

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

DATE & TIME: July 7, 2022 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 844 5473 3096
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Abe Uchitelle
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Joseph Maloney, Phil Erner, District Attorney David Clegg, DA Conf. Secretary Rebecca Rojer, Asst. DA Emmanuel Nneji, Asst. DA Sajaa Ahmed, Public Defender Ruth Boyer Esq., Dir. Nancy Schmidt, Deputy Director Valerie Naccarato Probation, Dir. Everett Erichsen Dept. Emergency Services, Sheriff Figueroa, Deputy County Executive Chris Kelly

Chair Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 5:16 PM.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the June 9, 2022 Meeting of the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: None.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the July 19, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 189: Establishing A Policy Prohibiting The Housing Of Incarcerated Individuals Transferred From Facilities Outside Of Ulster County, The “No More Incarceration For Profit Policy”

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes a policy, “No More Incarceration For Profit Policy” prohibiting the housing of incarcerated individuals transferred from facilities outside of Ulster County. Financial Impact TBD.

Motion No. 2: **Moved Resolution No. 189 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **No Action Taken**

Resolution No. 353: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Office For The Prevention Of Domestic Violence – Enough Is Enough Initiative - Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute a contract with the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV) – Enough is Enough Initiative which the Dept. of Probation administers the Crime Victims Assistance Program which aids victims and witnesses of crime. 100% State revenue, \$170.4K for the period May 1, 2022 thru April 30, 2025.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 353 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 354: Authorizing An Application For Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, And Substance Abuse Site-based Program Grant Funding — Ulster County Sheriff’s Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes an application for comprehensive opioid, stimulant and substance abuse (Oracle program – COSSAP 2022) – site based program grant funding extended for an additional 3 years. \$1,300,000.00 total revenue dollars.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 354 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 355: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Approve Reclassification Of A Part Time Grant Manager To A Full Time Peer Recovery Advocate - Ulster County Sheriff's Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2022 UC Budget to approve the reclassification of a part time grant manager from part time to a full time position Peer Advocate. Ulster County has OD2 funding to help offset the full time position. \$18.6K Additional 2022 revenue dollars. \$42,827.00 Full-Time position.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 355 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 356: Authorizing An Application For Funds Under The Law Enforcement National Initiative To Improve Public Safety, Enhance Agency Operations Via Training, Recruitment And Retention And Building Community Trust Grant - Ulster County Sheriff's Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes an application for funding to improve public safety, operations training, recruitment, retention and to build community trust. The grant will offset the county cost by 50%. 2023 overall cost \$246K .

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 356 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 358: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$13,992.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – New York Communications Company Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff's Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment #4 for \$14K with New York Communications Co. Inc., to extend the term of the lease agreement for radio communication equipment with associated maintenance for the Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team. 100% County, Amd. Term 1/1/22 – 12/31/22.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 358 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 359: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Realign Salaries And Create A “Deputy Chief ADA” And A “Justice Courts & Diversion Unit Chief”

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2022 UC Budget to realign salaries and create a Deputy Chief ADA and a Justice Court & Diversion Unit Chief by combining two part-time positions into one full-time position.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 359 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 360: Authorizing Execution Of Inter-Municipal Agreements For Expenses Related To Improving Criminal Justice Responses (ICJR) To Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, And Stalking Grant Program, Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget - District Attorney's Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the execution of inter-municipal agreements for expenses related to improving Criminal Justice Responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking grant program. New Paltz, Saugerties, Kingston, Ulster, UC Sheriff’s Office, DA, National Network for Safe Communities, Family of Woodstock, Database Specialist, OVW travel and training, additional travel/training. \$117.4K additional State Revenue dollars.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 360 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

New Business (see attached transcript)

- Update on 2021 Criminal Justice & Reform Task Force Report & Recommendations to the Legislature.

Adjournment

Chair Uchitelle asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none.

Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:55 PM

Respectfully submitted: Legislative Staff, Nettie Tomshaw
Meeting audio available on Legislative website.

Approved: August 4, 2022

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Chair Uchitelle

Thank you. All right. So I'd like to call the July meeting of Law Enforcement Public Safety to order. And I'd like to start by entertaining a motion to approve the June 9 meeting minutes. Can I have a motion to approve the minutes?

Legislator Hansut

Motion.

Chair Uchitelle

Motion?

Chair Uchitelle

Motion from Hansut, a second?

Legislator Heppner

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, second from Heppner, any discussion? All right, seeing no discussion, all those in favor of approving the June 9 minutes.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? Okay, the minutes are approved unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

We will jump into resolutions. Our first resolution is Resolution Number 189. Establishing a policy prohibiting the housing of incarcerated individuals transferred from facilities outside of Ulster County, the no more incarceration for profit policy.

Chair Uchitelle

Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Hansut

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

I'm going to take that motion from Hansut and second from Lopez. Oh, actually, the sheriff is here. All right. So I'll just say I don't think we've had an update here. I don't believe that. I know that Legislator Maloney and Sheriff Figueroa are we're planning on discussing it further. Looks like Legislator Maloney. Oh, actually, Legislator Maloney is here. So we will give him a second to connect. And let him speak to it. Legislator Maloney not to put you on the spot immediately after joining. But yours happens to be the first resolution and we just moved it for discussion. So if you'd like to speak on Resolution 189, the floor is yours.

Legislator Maloney

Actually. I spoke to the sheriff today. And I don't know if he mentioned that. But we're getting together early next week. And I think we're going to have something come forward by this next meeting that the sheriff and I agree on, and that hopefully, some more legislators will. So I'd ask for another postponement or to not act and by next month, I think we'll have a resolution ready to vote on.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay. Well, I will say this, if you and the sheriff agree that your chances are pretty good for the rest of us, I'd say. Anyone else want to speak on this? All right, I'd like to entertain a motion to postpone for one month.

Nettie Tomshaw

No action? Last month, we took no action.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright, we can take no action. Let's do that. Let's keep that going.

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

So with that we can just move into Resolution Number 353. Authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a contract with the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. Enough is enough initiative, Department of Probation. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Chair Uchitelle

All right, we got a motion from Heppner, second from Hansut. And Director Schmidt would you like to give us some background?

Director Nancy Schmidt

Sure. This is a program in our crime victim assistance unit. And this provides a crime victim counselor at both of our colleges at SUNY Ulster and SUNY New Paltz. They do prevention work as well as respond to sexual assaults and dating violence on the college campuses.

Chair Uchitelle

And this is 100%. state funded, I believe. Any questions for Director Schmidt or any further discussion? Among the committee? All right, seeing no discussion. All those in favor of Resolution 353.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. All those opposed? Resolution 353 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution Number 354. Authorizing an application for comprehensive opioid stimulant and substance abuse site-based program grant funding from the Ulster County Sheriff's Office. I'd like to entertain a motion to discuss.

Legislator Hansut

Motion.

Chair Uchitelle

Motion from Hansut. I'd like to hear a second.

Legislator Heppner

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right second from Heppner. So, Sheriff, if you'd like, I'd give you an opportunity to give us a quick overview.

Sheriff Figueroa

Good evening, everyone. Excuse my voice. I'm a little under the weather here recently. So I want the first to say thank you for having me. And this is the COSAS grant that we put in for the in 2019 and did not get but we did get it in 2020. What we're putting in for is an enhancement of that same grant. I had the opportunity to meet some of the folks down in DC, that sit on these boards for these grants. And we have a pretty good shot at an enhancement and receiving this grant. Last grant, which is still in place until next year, covers the costs of our social worker, and peer advocates, as well as our staff for Oracle. This is going to be an enhancement to add peer advocates in the jail, and also assist us with the higher numbers that we've been seeing recently. Good news is our numbers are down by 40% in the first quarter for the overdoses so I'm pretty happy about that. So this is basically asking permission of the legislature to put in for an enhancement COSAS grant, which is \$1.3 million.

Chair Uchitelle

Does anyone have any? And that oh actually, just to clarify, it's the 1.3 million over a three-year period, I believe, correct?

Sheriff Figueroa

That's correct.

Chair Uchitelle

Anyone have any questions for Sheriff Figueroa on this.? Any further discussion? I just want to share if I may Sheriff Figueroa, can I share the contents of the email that you forwarded me about the presentation. So I just want to commend Sheriff Figueroa on some of the work that his office has done on this topic, and their work is actually going to be showcased at a very significant conference coming up later this fall. And he just shared with me that they've been selected to present on it. So I think that that really speaks to the work that the sheriff's office has done, and that our community is benefiting from. So I just wanted to give an opportunity to commend you on this.

Sheriff Figueroa

Thank you, Mr. Chair, but the credit goes to everyone in the legislature and our county partners from the DA's office to the court system, to the Department of Health and of course the county Exec.'s Office. So thank all of you.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, so any further discussion on this? Seeing no further discussion, all those in favor of Resolution 354.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

And those opposed? The resolution is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution Number 355. Amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to approve reclassification of a part time grant manager to a full-time peer recovery advocate Ulster County Sheriff's Office. Can I have a motion to discuss.

Legislator Lopez

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

Motion from Legislator Lopez. Can I have a second? Second by Legislator Hansut. Sheriff if you want to give us the background on this staffing change.

Sheriff Figueroa

Sure. This is the initial grant that we got in 2019. We did hire a grants manager, but that person didn't work out so we have not utilized that salary. Since then, I think it was like eight months that we did. The numbers that these peer advocates are dealing with are astronomical. Usually a peer advocate will have 10 cases, each per month. Our peer advocates are getting 30 per month, each one of them. So this will enhance our ability and the team to go out and deal with the overdoses that we have. The money will come from the unspent funds from this grant, as well as in the future working with the county and the Department of Health with the opioid settlement fund.

Chair Uchitelle

Any questions for the sheriff? for further discussion? All those in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right Resolution 355 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution 356. Authorizing an application for funds under the law enforcement national initiative to improve public safety enhance operations via training, recruitment and retention and building community trust grant. Also from the County Sheriff's Office. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright, motion from Legislator Heppner. May I have a second? Second from Legislator Hansut. Again, Sheriff if you would give us a little bit of background on the program.

Sheriff Figueroa

Yes. So this particular grant is targeting the enhancement of the dash cams in the car and axon cameras for our corrections division. It is a match grant. So if we do not get the grant, and obviously we won't put in for the additional cameras at this point. We still have the Panasonic cameras. But their three-year warranty was up last year that we're using at the Ulster County Jail. The we're one of the only jails in Hudson Valley has body cams in the jail for our corrections officer. So this grant will be utilized for that effort.

Chair Uchitelle

Questions for the sheriff? Legislator Hewitt.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

Thank you chair. I was just wondering without the part time grants person we're approving a few grants and just wondering who writes the grants.

Sheriff Figueroa

The rank and file at the Sheriff's office along with help from our folks at the county execs office, and the Department of Health. We're writing our own grants. I am sending folks to get trained. I do have one individual that I will have trained hopefully before the end of the year to be a grant writer. That's a great point Legislator Hewitt because this office has never had a fulltime grant writer like other offices, Orange County has six grant writers. Thank you for asking that question.

Legislator Hewitt

All right. Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Any other questions? I'll just ask. So if this grant, I have two questions. The first is if this grant is approved, is the match of like a 50/50 match? I guess, you know, dollar for dollar? And would that basically get us out of the Panasonic cameras once and for all?

Sheriff Figueroa

Yes, sir. It is a 50/50 match. And that will get us out of the Panasonic cameras. But - at some point, the warranties up -we're gonna have to replace anyway.

Chair Uchitelle

Right. And would it be fair to say that in all scenarios, you want to replace them with the same axon models that we just approved for the road patrol?

Sheriff Figueroa

Yes, Mr. Chair.

Chair Uchitelle

Any further discussion? Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Questions about body cameras. Just curious. And I think these are things everyone should talk about and every police department or jail. With regards to the body cameras we have in the jail and out on the road patrol? Is every officer does? Do they always have a body camera that is on? Can they be turned off? Is there certain situations when they're not on?

Sheriff Figueroa

Yeah, we have an actual written policy that's guided by the Division of Criminal Justice Services on the use of body cams. Because we're an accredited agency through the state in New York, we all have to adhere to the policies whenever the camera is on. It would be for interaction involving a case law enforcement, obviously, since sensitive times that you won't have the camera on is when this person information. And we give our full body camera to the DA's office and let them do the redaction. We do not do redactions. But we try to keep personal information off the body cam. And obviously, there's some sort of compromising situation for an individual that will not be what I mean by that is, perhaps the persons being stripped searched. That will not be on a body cam.

Legislator Maloney

Is it the responsibility of the CEO or the officer to turn the body camera on when they're going to have an interaction with a resident of the jail or someone in public?

Sheriff Figueroa

That is correct. And I'd be more than happy to forward you a copy of our policy.

Legislator Maloney

Oh, no, no, that's alright. Have we ever had any issues with a body camera not being turned on? You don't have to be specific.

Sheriff Figueroa

It does happen but they will get reprimanded for not having it on. So it's violating our policy. So they had to adhere to a policy. As a training that we also do this as part of our in-service, our yearly regarding the use of body cams.

Legislator Maloney

Thank you. Thank you, sheriff.

Chair Uchitelle

If I may, Sheriff can you speak also to the technology that the axon cameras use that automatically turn them on? I know we went into that purchase for the road patrol.

Sheriff Figueroa

That's a great point. That's one of the reasons why we went with axon. So if a taser is deployed, or a weapon is taken out of a holster, any agency that has an axon within 25 feet, their cameras automatically go on. So when it comes to a weapon being removed from the holster or a taser that's being removed from its holster. The State Police has axon, the City of Kingston police department has axon. So any agency in the county that has axon all their cameras automatically go on? I think it works out better for transparency and for liability for us in the county and our members.

Chair Uchitelle

Thanks you Sheriff. Any other questions or discussion on this resolution? All right, seeing no further discussion. I will call the question on Resolution Number 356. All those in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? Resolution 356 was unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution 358. Approving the execution of a contract amendment for \$13,992, causing the aggregate contract amendment amount to be in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the county with New York

Communications Company Inc, for the Ulster County Sheriff's Office. And Sheriff Figueroa this is the last resolution and then we can let you rest up. If you want to give us a little bit of an overview on the radio purchases.

Sheriff Figueroa

So this is again additional purchases regarding our portable radios. Because it's over \$50,000, the aggregate is \$50,000. This amount is 13,000 has to be approved by the legislature.

Chair Uchitelle

And this is the same vendor. This is a vendor we see a lot here. So I think we're we've probably asked similar questions in previous discussions.

Sheriff Figueroa

And one of the first things I did when I became the sheriff was consolidate a lot of these individual contracts. Although we still have individual division contracts and not 40 or 50 contracts like it was before.

Chair Uchitelle

Any questions from the committee or legislature in general? Any further discussion?

Legislator Heppner

You need a motion?

Nettie Tomshaw

Yes.

Chair Uchitelle

Oh, yeah, we need a motion discuss. I'm sorry. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you, Legislator Heppner. Can I have a second.

Legislator Hewitt

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

One of these days I'll get through a meeting without forgetting one of these resolutions needing to be moved on to the floor.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. So if there's no further discussion, I'll call the question on Resolution 358. All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed?

Chair Uchitelle

All right, Resolution Number 358 is approved unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Before I read the next resolution, I will point out that it was provided in an amended format in your resolution packet through the OneDrive link. It's a stand-alone document in One Drive. So if anyone is looking for the version that we're about to review as amended, it's in the OneDrive. So I will read it out Resolution Number 358 as amended. Amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to realign salaries and create a Deputy Chief ADA and the Justice Courts and diversion Unit Chief. Can I have motion to discuss. Motion from Legislator Hansut. Can I have a second?

Legislator Heppner

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Second from Legislator Heppner. And I will give the floor as we start out to District Attorney Clegg to give us a little bit of background.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

Good evening, everybody. Thank you. I just want to say I don't know if our sheriff is still on but he's one of my heroes. The work he's done for our county is remarkable. And I just want to throw that out to him.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

So what we have here is an opportunity because we had one part time person resign after 16 years to go on with his practice. And what I wanted to do is combine it with another part time position to make a full-time position. There's no question in my mind that a full-time position provides substantially more to this office than two part time positions. We have the opportunity to have somebody who had actually worked in his office for the last 18 years to take on that full time position, which would be both for the justice court supervision and responsibility and for diversion, which is something we want to concentrate on. T

District Attorney Dave Clegg

he big thing here is that out of all the cases that come through our court system in our county, the majority of them come through Justice Courts. And we want to make sure that the work that our prosecutor's office is doing in the justice courts is as successful as possible. I have spoken recently with one of the town justices in town of Ulster and have reinforced the fact that we need to re-emphasize the work that we're doing in Justice Court. We're going through obviously a new world with discovery laws and responsibilities that we have. We want to make sure that we're doing them. Right. So combining these positions, taking this person on with the experience she has, and coordinating and supervising all the Justice Court, ADA's that we have is really important for the public service in this community.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

And we also have, at the same time, I want to elevate Liz (inaudible) Mills, who's been in this office for 16 years. She's undertaking a deputy chief position. And she's taking that on and has been remarkably effective in the last month. She hasn't been paid for it yet. But she's taken on that responsibility. Her management skills are exemplary. And she has the competence of everybody in this office. One of the reasons if you want to know why we need additional managerial support here is that our chief assistant, who is Emmanuel Nneji, has presently four murder cases on his caseload plus an attempted murder, plus 30 plus other cases. So that the normal scheme of things is the chief assistant would have very few cases and would be able to exert managerial support for the office. Right now, Manny, being the most experienced attorney for the office, has taken on more murder cases than has ever been in one person's caseload in this office ever. And so and the extraordinary amount of work that he has to do is an extraordinary importance of the work that he has to do, takes away from his ability to also help manage the office. So both for Liz being the wonderful experience person that she is, and the office demands that we have right now. I think, once again, this serves the community in a very important way. So I'm asking that we get support for this.

Chair Uchitelle

Just to clarify, so this would be two internal moves, or is there an external, like, new hire as well, just two internals?

District Attorney Dave Clegg

Well, you know, so we're taking a part timer and elevating her to a full-time position. And as I said, She's worked at this office for 18 years, and she's highly qualified at every level.

Chair Uchitelle

Any questions from the committee or the legislative body present? Any discussion? And I believe the budget impact is relatively minimal here. All right. Well, if there's no further discussion, I'll call the question on Resolution number 358, as amended.

Nettie Tomshaw

359.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution Number 359. So if there's no further discussion, I will call the question on resolution number 359, as amended. All those in favor?

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, Resolution Number 359 As amended, is passed or is advanced unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution number 360. Authorizing execution of inter municipal agreements for expenses related to the improving criminal justice responses (ICJR) to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking grant program, amending the 2022 Ulster County budget district attorney's office. Can I have a motion to discuss.

Chair Uchitelle

Motion from Legislator Hansut.

Legislator Heppner

I'll second.

Chair Uchitelle

Second from Legislator Heppner. District Attorney Clegg, if you want to give us a quick overview on this.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

Quickly, as you probably know, we have an intimate partner violence intervention program that's been going on in this county for three years. We have moved that program to other law enforcement agencies within the county. To support that we have applied for and received a \$500,000 grant from the Department of Justice. So what we're asking for here is the right to start to disperse those funds. Those funds are mainly actually going to law enforcement in this community that is supporting the IPVI program that being the County of Ulster, New Paltz, Kingston, Ulster County Sheriff's Department. Those programs, those law enforcement agencies are going to be supported with monies from this this grant. Also we have an opportunity to hire someone who is a trauma informed investigator. And we would like to move forward

with that. There's also an opportunity to get somebody who's involved with data information so that we can -as we go forward with this grant keep data that's informative, both for our community and for the purposes of the grant.

Chair Uchitelle

Any questions from the committee? Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yeah, I heard New Paltz and Kingston as far as municipalities, that would be part of the program. How did we decide which municipalities would be part of this?

District Attorney Dave Clegg

Yeah. And I should have mentioned Saugerties also. So we started with Kingston, and that was going on for two years. And then we wanted to expand it. And we reached out, and Saugerties joined in. And then we reached out to the surrounding areas around Kingston, so Ulster and New Paltz, and both of them bought in. The Sheriff and I have spoken about this in detail. And the Sheriff's department wants to join in. So we would like to make this a program that's countywide. It is a preventative program, so that when people have some kind of involvement with law enforcement, that may reflect a domestic violence incident, we contact them, and we follow them. And we make sure that they no one, that we're following them. Two, that there are services out there that we can provide them. Three, if they continue on this path it's going to get more serious for them. So it says a sliding scale. And if you get up to the top scale, then this office has committed to prosecuting them at the highest level possible. So we let people know that beforehand. And hopefully that helps prevent and actually, our program has had significant, statistically significant progress nationally based upon what they've seen.

Legislator Maloney

Could you explain to me the logistics of how I assume you're working with the Sheriff's Department? Do you have Sheriff's Department personnel work working on this?

District Attorney Dave Clegg

The Sheriff isn't all in yet. But they will be.

Legislator Maloney

Because they have - I know Saugerties has a program that I've heard the chief of police talk about where they follow up, they do what you're describing. I know the county has a special department for sex victims and especially youthful victims. So I would assume that there'd be legit logistics of this would involve that Sheriff's Department unit.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

It will. So right now, Saugerties is part of our program. This is a program that comes out of my office. Right. And we've been doing this both starting with KPD. Now moving to Saugerties. Now moving to New Paltz. Sheriff is going to be engaged in it. We haven't totally gotten there yet. Ulster is going to be engaged in it. We haven't totally gotten there yet. We're doing trainings. All this is in progress.

Legislator Maloney

Should we get the sheriff on board and understand it all, before moving further, while there's still moving parts that aren't working together on it.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

I mean, obviously, the Sheriff and I can talk all the time. We have good communications. It's just as we move this whole program forward, the sheriff's department is going to join in. And it's you know, there's involvement, training involved in terms of logistics. All of that is moving forward. Getting this grant in place will help move all those things forward. There may be other law enforcement agencies in the county that will jump in at some point. But we have this grant, we want to use it to support our law enforcement partners and we want to use it to make sure that we're trying to prevent as much domestic violence as possible.

Legislator Maloney

With regards to the chain of command. The DA with the Sheriff, would be in the chain of command, kind of under you, how does that look?

District Attorney Dave Clegg

The whole IPVI program is run out of my office. We also use a national program that supports us, keeps statistics, guides us to make sure that we're heading in the right direction. All of that is coordinated through my office. The training that happens with all the law enforcement folks is something that happens out of my office, and then we coordinate with it. They have meetings on a weekly basis to try and make sure that we're following up on everything. One of the one of the issues is when we only had Kingston, obviously there are people committing domestic violence outside of Kingston, and there are people who do it in Kingston and move to Saugerties the move to New Paltz and wherever, we want to make sure that we're catching all of these folks and interrupting them.

Legislator Maloney

So you collect the data. So when I heard the chief police over in Saugerties talk about this. I don't believe he ever mentioned that this was a program that he was involved with through your office. It was almost stated like it was something the Saugerties PD was doing on their own. But you are collecting that data they're reporting to you. We had this incident, we followed up, this is what happened, and then that data is being collected by you.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

That's right. It's all out of my office.

Legislator Maloney

Yes. All right. Thanks, Dave.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

Sure, good to see you, Joe.

Chair Uchitelle

And just for kind of further background, we had approved the application of this grant in 2021, which is mentioned in here. I do have a question about the distribution, because I suspect just based on the format I've seen, we're going to see this isn't the only time we're going to see this because it's a \$500,000. grant, but we're getting \$117,000. So can you speak to - is it just there's a payment term, or we're sending, we're giving them reports and deliverables and getting refunded.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

So that's right. So we have to expend the money and then we get refunded. That's the way it works.

Chair Uchitelle

So we're applying for the funding as we spend it down. It'll still be another \$383,000. that will be submitted for in similar formats.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

Yes. And it's all available to us. It's not time driven in terms of quarterly or anything else.

Chair Uchitelle

Is there a total deadline on when we have to perform the work?

District Attorney Dave Clegg

No. I mean, it is a four-year grant.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay, so there's okay. Yeah, so it's gonna say I've never heard of a grant with that.

District Attorney Dave Clegg

Okay. Yes.

Chair Uchitelle

Any other questions? All right, seeing no further questions, I will call the question on Resolution Number 360. All those in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, Resolution Number 360 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

We have no old business. I have one topic that I have added on for new business. So in 2020, there was an executive order around policing. And over the months and into the next year that followed, there were a couple of commissions that the county was involved in. One was under the direction of the governor's office appointed by the county executive, one that the legislature had been working on and both presented reports with recommendations in 2021.

Chair Uchitelle

The legislature's report was the second report that was shared with recommendations, and it commented on the report that was issued to the group that was organized by the county executive office. So that report, which was issued in 2021, responded to the earlier report from the same year, and kind of as it came from our body. And this is where we are this is what we're talking about. That's kind of our reference point for recommendations from all of the work around criminal justice reform.

Chair Uchitelle

Now we're in a new year, we're in a new session. And we're coming up on the one-year anniversary of the issuance of those recommendations. So tonight, I want to share that I've been working with our staff. And I now would like to include the legislature more broadly and pull in all of the members of the executive branch of government that work in criminal justice reform or criminal work in criminal justice and were mentioned in these reforms. As we approach the one-year anniversary of issuing support, I'd like to issue an updated response and updated snapshot of where we are on a lot of these. We've made a lot of progress on some, and some have the progress has been slower. Some were, you know, really in need of an update, because it might be across the finish line, it might not be and there might be reasons for that.

Chair Uchitelle

So tonight, I am sharing as a heads up for the Sheriff, the District Attorney, for the County Executive and for those in, you know, my colleagues who are also involved in this, that over the next month, I'm going to be reaching out to everybody our staff is going to be reaching out and we're going to get a snapshot of how all of these are going. And this is an opportunity for us to see where we're at and also celebrate the work that we've done because a lot of work went into that report last year and a lot of progress has been

made. And we certainly want to highlight that. I think a lot of times we issue these reports, and work happens, but we never really recognize it. And we certainly should recognize it. And we certainly should show the public that we're still paying attention to the important work of criminal justice reform.

Chair Uchitelle

So if anyone would like to comment on that now, I welcome you to. Otherwise, I will definitely be following up with the committee to send out the prior report just so that you have access too or you can find it on our website now. And reaching out to folks in the executive branch. So you'll all have an opportunity to let us know where you're at on the specific recommendations that grew out of that report. So anyone have any questions, or comments?

Chair Uchitelle

Legislator Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Well, first of all, thank you for doing that. And I am looking forward to seeing that. I am going to print it out shortly. And just thank you for that work for that. And I'm looking forward to seeing, you know, what has changed what we need to work on. And it takes a lot of people to do this. So thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you, I appreciate you saying that. And I just want to pass that along to our staff, who are going to be helping with this and helped a lot with the original report. And I also want to she's not here now, because she's hiking the Appalachian Trail. But Eve Walter, Legislator Walter, former chair of Law Enforcement Public Safety did a lot of work on that report, and also on bringing a lot of the resolutions that followed across the finish line. Because we really have done a lot of work.

Chair Uchitelle

I mean, to take crisis stabilization center as an example. You know, that was one of the things that was highlighted in the original report. And the progress that we've made on that is actually quite remarkable. And I commend the county executive team for contributing and my colleagues in the legislature for Legislator Walter for and Legislator Criswell, who was also very involved in that. So, you know, it's a team effort. And I think it's important that we recognize the work that happens behind the scenes, and the work that is still to be done.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. So that's all I wanted to say on that topic. Does anyone have any further new business they'd like to discuss? Legislator Hansut?

Legislator Hansut

For Deputy County Exec. Kelly, is there any update on the appraisal for the government operations building?

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

So thank you, Vice Chair, I will have to defer to the legislature. We did not order the second appraisal; we had the first appraisal. So we are eagerly awaiting the second one ordered by the legislature.

Legislator Hansut

Okay. Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

And I don't have the answer to that. It's definitely in our court. And I'm optimistic that we're going to be able to get where we need to get to move forward with this. I know this committee was, you know, vocal in their support of this project, which is incredibly important, and I thank everyone for being an advocate.

Legislator Hansut

But then I just have one more thing, of course. So the chair and I, we had spoken about some of our agendas have been a little bit light, which is great. No problem there. But if we happen to be in person, next month, I think the sheriff is not on right now. But we were wondering if maybe one of his, one of the groups maybe Oracle could come and speak to us just do a quick presentation on their program for anyone that hasn't heard or any updates, or how it's moving along. So I can check with him. And if that's okay with everybody else.

Chair Uchitelle

I think that's a great idea. And you and I spoke about this. So you know already that I support this 100%. I think just in general, some of these programs have so many moving pieces, that it's great to have an opportunity, particularly because, you know, we get resolutions about them. And sometimes they're time sensitive. And it's good to to get a head start on learning about the programs. So that's why we did our little roadshow for the last couple of meetings, which I really appreciate everyone participating in. All right, any further new business. All right, seeing none, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Hewitt

Motion to adjourn.

Legislator Heppner

I'll second it.

Chair Uchitelle

All right motion from Legislator Hewitt. Second from Legislator Heppner, all those in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? It is unanimous. We are adjourned. Thank you everyone. I really appreciate it and hope to see you all soon either on Zoom or in person.

Committee Members

Thank you.