



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, May 10, 2021

3:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

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, Legislator Boykin and Legislator Covill

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Presentation of a Proclamation to Chief Louis Molina

Department of Corrections

- Operations Update
- COVID-19 Update
- General Update

Guests:

Chief Louis Molina- Department of Public Safety, Las Vegas City

Commissioner Joseph K. Spano- DOC, Westchester County

First Deputy Commissioner Nory Padilla- DOC, Westchester County

Deputy Commissioner Leandro Diaz- DOC, Westchester County

Deputy Commissioner Michael Gerald- DOC, Westchester County

Chair Smith opened the meeting by honoring Chief Louis Molina for his service to Westchester

County as the First Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Correction. Chair Smith presented Chief Molina with a proclamation and thanked him for his service. The presentation and discussion of Chief Molina's service can be viewed at:

http://westchestercountyny.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=816

Commissioner Spano began his Department update stating the currently they have zero active staff cases and zero active resident cases of COVID-19 at the jail. He added that it had been about two weeks since they had an active resident case and the most recent staff case came off of quarantine today. Deputy Commissioner Diaz discussed that the jail was originally provided with the Johnson and Johnson vaccination, however that was halted and they have since been provided with Moderna vaccinations. He noted that they have a 29% vaccination rate with 201 residents having received the vaccination and 484 have refused the vaccination. He added that they will continue to reach out to the resident population with further education about the vaccine. Commissioner Spano noted that of those who have been vaccinated, none have had any significant bad reaction to the vaccine. Commissioner Spano discussed that they have started planning to begin on-site visitation again. It will still be non-contact and must be pre-scheduled.

First Deputy Commissioner Padilla discussed that they have been able to service the residents with on-going virtual programs and will continue to expand virtual programs with new initiatives. One new initiative they have added was an 8-week virtual business course that helps residents identify how to start their own businesses with very little money down. This course also gives the residents to connect with the volunteers that give their time to come in virtually and answer questions and discuss how to start and run businesses. FDC Padilla noted that one of her focuses for these new initiatives are programs that begin while the resident is in jail but that they are able to continue upon release which can help as a bridge for the transition back into the community. Another program that has been offered is through a partnership with Saint Johns University, Manhattan College, and Manhattanville College. This is a six week seminar called "conversations in the time of Covid." This entails professors running an array of discussions on public health and in particular with covid and it offers the residents an opportunity to learn about how it impacts the community and themselves and the importance of asking questions and getting the facts about public health issues. Legislator Johnson connected the Yonkers Youth Theater Interaction with the Department of Correction to offer a five week poetry class that will culminate in a presentation. This organization specifically wants to work with the younger residents of the jail and the in the community to provide an alternative for these 18 to 24 year olds.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Covill, seconded by Legislator Shimsky, the Committee adjourned at 4:22 PM.