



# Public Safety

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Terry Clements

800 Michaelan Office Bldg.  
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White Plains, NY 10601  
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Monday, April 18, 2022

10:00 AM

Committee Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

Joint with B&A

*This meeting will be held pursuant to Chapter 56 of the New York State Laws of 2022, which authorize any public body to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public-in-person access to meetings and authorize 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. To access the meeting, please visit: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>*

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

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

**Absent:** Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Borgia and Legislator Johnson

**Remote:** Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Pierce

### MINUTES APPROVAL

#### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [ACT-2022-34](#) **IMA-Police Officer Training Courses & Drills-Municipalities**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into intermunicipal agreements whereby police officers from municipalities in Westchester County and certain municipalities in Putnam and Dutchess Counties will teach police officer training courses at the Police Academy in Valhalla, New York and/or at other locations, for a term of five years commencing on March 21, 2022 and continuing through March 20, 2027.

**Submitted by: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

Joint with B&A.

Guests: Department of Public Safety, Lieutenant Nick Alongi and Silva Gopalkrishna

*Lieutenant Nick Alongi and Director of Administrative Services Siva Gopalkrishna appeared before the Committee to discuss item #2022-176-IMA-Police Officer Training Courses & Drills-Municipalities. This IMA is between the County of Westchester and the municipalities in Westchester County as well as with the Counties of Dutchess and Putnam, the Town of Carmel, and/or the Town of Kent, whereby police officers from such municipalities, who are certified police instructors, will teach police officer training courses and drills at the County's*

*police academy in Valhalla, New York and/or at other locations, for a term of five years commencing on March 21, 2022 and continuing through March 20, 2027.*

*Lieutenant Alongi discussed that under NYS Law, newly appointed police officers of any county, city, town, village or police district must satisfactorily complete an approved municipal police basic training program within 12 months of be hired. Police officers are also required from time to time to take additional training courses as part of their ongoing training and employment requirements. Westchester County's Police Academy is the NYS Police Training Academy responsible for training officers throughout Zone 3, which includes Westchester and Putnam Counties, in order to satisfy these training requirements. Although the Police Academy is primarily staffed with police officers assigned from within the Department of Public Safety, certified police instructors from other local law enforcement agencies are often utilized to supplement the County's police instructors. This collaborative effort enables the Police Academy to use local experts and provide superior training opportunities to law enforcement officers throughout Westchester and the surrounding area. Director Gopalkrishna highlighted that there is no financial impact since these departments send us instructors and we allow them to use our facilities.*

*Your Committee has been informed that, as was the case under the prior Police Instructor IMAs, in exchange for the municipality assigning one or more of its certified police instructors to teach at the Police Academy, the County would provide defense and indemnification to the municipality for the instructor's acts or omissions while acting within the scope of his or her duties as an instructor at the Police Academy. The duty to defend and indemnify shall not arise where injury or damage resulted from intentional wrongdoing or recklessness on the part of the Instructor. In no event shall the County's obligation to provide defense and indemnification be construed to include claims arising outside the scope of the Instructor's teaching services or in connection with the instructor's travel to and from the Police Academy to carry out such teaching services. Additionally, the County shall not have any obligation to the municipality or its instructor for any claim raised or benefits provided pursuant to New York General Municipal Law Section 207-c. If an instructor is injured during the time he or she is teaching at the Police Academy, it is understood that the instructor, as an employee of the Municipality, would be covered under the Municipality's workers compensation policy.*

*Legislator Barr asked what are the qualifications for having instructors from other Departments come and teach at our facilities? Lieutenant Alongi responded that they have to pass the NYSDCJS and be a approved general topics instructor, including a two week course where they must prove that they are able to put together a lesson plan, show that they can teach and are able to speak in front of people, as well as show that they can effectively get their point and lessons across to the students. He noted that we bring them in ourselves to show us that they are able to convey these points and our master instructors are constantly evaluating their performance. He highlighted that many times these instructors have a specialty that is their focus and/or have degrees in an area of study.*

*Legislator Smith asked if the instructors from outside our County staff enhance the our capabilities on topics like diversity, racial sensitivity, and things of that nature. Lieutenant Alongi responded that they certainly do. They are able to bring in a variety of instructors from a variety of backgrounds, which greatly enhances the teaching that is offered by the academy.*

*Legislator Shimsky asked if we conduct screening for the instructors to make sure they have no ties to extremist groups such as white supremacists? Lieutenant Alongi responded that there is no secondary screening, that takes place during the hiring process. He also added that the County staff has the discretion to remove instructors that they feel don't portray the values we are tasked with upholding.*

*Legislator Maher asked about training for pre-textual traffic stops and foot pursuits? Lieutenant Alongi responded that pre-textual traffic stops are taught by ADAs during recruit school. Foot pursuits are covered under a variety of topics such as during the professional communications, de-escalation, procedural justice, implicit bias, role playing and stop, question, frisk portions of recruit school.*

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

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

**Absent:** Committee Chair Clements, Legislator Borgia and Legislator Johnson

## **II. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **III. RECEIVE & FILE**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Alvarado, seconded by Legislator Woodson-Samuels, the Committee adjourned at 10:32 AM.