

**Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Transcript**

DATE & TIME: November 4, 2020 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 977 8019 4528
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk, Fawn Tantillo, Senior Legislative Staff
PRESENT: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Parete
ABSENT: Legislator Heppner
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Sheriff Figueroa – UC Sheriff’s Office, Deputy Director Naccarato – UC Probation, Deputy County Executive Milgrim

Chairwoman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes & Transcript of the October 7,2020 Regular and October 15, 2020 Special Meetings

Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Haynes, Parete & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes & Transcripts APPROVED**

Resolutions for the November 17, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 396: Requesting The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Authorize Acceptance Of The Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant For The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) And Amending The 2020 Budget – Sheriff’s Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to accept and sign the award and contract provided by the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Grant-Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) in the amount of \$900,000 and amends the budget to allocate \$32,217 for supplies and services for the program.

Motion No. 2: Moved Resolution No. 396 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Parete & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 397: Appropriating Funds To The District Attorney's Periodical Account – Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County District Attorney's Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2020 Budget accept \$100 in fines pursuant to the requirements of Local Law No. 12 of 2015 to go towards administrative costs of maintaining the Ulster County Animal Abuse Registry

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 397 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Parete & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 398: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease Agreement With The Spring Lake Fire Department To Be Used As An Impound Lot – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute a lease agreement with Spring Lake Fire Department for a county Impound Lot located at 125 Maxwell Lane, Kingston, NY, for a term of three (5) years, beginning November 15, 2020 and ending November 14, 2025, at an annual rental cost of \$16,000.00.

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 398 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Haynes, Parete & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 420: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$272,416.00 Entered Into By The County – Legal Services of the Hudson Valley – Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley in the amount of \$272,416 to extend the term of agreement and increase funding for holistic legal services for crime victims for September 30, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Motion No. 5: **Moved Resolution No. 420 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Parete & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 421: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$49,745.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Black Creek Integrated System Corp. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Black Creek Integrated Systems Corp. in the amount of \$49,745 to extend the term of agreement and increase funding for maintenance and support of the electronic locking system at UCLEC for December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2021

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 421 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Haynes, Parete & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 3

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 422: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$65,964.00 Entered Into By The County – Motorola Solutions – Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$65,964 with Motorola Solutions for repair and maintenance of the Fire & EMS dispatch radio system for December 1, 2020 – November 31, 2021.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 422 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Parete & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 423: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$69,469.80 Entered Into By The County – Motorola Solutions – Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$69,469.80 with Motorola Solutions for repair and maintenance of the 911 phone system for January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 423 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Parete & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chairwoman Walter updated the members on the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force.

See attached transcript.

Chairwoman Walter advised the members of the Wednesday Walks for Black Lives Coalition’s Resolution provided to the Legislature and lead a discussion.

See attached transcript.

Chairwoman Walter asked the members if there was any new or old business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:51 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Approved: December 2, 2020

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PRESENT: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes & Parete
ABSENT: Legislator Heppner
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Sheriff Figueroa – UC Sheriff's Office, Deputy Director Naccarato – UC Probation, Deputy County Executive Milgrim

Chairwoman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Chairwoman Walter: If everyone's okay with that. So we'll call the meeting to order. A motion to approve October 7, Regular and October 15 Special meeting minutes in transcripts?

Legislator Haynes: I think we just lost Dean.

Chairwoman Walter: Oh, I you know, I saw a shift. But I didn't catch on because I was looking at my agenda.

Legislator Haynes: That happened a minute ago too and he popped right back on.

Chairwoman Walter: Yeah. All right. Well, we'll pause as we sort that out.

Deputy Clerk Mahler: You three can keep cooking along if you'd like.

Chairwoman Walter: Oh, there he is. Okay.

Legislator Haynes: I'll make that motion.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. A second?

Legislator Parete: Yeah, sure.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay, all in favor?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Opposed? Abstain? Perfect. Okay, so the first one first Resolution we have. Dean, are you able, are you back on?

Legislator Fabiano: I'm back on. I'm having problems. I'm in a new location.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay, well, you're here. That's good.

Legislator Fabiano: I don't know. The modem's too far away...

Chairwoman Walter: So you're kind of in and out

Legislator Fabiano: Too far away. But it's only like two [inaudible]

Chairwoman Walter: And so in case you want to say anything,

Legislator Fabiano: I'll do the best I can until I check out ...

Chairwoman Walter: Yeah, you can also call in if you feel like there's I don't know if you know, there's a Resolution you know, you're gonna want to talk about, but you have that if you call in. We could hear you. So I'll leave that up to you and whether you feel like there's something you want to be able to speak about.

Legislator Fabiano: I think I'll be okay.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay, because we're not hearing you that well, on our end.

Legislator Fabiano: They're not hearing me that well there.

Chairwoman Walter: Yeah. But ...

Legislator Fabiano: We'll try it.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. Okay. All right. Ah, so, so Resolution 396, requesting the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to authorize acceptance of a Department of Justice Bureau, Justice Assistance grant for comprehensive opioid stimulant and substance abuse site updates program and amending the 2020 budget. So this was put in by Legislator Ronk and myself on behalf of the Sheriff. Motion to discuss?

Legislator Haynes: I'll make that motion

Chairwoman Walter: Second?

Legislator Parete: Sure.

Chairwoman Walter: Any discussion? Okay, all in favor Resolution 396? Aye.

Committee Members: Aye

Chairwoman Walter: Okay, so no opposed, no abstentions. Perfect. Next we have Resolution 397 appropriating funds to the district attorney's peri, periodical accounts and amending the 2020 budget. This is related to the animal abuse registry. A motion to discuss?

Legislator Haynes: I make that motion.

Chairwoman Walter: Second?

Legislator Parete: I'll second it

Chairwoman Walter: Any discussion? All in favor of Resolution 397?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Opposed? Abstain? All right. Next we have Resolution 398 authorizing the Chair of the county, Ulster County legislature to execute a lease agreement with the Spring Lake. Sorry my dog is acting up. Spring Lake Fire Department to be used as an impound lot Department of Public Works building and grounds. All in favor?

Legislator Haynes: I'll make that motion.

Chairwoman Walter: I mean, did you want to discuss I guess I didn't think it's too controversial. So I'm going right for all in favor. Okay. I think we lost Dean again.

Committee Members: Aye

Chairwoman Walter: Opposed no? Abstentions? Okay. Hopefully he can find his way back on. Next, we have Resolution 420 approving the execution of a contract amendment for 272,416. Enter to the county for legal services of Hudson Valley in the department of probation. And this is extending their crime victims to add, expand which crime victims are being served. I guess I'll just keep motion to discuss just in case. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Haynes: I'll make the motion

Chairwoman Walter: Second?

Legislator Parete: I'll second it. I'll second it

Legislator Fabiano: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. Any questions or any discussions?

Legislator Haynes: No.

Chairwoman Walter: All right. All in favor? Sorry. I'm gonna sneeze any second.

Legislator Parete: Yeah.

Chairwoman Walter: All in favor of Resolution?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Oh, I can't get this sneeze to come out. Okay. All right. And that's we have Resolution 421, approving the execution of the contract amendment for 49,745, causing the aggregate contract amendment to be in excess of 50,000. This is for the Black Creek integrated system. Motion to discuss?

Legislator Haynes: I'll make that motion.

Chairwoman Walter: Second. John?

Legislator Parete: Second.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. So I guess I do want to bring this up. Because the sheriff had brought up that this system needs a full overhaul. And he had put in a request for the 2020 budget and the 2021 budget to have this as a capital project. And it was not, it was rejected. And from what I understand, and I'll let the Sheriff go, this, this is just continuous repairs as these repairs are, if the, if the system was improved, as it needed to be, these repairs would be a lot less costly. But I don't know if you want to add anything to this Sheriff?

Sheriff Figueroa: So the system was put in place in 2006. The last upgrade was in 2011. And it's constantly breaking down. This system, the Black Creek system, and in a way it's interesting that we're having this. The State Sheriff's sent the survey out, because they they've been monopolizing a lot of us throughout the state. It's an expensive system. But the truth is, this system here hasn't been upgraded in quite some time.

And both years we put in, I think, was \$568,000. to do a, an upgrade on the system. This system is responsible for all the cameras, every open and closing of the gates, the entire security system in the control room throughout the facility. So it's, it's, it's important, it keeps us from having liabilities, if there's any fights or any emergencies within the pod. If there's a fire, obviously, you can't be going around with a key and opening up each particular pod. We so it's, it's a liability issue. Right now we're spending about \$49,000 of maintenance fees a year. If it's upgraded, that number is going to drop to about \$20,000. I am also in the process of trying to find another system because, like I said earlier, we feel and in the Sheriff's Office that we're being throughout the state monopolized by Black Creek. But that's a discussion that we're having at the State Sheriff's Association in the future. But the bottom line is this system does need to get upgraded one way or the other at some point.

Chairwoman Walter: So can I just ask, wouldn't it, would it necessarily be what you're, what you're interested in is that this gets added as a capital project for Black Creek, but rather the upgrade? I mean, this might have to be better as an RFP, so that you can allow vendors to respond to it is that

Sheriff Figueroa: At some point, that's what we're going to do. I think they're the only business in town right now. And other Sheriffs throughout the state are getting kind of ticked off with them, including this office, because of the the, the cost to up, now the 600,000 to 598,000, that's just to keep it up to speed, because we haven't upgraded it since 2011. But our full upgrade would be, you know, a little bit more expensive than that. And, and so the, the system is breaking down, it needs to be upgraded. Whether it's a new system or not, we need to upgrade the system at some point, or it's going to cost us more.

Legislator Parete: You know, if I might share if your trusted sidekick last week or month ago, told us how fragile it was. And I do know that yeah, they kind of have a monopoly on the state. It's like a utility like Central Hudson or IBM at one time, but he did enunciate very clearly that it has to be repaired.

Sheriff Figueroa: Yes, we need definitely need to upgrade this system. It's it needs major overhaul. And the longer we wait, the more it's going to cost.

Chairwoman Walter: So I don't know if this, you know, is necessarily the place, but whether this group that this committee wants to discuss the concept of putting this in as a budget amendment request for the sheriff. Any thoughts on that?

Legislator Haynes: Yeah my thought is, is if it's something that they need. I'd be open to making a budget amendment request.

Legislator Parete: But the sheriff didn't ask for it.

Chairwoman Walter: He did. He asked for it this year. And the year before.

Legislator Parete: Well, not, not since I was sitting here. You he say last week, I need a million dollars to upgrade it.

Chairwoman Walter: Right. Okay, Sheriff

Sheriff Figueroa: I would, I would if, if I were able to do that, I would, I would do that. I just didn't think that we had the money to do that because of the budget crunch and, and COVID-19. But, yes, I mean, at some point, you know, we can't keep kicking it down, the kicking the can down the hallway. We're gonna have to fix this thing.

Chairwoman Walter: Any other comments or thoughts? Oh? Hopefully, Dean did not want to just say something.

Legislator Parete: The phantom.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. Anything else? Okay. All right.

Legislator Parete: I'll moved the question.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. So all in favor of Resolution? Right, because either way this has to be done. So all in favor of Resolution number 421?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: No opposed? No abstained? But let's keep this on our mind when it comes to talking about the budget. Resolution 422 approving the execution of a contract for 65,964. For Motorola. I believe this is for emergency management. For fire, is that correct John? Fire and EMS? Yes. Okay. You can just nod. If it is. All right.

Deputy Executive Milgrim: Yes, sorry.

Chairwoman Walter: Motion to discuss.

Legislator Haynes: I'll make that motion

Chairwoman Walter: Second?

Legislator Parete: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Walter: Any discussion? All right. All in favor of Resolution 422

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Opposed? Abstain? All right. Resolution 423 is similar. Again, for Motorola. I believe this one's for 911. All in favor of Resolution 423?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay.

Deputy Clerk Mahler: I need a motion on that. Someone has to move it.

Chairwoman Walter: Sorry.

Legislator Haynes: I'll make that motion.

Chairwoman Walter: Thank you for moving us along.

Legislator Parete: I'll second it. Move the question.

Deputy Clerk Mahler: Thank you.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. So um, Criminal Justice Reform Task Force update. There were, there are three subcommittees. There were three subcommittees, the Restorative Justice Subcommittee is getting its, is shutting down. I'm choosing which word because the District Attorney has, they've moved on quite a bit, they have identified a process for implementing, expanding restorative justice for above, for young adults. Currently, the 180 program serves adolescents. So they're going to be expanding, I believe up to age 25. And they're right now hammering out the specifics of which types of situations, but it's going to be through the DA's office, because it's the DA's office who will make the recommendation, but it's in partnership with probation and Family. Family will then proceed in the process of this is how they're planning it.

This is not, you know, official yet, but that Family would make an assessment of whether it actually would be effective. So the DA kind of makes that preliminary approach, then they, Family, assess whether restorative justice would work as related to the openness of the individual openness of the victim. And, and then proceed with leading those circles.

They continue to do monthly training of restorative justice. They did have to make some changes because they, they advertised and promoted on Facebook and they got people from other countries training. So they want to clarify that this is for Ulster County. They still need to find you know, they're always looking for more people who can be participating. Anyone who does the training would never be expected to lead, they would just be partnering until they had enough experience, but. So that's moving along but we'd no longer need that subcommittee because the process is now happening and it's really working, and the subcommittee is just repeating that kind of information.

The, the, police discrimination subcommittee is going to partner, so to speak, with the Sheriff and Ed Lawson. I don't know, Sheriff, if you want to talk a little bit, or is it too premature, about the sort of goals with that program?

Sheriff Figueroa: So Dr. Lawson is a professor of Black Studies down in SUNY New Paltz, and the Benjamin Center. And we kind of collaborated putting a framework in place, and looking to put a symposium together this month, later this month, in regards to diversity, equality, and by, you know, implicit bias, and a self-assessment of our local rules and policies and within an organization to help us get an assessment of where we're at, when it comes to dealing with any shortfalls that we have with our communities that we serve. And so this, this symposium is, in a nutshell, gonna kind of encompass, and I know I'm missing it, it's a ...

Chairwoman Walter: Adversity, equity and inclusion.

Sheriff Figueroa: There you go. So that so that's something that we're working out. We started working on that on that Monday, after the Governor actually put out his executive order, trying to get ahead of it, and have ownership over it, and get, have a plan ready. But of course, everything else happened along the way.

Chairwoman Walter: So, hopefully there will be a forum happening in December. That's the goal right now. Right. And now. And then the centralized arraignment was interesting. The question came up of whether centralized arraignment was still necessary with bail reform, with the question of how many of these cases are actually happening in the middle of the night that potentially don't get counsel. But we did get a report from the magistrates that I don't have the exact dates. But like when it started, I think it was like since March, but it was like, you know, the number was up of like about 400. So it seems like it was not insignificant like we thought it was. So they're still pursuing the feasibility of doing the centralized arrangement. So that that subcommittee still continues to try to sort out how that will work for us, or if it will work for us. And, any questions about the...?

Okay, so last, we have that we did get a Resolution from the Wednesday Walks for Black Lives Coalition. And you all should have gotten it. I had thought Fanon was going to be here to present his Resolution to us. Have you all gotten a chance to read it?

Legislator Haynes: Yes, I've read it.

Chairwoman Walter: So it does have a couple of asks of the Legislature. Jay, is it possible to share it on the screen? So we could just make sure the other Legislators see what they're asking for us? And then we can talk about it.

So actually, can you, just the top for a second, just the top again? So the, their whereas is that Stop and Frisk is, they're referring to Stop and Frisk and the concern that behaviors are happening in Kingston, specifically, that are, resemble Stop and Frisk activities, which, and Stop and Frisk is illegal. And so they're asking for us, now you could scroll down, to call the current racial profiling what it amounts to Stop and Frisk and broken window policing and to recognize that they're a threat to the City of Kingston. Okay, you can stop sharing. So, I'm not, it's a very ambiguous call to us of what they're asking. I don't know any, if you have any thoughts about how we might, I don't know, respond or recognize what they're requesting? Legislator Haynes

Legislator Haynes: I think if we could get an update as to where we are at, currently, the sheriff's office actually working through this program. That would be great. If we could start from there. I'm not so sure. Are we still coordinating with the City of Kingston KPD? Where, if the sheriff would, wouldn't mind giving us a brief update, that would be great.

Sheriff Figueroa: Absolutely, I emailed everyone the, the numbers of the blue and gray stops while we were having our meeting here. So I don't know if you have that Jay? I emailed Jay, Eve, and I believe you Heidi.

Deputy Clerk Mahler: And I just put it in the OneDrive too Sir, so they can access it that way.

Sheriff Figueroa: Okay, and it kind of shows the breakdown of the stops, and it's also by race. And let's just backtrack a little bit. First of all, these were not Stop and Frisk, you know, encounters. If someone went through a stop sign, they violated the vehicle and traffic law and they were stopped. Most of the people did not receive any traffic tickets, as you can see the stats that was submitted by the City of Kingston to me and, the and the Captain of the State Police.

So they were not Stop and Frisk. These particular officers were selected because of their way of dealing with, with the public. And the, the other issue was the reason why this was put together was because the unprecedented shootings that happen in the Fourth Ward, and obviously, there were four homicides in the city as well, again, unprecedented. Three of them are still unsolved. So there's obviously a, an issue with the public and local law enforcement to get that trust in order to solve these crimes. And law enforcement was tasked, and the city was tasked, to do something about it. And what was done was at the, the increased police presence, which in fact, did slow down the shootings, although they still could continue sporadically, but not as much as the 12 shootings that we had at the beginning of the year. And thank God, we haven't had any homicides during this 10-week operation.

Presently, the operation has kind of been slowed down. We're still going to be out there possibly on Thursday or Friday nights, or any particular days where we have the manpower, but it's not going to be the same as it was before. But the purpose of this was to slow down the shootings, and interact with the community, which myself, the Chief, and the Captain went out on two separate Saturdays. We've also went every Tuesday to either First Progressive Church last Tuesday. Obviously it was canceled yesterday due to the Election. But every Tuesday we had interaction with the people, you know, Alderperson, Alderwoman Rita Worthington, ran the meeting, and that was done in person, obviously, social distancing, and masks, and temperatures were taken when we went to this.

So that is, in a nutshell, is what the operation was for, what it was about. And it was not Stop and Frisk. I understand the community's concerns because they were stopped more often than not because the shootings occurred in the Fourth Ward. The murders occurred in, in the Fourth Ward. And the question was, well, why weren't there patrols in other parts of the city. And although there were patrols in the other parts of the city, the focus of the operation was the Fourth Ward because of the multiple shootings that were occurring.

Chairwoman Walter: Thanks, just so, so these numbers here giving are, are, the Sheriff's, yours?

Sheriff Figueroa: It's everybody, it's the entire detail. That's the, the City of Kingston, the State Police and the Sheriff's

Chairwoman Walter: But that's only in Kingston?

Sheriff Figueroa: That's what occurred during that 10 week period.

Chairwoman Walter: But only in Kingston.

Sheriff Figueroa: Only in the City of Kingston.

Chairwoman Walter: Right. I mean, I don't know.

Sheriff Figueroa: So there were 1,420 encounters. There were 1,144 warnings given, there were 217 arrests. And there were 59 tickets given. If you look at the encounters, those percentages are, are kind of low. It is broken down by week, the type of arrest, and whether warrants, arrests and the tickets that were issued. It was also broken down if they were, if they're, you know, white males, white females, black males and black females.

Chairwoman Walter: So, I mean, I would say, I just looked up for the last US Census Blacks constitute 17% in Kingston. And so if their arrests are proportionate, then 17% of the arrests should be back. Not, not 37%. So, I do recognize, I'm not necessarily saying it's, this is equivalent to Stop and Frisk. But if we talk about disproportionality, the only way it's proportionate is if the number of percent of arrests for people of color is equal to the percent of people of color. And this is more than double, for people of color, proportionate to their size.

Sheriff Figueroa: And I understand that, but the shootings occurred, those 12 shootings, and those homicides occurred in the Fourth Ward. And so, you know, law enforcement was tasked to have a better interaction, obviously, we need to work on that. But those were the numbers that, that, we had. If they, if this would have happened in, in a white area, then, then there would be a higher percentage of white people that were that were stopped

Chairwoman Walter: But this is different 'cause they're actually arrested. I mean, I can understand why if we just looked at presence of police in the Fourth Ward, of course, it'd be higher, but this is actually people who are truly arrested. And so, and they're not arrested, because they committed the homicide. They were arrested because of higher level of police in their neighborhood. And then you end up with a higher proportion of people of color being arrested.

Sheriff Figueroa: I mean, I understand that. And we knew that going in. The way this program was supposed to work was that the community leaders were supposed to be briefed prior to the, the, the 10 week program. For whatever reason, that did not occur. The City of Kingston was going to put that together. This was a situation where something had to be done, people were not safe in the City of Kingston. And they were complaining about that.

Legislator Parete: May I say something?

Chairwoman Walter: Yes, sir.

Legislator Parete: You know, the name of this committee is law enforcement and public safety. This is the first time we've been really talking about public safety. And you folks were responding to some pretty serious, violent crimes. And I happen to know that over the last 20 years or so, the crime rate in Kingston has been remarkably low. It was one of the safest cities in the country. And something happened to change that back two or three years ago. And the problem is that law enforcement, the City of Kingston police, are like being tarnished that they weren't up to the job.

And if you remember, Sheriff, the first meeting we had here, there was a talk that the other agencies were going to be helping. And you very clearly said, your office and other offices, had the highest level of cooperation in the State of New York. Working together, trying to, to keep the community safe. And all of a sudden now, I brought this up three or four months ago about public safety and, and why did the crime spike in Kingston? Why did the former District Attorney say this was under our radar? But he didn't say why it was under his radar. Was he implying that the policemen weren't doing their job? Of course not. Maybe he was implying that they had some restrictions on them. I don't know.

But I'll tell you. When you try to hobble the police, to do their job and protect the public, there's people from up our way that don't want to drive down through Kingston because they're afraid they'll be a random shot. Now I brought it up. Nothing happened. I never heard another word. I have been talking to a lot of people. Your honor, the Sheriff, in your job, not, not necessarily your job, but other police agencies. You know where I work. I see people, the sources and the people are going to be confidential, but there's somewhere along the way was a change.

And I've come to the conclusion that it's a little like the Coronavirus, you got to do everything you can to keep from being infected. Now if you want to go out and take your masks off or start to hobble the police a little bit, then you suffer the consequences. And I will be writing in my own little outline. I'm not interested in anybody else helping me

with it. But to imply that this is just necessarily an accident. And the lack of, of professionalism, let's say, or the lack of success by the police is just plain wrong, just plain wrong.

And I know the memo, I saw it. Stop and Frisk. Yes, Stop and Frisk was very difficult. Mayor Bloomberg did it. It was, it was, it was implemented in some very callous ways. It also saved a hell of a lot of lives. And sometimes, you have to weigh not oppressive government, but you need help to, to protect the citizens of the community. And I don't have to applaud you for doing it. It's your job. But I'm sure as hell gonna protect or, or speak my mind when it comes to the fine work that those folks are doing. Whether they be your department, the Kingston City department, the state police coming in. Undercover people are trying to, to identify who the potential problems are. But why for 20 years or more, was Kingston's level of serious violent crime so low, and then it all of a sudden spiked. I saw one time in, what August or so, somebody from the city hall said it was the pandemic's fault. Hogwash. This has been going on now, for the last year and a half or two years. I sure hope you continue doing your job, work with the community. Because one of the things that's most important in the community, in any sort of politics, is to assure the safety of the people and the residents of the community.

Chairwoman Walter: Thank you.

Legislator Parete: Thank you.

Sheriff Figueroa: Thank you, Legislator Parete. I just wanted to end the question. And there were unprecedented shootings in the city of Kingston, four homicides, unprecedented in the City of Kingston. And the people demanded that something was done. And so law enforcement got together. And this is a plan that worked in the City of Newburgh, it was called Safe Streets. And that's what we did. Now, that was not Stop and Frisk. And Stop and Frisk, that people you didn't need probable cause to stop somebody. In this particular case, if you did something wrong, you were arrested for it. There was a charge. It wasn't just Stop and Frisk, okay, you're going to walk away. And we're not going to stop you for no reason or no probable cause. As far as I know, that did not happen here. In this case, these, these three agencies got together to do what they're paid to do. And that was public safety.

Legislator Parete: Thank you.

Chairwoman Walter: So, yeah, I would imagine that this disproportionality, we would probably see other weeks as well, in other onths. I don't think it's, I wouldn't attribute it necessarily, to this situation. I think maybe this situation, heightened this problem, because the police presence was increased. I would love if you could provide this for other time periods for us to look at. Because it again, it may not be that, that operation to really identify the individual was solely in itself problematic. It may have just expanded upon something that might exist as a problem that we didn't necessarily pay attention to. There, there may truly be a disproportionality in how we're arresting by people of color. And I think it's important that we understand that's happening. Anyone else? Okay, so is there any, I mean, we're not mandated to give a response to this, but it's, Legislator Fabiano? Legislator Fabiano your ...

Legislator Fabiano: Yes Eve, I was just before we got done, I was just wondering if you could send me, email me that Resolution. I don't remember seeing it.

Chairwoman Walter: Yeah. Jay, can you send it to him again? It was a like a week ago. I think we got it, but she could send it again. Well, so I'll give you, you know, you have time to look at it. And before, you know, next meeting, if there's something that you want to present or you know, we can talk about it then. But take the time to look at it again. The ask for us is not really quite clear. It's, it's there's not really clear defined Legislature please do this. So, I'm not, you'll all have to just use your own interpretation of it.

Legislator Parete: Well they're sure accusing, accusing the police of it.

Chairwoman Walter: Yes, there's definitely ...

Legislator Parete: And you know, I'd be prepared, I'd be prepared to make a Resolution, author a Resolution condemning the police. But I'll vote against it. And anybody who wants to vote for it can.

Chairwoman Walter: Yeah, well, again, I'm not ...

Legislator Parete: Because they're accusing the cops

Chairwoman Walter: I'm sure what they're asking us to do exactly.

Legislator Parete: You want to condemn the cops? Let's put a Resolution in and I'll vote no, that's for damn sure.

Chairwoman Walter: Again, I don't think anyone right now is talking about condemning anyone.

Legislator Parete: Well we're talking about maybe down the road we will, maybe we'll craft it a little differently

Chairwoman Walter: I don't think anyone said condemn the cops.

Legislator Parete: That's what I'm hearing.

Chairwoman Walter: Their ask was that we acknowledge that something, you know acknowledge Stop and Frisk for what it is. That's, that's not necessarily asking us to condemn the cops. I'm not sure what that is asking us to do. So, but, and there's no, we're not required to do anything as a matter of fact. So, I'm just presenting, presenting it to you all and we could talk about it more or not, as the time, you know, after you have time to process it. Okay, I think I'm done but I have to get my agenda. Yes. So any old business that anyone wants to bring to our attention? Okay, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Parete: So moved.

Legislator Haynes: Second.

Chairwoman Walter: All in favor

Legislator Fabiano: Second.

Chairwoman Walter: All right. Thank you

Committee Members: Aye.