



Public Safety

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Colin Smith

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

Monday, March 22, 2021

10:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Joint with Budget & Appropriations

With a quorum present, Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

Pursuant to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.1, "Continuing Temporary Suspension and Modification of Laws Relating to the Disaster Emergency," which temporarily suspends portions of the New York State Open Meetings Law.

A section of the order, "Suspension of law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or other similar services," provides for the suspension of "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed."

Present: Committee Chair Smith and Legislator Boykin

Absent: Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Remote: Legislator Barr, Legislator Covill, Committee Vice-Chair Cunzio, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Shimsky

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[ACT-2021-40](#) IMA-Justice Assistance Grant-Yonkers, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle

AN ACT to authorize the County of Westchester to enter into a four-year intermunicipal agreement with the Cities of Yonkers, Mount Vernon and New Rochelle for the administration of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for 2020.

Submitted by COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Guests: Department of Public Safety Commissioner Gleason & Lt. Charles Geraci

Commissioner Gleason and Lt. Geraci from the Department of Public Safety came before the joint committees to the IMA - Justice Grant- Yonkers, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle. This is an

Act that would authorize the County through its Department of Public Safety, to enter into an inter municipal agreement with the cities of Yonkers, Mount Vernon and New Rochelle for the distribution of grant funds received from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for 2020. The County will administer fund from the Department of Justice provided under the Edward Byrne Memorial JAG program for the fiscal year 2020 in the amount of \$103,345. Under the terms of the IMA the Department will relieve funding to help cover overtime expenses. The City of Yonkers will receive an estimated \$48,805 of Jag funds, the City of Mount Vernon will receive \$23,229 of Jag funds, and the City of New Rochelle will receive \$8,475 of JAG funds. The remainder \$25,836 in JAG funds is anticipated to be used for the Department's law enforcement programs and will be distributed in accordance to the terms of the IMA.

Commissioner Gleason explained that this is a Federal grant given to Westchester based on the crime reporting from the 3 municipalities, Yonkers, Mount Vernon and New Rochelle. The Department of Public Safety will act as a pass through. Westchester is allowed a percentage of the funds, approximately \$25,000 and in accordance to the terms of the IMA can use the funds for personnel cost and or equipment to combat violent crimes and or narcotics/ fentanyl investigations. Legislator Borgia asked if he could explain what our funding will be used for. Commissioner Gleason explained that the County will use their portion of the funding for narcotics investigations by providing undercover police (approximately 230 hours in overtime). Legislator Borgia asked what the municipalities will use their funds for, Lt. Geraci explained that Yonkers will use their funds for robbery suppression details, narcotics enforcement and community outreach; Mount Vernon and New Rochelle will use their funds to purchase equipment.

On motion of Legislator Shimsky, seconded by Legislator Cunzio, the above item was signed by committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Covill,
Committee Vice-Chair Cunzio, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Shimsky

Absent: Legislator Woodson-Samuels

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Johnson, seconded by Legislator Barr, the Committee adjourned at 10:30 AM.