the breakup of the funds get distributed through the four precincts at Yonkers. She explained for the precincts to avail themselves to the funds, they should contact the Commissioners office. She also noted the funds are on the reimbursement basis.

Legislator Clements, suggested, since Yonkers is split into 4 precincts, Legislator Jose Alvarado ask for an increase during the budgeting process.

On motion of Legislator Alvarado, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Gashi

Absent: Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Johnson

Remote: Committee Vice-Chair Smith

Updates from the Westchester County PBA

Guests: Michael Hagan, PBA President; Khalid McClendon PBA 1st Vice President; Michael Hagan Jr., PBA Recording Secretary

Michael Hagan started by discussing the activities the officers are involved in that are community centered including helping the YMCA and buying ice cream.

He then described the measures that are ongoing within Public Safety and said he does not believe an Office of Police Accountability needs to be created because of the initiatives they have already instituted as a department in addition to state initiatives that exist. The initiatives include the Special Investigations Unit, the Police Advisory Board

Legislator Jose Alvarado asked for clarification about the Police Advisory Board. Mr. Hagan described the process that would be followed should any officer be brought up on charges which includes hiring the hearing officer and creating the report. Legislator Alvarado followed up by asking if any referrals have been made since the creation of the board. Mr. Hagan recalled one where there was going to be a hearing but then the officer accepted stipulations instead.

Mr. Hagan went on to list other levels of oversight including the DA's Public Integrity Review and the New York State Attorney General's newly created Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office (LEMIO) and the Office of Special Investigation. Anyone can make a complaint to LEMIO about an officer and if any officer has 5 complaints within a 2 year period, the AG's office has to inform the Public Safety Department and then decide whether to investigate. Mr. Hagan has also mentioned the Board of Legislators ability to bring to light any instance of complaint or injustice and the fact that he said/she said has been eliminated with the usage of body cameras.

Legislator Tubiolo reiterated and asked if there were 5 layers of oversight that exists. Mr. Hagan confirmed. Mr. Hagan provided statistics for the amount of calls that come in versus the amount of complaints. For example in 2022 there were over 134,000 calls for service and 15 complaints.

Legislator Colin Smith spoke about the Re-imagining Taskforce and said that he and Mr. Hagan spoke a lot during that time about how to move forward in a meaningful and respectful way. During that time it was also evident that our Public Safety Department spoke to both the spirit and letter of the law. One of the most evident changes Legislator Smith recalls was regarding accessibility in the complaint process and less intimidating to people who may be looking to file a complaint.

Legislative Clements added that she recently recalls a couple of the police officers in a recent class was stopped from continuing through the process because they didn't have the right temperament, which is evident that the department is looking more closely at recruits and making sure we are graduating officers who are in alignment the department.

Legislator Alvarado asked our guests if he believes our department is at the level where bad apples are more easily spotted and less tolerated. Mr. Hagan expressed that the department happens to be one in which many people want to come to, therefore many officers come with a track record making it easy to decipher between a good officer versus a problematic one.

Legislator Pierce asked if someone from LEMIO could come to present. Legislator Clements agreed.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Alvarado, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the Committee adjourned at [insert time]. by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Smith, Legislator Woodson-Samuels and Legislator Gashi

Absent: Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Johnson

DRAFT