

# 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](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com)

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**Tuesday, September 12, 2023**

**4:15 PM**

**Committee Room**

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### 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.

Legislator Jose Alvarado will be participating remotely from 285 Nepperhan Avenue Yonkers, NY 10701

Legislator Symra Brandon will be participating remotely from Yonkers Public Library - 1 Larkin Plaza Yonkers, NY 10701

With a quorum present, Chair Clements called the meeting to order at 4:26 PM

Others in attendance:

Patricia Tomassi, Office of Drug Abuse and Prevention & Stop DWI

**Present:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio and Gashi

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Remote:** Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Pierce and Legislator Brandon

### MINUTES APPROVAL

April 11th, 2023 Minutes

May 30th, 2023 Minutes

July 10th, 2023 Minutes

July 11th, 2023 Minutes

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Barr, the minutes were approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Brandon and Legislator Gashi

**Aye:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Brandon and Legislator Gashi

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**[ACT-2023-161](#) IMA(Amend)-School Resource Officer-North Salem Central School District**

Guests:

Sergeant James Dress, Department of Public Safety

Sgt. Dress discussed the need for the SRO in the District to be able to cover additional ground.

Legislator Pierce expressed her gratitude for Sgt. Dress working with the District to obtain the SRO and emphasized the value of having the SRO in the District with limited police coverage otherwise.

On motion of Legislator Pierce, seconded by Legislator Brandon, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Brandon and Legislator Gashi

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**[ACT-2023-169](#) IMA-School Resource Officers-Hendrick Hudson School District**

Guests:

Sergeant James Dress, Department of Public Safety

Sgt. Dress explained that this is a renewal for an SRO in this District.

Similar to North Salem the additional SRO's help to cover more ground and are requested by the District.

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Brandon, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Brandon and Legislator Gashi

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**[ACT-2023-162](#) IMA(Amend)-STOP-DWI Patrol Datamaster Project**

Guests:

Patricia Tomassi, Office of Drug Abuse and Prevention & Stop DWI

Patricia explained the program and stated it is self funded through fines collected from DWI drivers. This item is to increase the cap for Port Chester as that is one of the most active locations for DWI's in the program.

Legislator Clements asked if there is any specific reason why Port Chester has such high DWI's. Patricia responded that there could be a number of reasons including the robust work being done by the police officers, the amount of bars in the area or even the culture. She said that while Port Chester is more actively utilizing the program, there are municipalities who don't utilize the program at all.

Legislator Cunzio also explained that because Port Chester borders Connecticut where the bars close early, people mistake their ability to drive safely over the border from one bar to the next.

Legislator Barr asked for Patricia to explain the victim impact panel that Stop-DWI runs. Patricia explained that STOP-DWI provides funds to the Probation Department in order for people arrested for the DWI and victims to speak to one another. There is 200-300 people who come and the courts mandate that they come there. The County courthouse is where the panel is held.

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Legislator Cunzio, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Brandon and Legislator Gashi

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**[ACT-2023-170](#) CBA-DES Backup Generator**

Guests:

Richard Wishnie, Commissioner of Department of Emergency Services  
Susan Spear, Deputy Commissioner of Department of Emergency Services  
Neil Caputo, Director of Fire Services of Department of Emergency Services

Chief Caputo explained this is for replacement of the original generator. It will be replaced by two bigger generators that will support the entire building. They are purchasing 2 for cases of redundancy.

Legislator Clements asked for clarification as it relates to a similar bill on the agenda, which is a Bond Act ask for funds for a backup generator. Chief Caputo explained that the original bond was not enough money to purchase the replacements so item 2023-249 accounts for that.

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Brandon, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Brandon and Legislator Gashi

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**[ACT-2023-171](#) BOND ACT-BES20-DES Backup Generator**

Guests:

Richard Wishnie, Commissioner of Department of Emergency Services  
Susan Spear, Deputy Commissioner of Department of Emergency Services  
Neil Caputo, Director of Fire Services of Department of Emergency Services

Refer to notes for item 2023-348

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Brandon, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Brandon and Legislator Gashi

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**[ACT-2023-172](#) BOND ACT-BES24-2237-Replacement of Smoke House Building**

Guests:

Richard Wishnie, Commissioner of Department of Emergency Services  
Susan Spear, Deputy Commissioner of Department of Emergency Services  
Neil Caputo, Director of Fire Services of Department of Emergency Services

Legislator Clements and Legislator Cunzio expressed their familiarity with the project and why it is a necessary project.

Legislator Barr inquired about the height of the building relative to capacity of fire services and trained personnel as it has been a concern in her district and other areas.

Commissioner Wishnie and Chief Caputo explained that height doesn't play a major role in how the training is setup and executed, therefore capacity of fire services and training of personnel isn't any different than in a smaller building.

Legislator Pierce inquired about the timeline and completion of the project.

Chief Caputo explained each part of the process which entails a design portion that he is expecting to move along quicker than noted, having already been working with the company. He also noted training currently is still able to take place in the propane building on their campus.

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Brandon and Legislator Gashi

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**II. OTHER BUSINESS**

**III. RECEIVE & FILE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Alvarado, the Committee adjourned at 4:56 PM by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Barr, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Brandon and Legislator Gashi

**Absent:** Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

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