



# Public Safety

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Terry Clements

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

---

**Wednesday, October 12, 2022**

**10:00 AM**

**Committee Room**

---

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting jointly with Budget and Appropriations

Chairwoman Catherine Borgia will be participating remotely from Clear View School and Day Treatment Center, 480 Albany Post Road, Briarcliff, NY, 10510.

*Meeting jointly with Budget and Appropriations*

*Chairwoman Catherine Borgia will be participating remotely from Clear View School and Day Treatment Center, 480 Albany Post Road, Briarcliff, NY, 10510.*

*With a quorum present, Co Chair Colin Smith called the meeting to order at 10:29AM*

*Guests: DES - Commissioner Richard Wishnie and Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear  
Commissioner Wishnie and Deputy Commissioner Spear appeared before the committee to discuss the item.*

*Others in Attendance: Legislator Vedat Gashi, Legislator James Nolan, Legislator Damon Maher, Legislator Tubiolo, Legislator Erika Pierce, Legislator Catherine Parker, Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, Legislator Ben Boykin, Larry Soule, Gayle Katzman, Shatika Parker, Beth Lobello, Marcello Figueroa, James Silverberg Jill Axelrod, Robert Lopane, Adam Laplinski.*

**Present:** Legislator Barr, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Johnson

**Remote:** Legislator Borgia

### MINUTES APPROVAL

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

**Aye:** Legislator Barr, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Johnson

**Remote:** Legislator Borgia

September 20th at 4:15 PM Minutes

**I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

---

**ACT-2022-141 IMA (Amend)-Valhalla Fire District**

Guests:

Commissioner of Department of Emergency Services, Richard Wishnie; Deputy Commissioner of Department of Emergency Services Susan Spear  
*Commissioner Wishnie and Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear discussed the need for the funding to Valhalla Fire Department for services provided to the Grasslands Reservation. Commissioner Wishnie said this is a similar act to the funding approved for Hawthorne Fire District who also provides services to Grasslands.*

*Legislator Barr asked, if the equipment is only needed at Grasslands? Commissioner Wishnie responded that it is not just for Grasslands but due to Grasslands demands there is additional equipment needed. Legislator Barr asked if it was feasible for the equipment to be kept with other equipment at the DES headquarters instead of Valhalla. Commissioner Wishnie said that because they may be responding to calls when headquarters is closed, they need their own equipment.*

*Legislator Woodson-Samuels asked if the increase in calls are anticipated to increase and how much of an increase has been seen?*

*Commissioner Wishnie responded that the Grasslands Reservation has been built out to almost capacity which creates more demand. Chief Kaputo said the hospital created an ambulatory facility and an intensive care unit to come that adds to the creation and continuation of increased calls.*

*Legislator Woodson-Samuels asked if there was anticipation that DES would be requesting more funds in the next 2-3 years to keep up with Demands. Commissioner Wishnie said he could not be definitive but talked about a recent study that outlines changes of how the County responds to emergency services which may have an affect on the numbers.*

*Legislator Maher asked out of the 120-130 calls , how many are Valhalla vs. Hawthorne. Chief Kaputo said those numbers are just Valhalla. Commissioner Wishnie added that because they are volunteer groups, and not always many people to get out, mutual aid is used. Legislator Maher asked if there was a breakdown of what calls get answered. Chief Kaputo explained that most of them are automatic alarms or some fires.*

*Legislator Barr asked for clarity about responding to calls for health versus not. Chief Kaputo clarified that Valhalla covers majority of the calls and does respond to medical. Medical calls are done by a medical service, if via the hospital and when it is not, Valhalla responds.*

*Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson asked for additional information.*

On motion of Legislator Pierce, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Legislator Barr, Legislator Pierce, Committee Vice-Chair Smith and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

**Absent:** Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Alvarado, Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Johnson

**Remote:** Legislator Borgia

**II. OTHER BUSINESS**

**III. RECEIVE & FILE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Legislator Woodson-Samuels, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.