

**PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**40 Gleneida Avenue Room #318**  
**Carmel, NY 10512**

**Committee Members: Chairwoman Nacerino & Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh**

**Monday** **April 17, 2023**  
**(Health Mtg. Immediately Followed)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested Legislator Sayegh lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Addonizio, Sayegh and Chairwoman Nacerino were present.

**Item #3 - Acceptance/ Protective Services Meeting Minutes/ March 21, 2023**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 – Approval/ Budgetary Amendment-23A014/ Sheriff’s Department/ State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated Sheriff McConville was present to speak to this request. She stated the request is to use Federal SCAAP funds to upfit a new 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated originally, they were going to purchase an Explorer. He stated with the challenges of securing vehicles, the Explorer was no longer available, and the Tahoe was. He stated this was all approved prior to the Fleet Leasing Program with Enterprise.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment-23A014/ Sheriff’s Department/ State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item#5 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment-23A017/ Sheriff’s Department/ Use of Inmate Commissary Account Funds to Purchase Seven (7) Flat Screen Televisions for the Inmates use in the PC Correctional Facility/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated currently they have 25 televisions in operation. He stated one (1) is only working intermittently. He stated the purchase of these seven (7) will allow six (6) to be put into inventory and one (1) to replace the one that is not working properly. He stated initially when the request was made there were more Televisions requested. He stated that they reduced the number because they are able to obtain them somewhat quickly, so there is no need to have a large inventory.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the total amount of the budgetary is \$1,595.93. She stated there is no fiscal impact.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment-23A017/ Sheriff's Department/ Use of Inmate Commissary Account Funds to Purchase Seven (7) Flat Screen Televisions for the Inmates use in the PC Correctional Facility; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item#6 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment-23A018/ Sheriff's Department/ Use of Inmate Commissary Account Funds to Purchase Five (5) Microwaves for the Inmates use in the PC Correctional Facility/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated there are five (5) Microwaves currently in use. He stated the circuit board on one (1) of them has malfunctions, so that brings them down to four (4) operating Microwaves. He stated they are requesting to purchase five (5) Microwaves. He stated they would use one (1) to replace the one that is no longer working, and they will have four (4) as inventory. He stated the microwaves get heavy usage.

Legislator Montgomery stated the last time a similar request came through for Televisions and Microwaves, the Legislature said they did not want a supply kept in inventory. She stated she reviewed the minutes from the past meeting, and she wanted to point that out.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she does not recall that.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated currently there are no microwaves in inventory, he stated they need an inventory of Microwaves.

Legislator Sayegh stated she does recall the discussion that Legislator Montgomery has brought up, she believes it was in 2021. She stated she believes she was the one who expressed concern with the request to keep so much in inventory. She explained after receiving the explanation and learning of the justified need to have them on hand because of the steady use, she understood the request to have an inventory.

Legislator Crowley questioned how many inmates are in the correctional facility currently.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated at present there are 61.

Legislator Crowley stated then they are getting a lot of use.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approval/ Budgetary Amendment-23A018/ Sheriff's Department/ Use of Inmate Commissary Account Funds to Purchase Five (5) Microwaves for the Inmates use in the PC Correctional Facility; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item#7 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment-23A019/ Sheriff's Department/ Use of Inmate Commissary Account Funds to Reimburse the Jail's Education and Training Budget Line / Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated as part of the COVID process to keep the correctional facilities clean and to mitigate and reduce infections and recurrences of COVID the State provided a

Vendor to provide training on use of the new products the State was requiring they utilize to disinfect the facility. He stated a Sheriff's Sergeant was sent to Ulster County to receive the training and to purchase the necessary products.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested confirmation. She stated it is her understanding that said Sergeant will provide training to his colleagues.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated that is correct. He stated the Sergeant is a trainer for this purpose and will train other members.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approval/ Budgetary Amendment-23A019/ Sheriff's Department/ Use of Inmate Commissary Account Funds to Reimburse the Jail's Education and Training Budget Line; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

**Item#8 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment-23A020/ District Attorney / NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)- Funding to Support Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Expenses Related to Discovery and Pretrial Reforms (that took effect January 1, 2020) Costs during the State Fiscal Year 2022-2023/ District Attorney Tandy**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this is a request that will adjust the budget lines to reflect the revenue that is coming in from NYS-DCJS funding.

District Attorney Robert Tandy confirmed the amounts are accurate.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approval/ Budgetary Amendment-23A020/ District Attorney / NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)- Funding to Support Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Expenses Related to Discovery and Pretrial Reforms (that took effect January 1, 2020) Costs during the State Fiscal Year 2022-2023; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item#9 - Approval/ FY2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)/ Bureau of Emergency Services Interim Commissioner Robert Lipton**

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to waive the Rules and Accept the Additional; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the FY2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) requires a 50% matching funds.

Bureau of Emergency Services Interim Commissioner Robert Lipton explained the funds from this grant will go toward his salary, as his position is qualified with this grant.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Approval/ FY2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG); Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item#10 - Update/ FY2023 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant (no matching funds)/ Bureau of Emergency Services Interim Commissioner Robert Lipton**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated there are no matching funds with this grant. She stated the funding will be used to purchase supplies, equipment, support and maintenance of teams and other equipment.

Bureau of Emergency Services Interim Commissioner Robert Lipton stated he worked with Lieutenant Monroe in preparing this grant application. He stated some of the funding will help support the new Rescue Taskforce. He stated that is the team that goes in with the Police Department after an incident occurs to rescue people who have been injured. He stated some of funding will be used to support operational activities, such as firework events, street fairs etc., they will use some of the money to purchase supplies for the EMT class and some of the money will be used to support some Emergency Operations Center functionality.

Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to Waive the Rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

Chairwoman Nacerino thanked Interim Commissioner Lipton for that update.

**Item#11- School Safety Update/ Putnam County Agencies**

Chairwoman Nacerino welcomed everyone who was present for this item. She opened the discussion with a few remarks of her own. She stated it was clear based on the correspondence and comments made at past meetings of the Legislature, that you wanted to hear from the Putnam County Government. She stated the Putnam County Legislature acknowledges and understands that the TikTok incident, which occurred several weeks ago, has had a profound effect on you, your children and many residents throughout the County. She stated it was abhorrent and deplorable. She continued to make her statement, which in summary expressed that the Putnam County Legislature emphatically denounces systemic racism, bias, and discrimination in any form. She stated the Putnam County Government is committed to cultivating a strong awareness of respect, dignity, and inclusion for all residents. She stated many have questioned what the Putnam County Government is doing. She stated as Chairwoman of the Protective Services Committee, she has invited Sheriff Kevin McConville, District Attorney Robert Tendy, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, Mental Health and the Youth Bureau Mike Piazza and Sara Servadio, and Scott Rhodes, Chairman of the Community Engagement & Police Advisory Board (CEPAB) to this meeting. She stated they have all been invited to provide insight to the effort the County agencies are doing regarding school safety. She stated keeping our kids, teachers, and staff safe is paramount. She continued by stating while the Legislature is sensitive to the issues, the Legislature has no vested authority over outside municipalities, such as school districts and the Legislature is not law enforcement. She stated tonight this committee is offering a listening session. She stated your concerns are important to the members of this Legislature. She stated she will begin by having the panel of speakers address everyone and at the conclusion of that she will open the floor for questions and comments. She stated each person wishing to speak will do so from the podium to address the committee and begin by stating their full name and the town they live in and please use the

signup sheet that is on the podium. She reminded everyone that this is an official meeting and the policies and procedures that are set forth will be abided. She stated anyone wishing to speak will have the ability to do so. She requested that the Legislative Body be respected by each person wishing to speak. She stated each speaker will refrain from shouting, interrupting, and using disparaging remarks. She stated the purpose of this meeting is to listen to one another, working together as one community, neighbor to neighbor, friend to friend. She stated Sheriff McConville will begin, followed by District Attorney Tendy, and then Commissioner Piazza and Deputy Commissioner Servadio and CEPAB Chairman Rhodes.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated in February 2023 they were called to a local School District to investigate a report of a possible threat to the district and the community. He stated collectively with School District Staff all appropriate and necessary measures were directed to threat assessment measures. He stated all the information developed and the facts available at the time led the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and the School District's Administrators to conclude that no viable threat was presented. He stated the Bureau of Criminal Investigation personnel performed a threat assessment concerning this matter. He explained that involves an analysis of: the threat or the concerning behavior, historical school data, fact gathering using human and technology and school assets. He stated a development of an attack plan must be determined to see if the individual(s) have the capability or thought process and the ability to carry out that threat, including the possession or accessibility to weapons is a factor that is considered. He stated the mental and social status of those involved is a factor as well. He continued by stating an analysis of trigger events such as emotions, anger, behavioral changes at school, at home, with and among friends are all taken into consideration. He stated family situations, deaths, divorces, employment and financial issues, criminal and/or civil actions, which include but are not limited to forensic examination of all available electronic devices by a certified forensic examiner employed by the Putnam County Sheriff's Office are all part of the evaluation. He stated interviews of individuals involved are conducted. He stated the students thought they would make money and be funny, in this particular instance. He stated the students denied that any of them intended to cause alarm or harm to any students at any time and they were just experimenting with making a video game. He stated whether or not any student had access to firearms was addressed. He stated after an extensive investigation it was concluded that they did not. He stated the Putnam County Sheriff's Office further investigated and reviewed all evidence and information to determine whether or not any New York State's criminal statutes had been violated, and whether there was a lawful basis warranting arrests. He stated the conduct of three (3) juveniles, all of which occurred exclusively in their efforts to develop a Fortnite type video combat game, wherein an electronically stimulated game characters engaged in battles in a school, simulating to be the George Fisher Middle School of the Carmel School District. He stated the videos featured hateful speech, racial verbiage and depict a battle between fictional characters in an empty school. He stated all alarming, offending and threatening conduct, however, exclusively occurs within the game and associated videos. He stated from the characters to the school identified as the George Fisher Middle School (GFMS) to the verbal speech content all was artificially and electronically created using various applications and artificial intelligence in the specific context of developing a game. He stated the involved students commenced the game development because they, inexplicably, thought it would be funny. He explained they thought by altering a popular game, Fortnite, using a local school setting, GFMS would reach their goal of making money and receiving "likes". He stated while

the videos were grossly offensive the evidence further suggests their intent was to create a parody. He stated the investigation revealed that only the Carmel Central School District's gaming page was posted on-line. He stated a group text, however, was sent to 19 participants, including the organizers, using an app known as Discord. He stated based on their collective investigation they do not believe nor find grounds on the basis to conclude these students had any intent to alarm or threaten anyone, and possessed no self-awareness that their video game could be perceived as such. He stated what was not found is as important as what was found. He stated there was no evidence that there was a plan to attack this or any other school. He stated there was no evidence suggesting any intent or desire to cause fear or intimidation. He stated their investigation found no evidence that steps had been taken by these individuals to plan or carry out an attack. He stated to the contrary the evidence discovered focused solely on the creation of the game and nothing to suggest there existed any objective beyond that. He stated the Putnam County Sheriff's Office reviewed this case with the Putnam County District Attorney's Office. He stated the District Attorney's staff reviewed the video data, the Sheriff's Office internal case information, review of the applicable and appropriate penal law and case precedence. He stated the conclusion provided by the District Attorney's Office was that no criminal conduct had been committed by the students in this case and therefore criminal charges were not warranted. He continued, without getting into specifics, that the Sheriff's Office interviewed the students, the families, and the school staff members. He expanded on the different approaches to such interviews. He repeated they found the behavior and the verbiage presented by these students to be appalling and intolerable. He concluded in this instance all aspects of the investigation were undertaken and led the Sheriff's Department along with the District Attorney's Office to conclude that criminal charges were inappropriate at this time because no crime had been committed. He stated this is a school matter to be handle by the school under the terms of the agreement with the parents and the students.

District Attorney Robert Tendy stated the first thing the School and the Sheriff's Office did was to make sure that the children were safe. He stated threat assessment and protection of children is paramount. He stated they did an excellent job in this regard, well before the District Attorney's Office got involved in this matter. He stated what went into the decision of whether to arrest the students or not had to do with the law and our State and nothing else. He stated due process is real, it is something his office takes very seriously. He stated it is perhaps the most important issue for any District Attorney's Office. He stated when his office was made aware of the videos, the first thing they did was watch them and examine the language used in them to determine if a crime was committed. He stated the language, content and the context were examined. He stated they looked at who made the videos, what was their intent, why were they made and to whom were the videos sent. He stated the intentions of why the students made the videos had to be determined. He stated they had to look at what motivated the creation of the videos, did they have a specific targeted audience, did their decision to make the videos arise out of an intent to target, terrorize, and intimidate a specific person or specific group of people and did they actually disseminate these videos to a specific person or group of people in order to intimidate, target or terrorize them. He stated they looked at how these videos got disseminated on social media and who published the videos on TikTok and what motivated them to do so. He stated very soon after the videos surfaced on the internet his office received phone calls from several individuals wanting to know why the students had not been arrested and charged with various crimes. He stated it does not happen that quickly. He explained due process requires an

investigation into all the details of this incident. He stated a decision to charge a person with a crime is only made after they have all of the facts. He stated again, due process requires that. He stated after the investigation was concluded, that there was no violation of the penal law of the State of New York. He stated were the statements on the video disgusting, racist and abhorrent, yes. He stated were the words frightening to many, yes. He stated should the statements made on the video be universally condemned, yes. He stated but that does not mean a crime was committed against the penal law of the State of New York. He stated also, he must abide by the New York State's Raise the Age statute. He stated even if there were charges brought against these three (3) students his office would have no jurisdiction over it, their case would be in Family Court. He stated the students are being appropriately disciplined by the School District, and no students were ever in danger. He stated yesterday he attended a Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony. He stated he hated what he saw there, hated the awful things that were done, but he cannot imagine how much more the Jewish people at the ceremony hate it more than he does. He stated he cannot imagine how people of color feel when they hear these words, he hates them, but he cannot imagine what it dredges up for people of color. He stated this incident happened because of three (3) really stupid kids, which in some way is fortunate. He stated he had no grounds to arrest the three (3) kids. He stated they are being appropriately disciplined and that is always his concern with any case. He stated he must ask himself, "what does due process permit me to do"? He stated some of you may disagree with the decision, but he has to make his decision based on what he thinks the law requires. He stated not only is he protecting the rights of the defendants, but he is protecting the rights of everyone.

Commissioner of Mental Health, Social Services and the Youth Bureau Mike Piazza stated the response from these departments to this incident is three-fold. He stated first, they are working with the Sheriff and all the Law Enforcement Agencies, including the FBI, to be part of the threat assessment team. He stated they will intervene when investigations of potential, rumored threats come to their attention. He stated Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health, Social Services and the Youth Bureau Sara Servadio was one (1) of 25 people invited by the FBI to attend, in Washington D.C., a special threat assessment training in September of 2022. He stated that she is a major part of the County's efforts in these regards. He stated second is their response as a mental health community. He stated individual students and groups who are experiencing anxiety and fear elicited by these threats, whether real or rumored. He stated this response would involve the availability of crisis counseling in the school, through the Regional Crisis Team of BOCES and the Community partnering agencies in the County. He stated they offer counseling and other supportive services to adolescents, children and their families in the community. He stated there are waiting lists, which is a real concern, but when there is an incident that occurs, special services are set up to address the immediate need and bypass the traditional need to wait for availability. He stated the day when the GFMS went back into session the Crisis Response Team was at GFMS as well as the Carmel High School. He stated they were available to students, staff, faculty, and parents who were anxious and afraid. He stated Deputy Commissioner Servadio was at GFMS in the morning and the afternoon was at the Carmel High School. He stated that he was at GFMS in the afternoon. He stated there were other counselors, therapists, and clinical staff that were there also. He stated the third element of intervention is to respond in a therapeutic way to those who make the threats. He stated what they have been working to reduce, for years, is to reduce the incidents of bullying and the isolation that bullying results in. He stated some threats are made by children and adults because

people feel so isolated. He stated they feel they have no voice or a positive way to vent how they are feeling. He stated without a person who can be confide in and feel safe doing so with, they have learned from Columbine that there can be tragic results to that isolation. He stated the work that Schools do in their anti-bullying campaigns is instrumental in this effort and they support those efforts. He stated finally, the program Handle With Care, with the Sheriff's Department and other Law Enforcement Agencies make a confidential alert to the school a child attends, to notify the school that the child has had an incident in their life outside of school, such as a fire in the home, or car accident, any incident that would have prevented the child from sleeping. He stated this program provides the school this information, so that they know to provide some extra special supports to that child. He stated these preventative measures that help the schools provide extra support to all the students. He stated essentially these are the four (4) ways in which we respond to these types of cases. He stated in addition to the fact that they are available for counseling and to help in any way.

Chairman, Community Engagement & Police Advisory Board Scott Rhodes began by greeting the Chairwoman, Legislators and attendees of the meeting. He stated the Community Engagement & Police Advisory Board (CEPAB) was formed a few years ago for the purpose to make recommendations to law enforcement. He stated CEPAB is to act an intermediary between the community and law enforcement. He stated CEPAB's goal is to make and push recommendations into actionable items. He stated he wanted to speak to one (1) thing CEPAB has done recently in lieu of everything that has been going on in Putnam County and the school districts. He stated they hosted a productive roundtable discussion with community stakeholders and school experts as their panelists, on April 1, 2023. He stated valuable information was collected and packaged into a format that they would like to present to the Sheriff, Legislature and school representatives. He stated they are planning to host a 2<sup>nd</sup> roundtable in the upcoming weeks. He invited everyone in the meeting room to attend the upcoming meeting and voice your and opinions heard, give constructive feedback and any actionable items you would like see going forth. He stated the package of information from the first roundtable was done so in three (3) different areas 1. Empowering parents 2. Effective and Timely Communication 3. Building Trust. He spoke to each of these different areas and the recommendations that CEPAB has to address them. He stated over the past two (2) years they have had extensive meetings with the Sheriff and have met with him on a regular basis. He stated as a result of those meetings there was an Implicit Bias Training that was conducted by the Sheriff's Department. He stated there were roughly 40 individuals from the Sheriff's Department who took that training. He stated that CEPAB has been invited to sit in on the next training. He stated Body Worn Cameras, have been instituted and that is in addition to a new CRM System that is being used. He stated the CRM System gathers all information that occurs related to law enforcement, ex: traffic stops, arrests, etc. and stores the data in one central data base. He stated the Use of Force Policy is out on the Sheriff's website as of today. He stated that was because of a recommendation from CEPAB. He stated for those who think CEPAB is not working to fight for the community and working closely with law enforcement, he provided all this information to let people know they are working for you, the community, and our children. He requested that everyone come together as a community. He stated we will not agree on everything the goal is to come to some kind of commonality.

Chairwoman Nacerino thanked everyone who was present and who spoke. She stated she agrees with CEPAB Chairman Rhodes we need to work together as one community neighbor to neighbor friend to friend. She stated she looks forward to the continued work with the members of CEPAB.

Legislator Sayegh thanked Sheriff McConville, District Attorney Tendy, Commissioner Piazza, Deputy Commissioner Servadio and Chairman Rhodes for providing their information. She also thanked Chairwoman Nacerino for putting this matter on the April Protective Services Agenda. She stated we are here for the sake of our children, to provide safety, security and resources that support them. She stated there is nothing more important than our children, and she believes that is why we are all so passionate about this issue. She stated a healthy and constructive dialogue is so important to quell fear and for understanding each other. She stated it seems every day we are hearing of some tragedy in the United States affecting our kids, and it strikes fear into every parent, which she certainly relates to. She stated we need to understand what we can do, what we are doing and how to quell the fears. She stated she does not know the motivation that was behind the social media post, and she will not speculate. She stated we are talking about children here, and it starts with education and understanding. She stated racism is ignorance and hatred, pure and simple, and it is not to be tolerated here or anywhere else. She stated she was raised to treat others the way she wants to be treated and that needs to carry over to what is posted in social media. She stated kids are learning to belittle and berate one another online from adults who do the same thing. She stated our role as Legislators is not to police social media, or parent these kids, but what we can do is provide the resources mentioned tonight to families and the community. She stated a priority to support the mental health needs of our community is paramount. She stated she was also attending the Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 16<sup>th</sup>. She stated, Holocaust Remembrance Day started today, April 17<sup>th</sup> at sundown. She stated many of Putnam County's elected officials were present at the event. She stated there was a powerful presentation given. She provided an overview of it. She stated in closing the message from the presentation was we need to educate our youth and when we see racism we need to name it and not perpetuate the mistakes of the past. She stated as the presentation program emphasized let us all learn lessons from the past to create a safer, better future. She stated she is certain that is why we are all here, and she thanked everyone for being in attendance.

Legislator Addonizio expressed her appreciation for the presence and the information that was shared by the Sheriff, District Attorney, and Commissioner of DSS, Mental Health and Youth Bureau and Chairman of CEPAB. She stated their presentation of the protocols used here in Putnam County for School Safety was very informative. She stated she believes we all want what is best for our community. She agrees with what CEPAB Chairman Rhodes spoke to when he mentioned the importance of effective and timely communication and building trust. She stated that is what needs to be done, we need to build trust in our community.

Legislator Montgomery stated we heard this evening no crime was committed, and she believes the public is not happy with that answer. She stated about two (2) years ago she initiated a Human Rights Commission. She stated all but one (1) Legislator that was on the Legislature at that time, voted it down. She stated that would have created a resource to educate, to prevent and to have these discussions in Putnam County, which she believes for decades have failed to done in Putnam County. She stated she listened to Legislator Sayegh tonight and she expressed

her concern around the holidays about antisemitism. She stated what are we doing? She questioned what are we going to do keep attending ceremonies. She stated personally, she is done attending ceremonies she wants to do something, and she tried by proposing the Humane Rights Commission, which she believes would have helped assist in this situation. She questioned if the Legislature would reconsider the formation of a Human Rights Commission. She stated she hopes so because she believes such a Commission would address this matter.

Legislator Jonke expressed his appreciation to the Sheriff and District Attorney for their presentation. He stated, they presented that they thoroughly examined the incident and there was no crime committed. He stated Commissioner Piazza and Deputy Commissioner Servadio, addressed the mental health assessment and were sure that the students were not going to harm anyone in the community. He stated CEPAB Chairman Rhodes is a volunteer, and he thanked him for his volunteerism. He stated Mr. Rhodes stepped up two (2) years ago and has positively affected our community and challenged the former Sheriff and the current Sheriff in terms of law enforcement to do better in Putnam County. He stated for that he is very thankful to Mr. Rhodes. He stated there is no place in Putnam County for racism. He stated we have condemned it verbally. He stated he does not know what to do from this point forward, but we are all neighbors, and we need to watch out for each other.

Legislator Crowley started by citing a quote from Maya Angelou “Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible”. She stated she believes we need to do better as a community and as a government and as parents. She stated she believes we have become desensitized and that is a problem. She stated mental health accessibility needs to be prioritized. She stated she believes as government officials we need to spend more time doing things like we have done tonight across the board. She stated having roundtable discussions with our neighbors, with our community, with our local cops. She stated she believes we need to continue these discussions until we reach a point where it is no longer desensitized, and we can have discussions and come up with problem solving ideas. She thanked everyone for being present, and she stated she was sorry.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated next the floor would be open to the members of the public. She stated comments need to be addressed to the committee and not directed to the panel of speakers.

Linda Harris, Resident of Kent, stated her appreciation for the information that was presented and stated there was no crime committed. She expressed her appreciation for being allowed to speak. She spoke to the handout that she presented to the Legislators at the April 4, 2023, Full Meeting. She stated we need to all think about how our children feel when those derogatory verbal attacks are said to them. She stated in her opinion these racist phrases she presented to the Legislature are taught to children by their parents. She stated her opinion regarding racism is in order to be an American you need to be racist first. She stated at the Full Meeting in August, your constituents were told the discussion of securing the safety of our children was not on the agenda, she stated in essence they were told the discussion of the children’s lives could wait. She stated Legislator Nacerino stated the process needed to be respected. She stated in her opinion sticking to the process is not sensible when faced with extraordinary circumstances. She stated she would like the Legislature to add another vocabulary word to their process “pivot”. She stated it is her opinion that when the constituents and people you work for demand your

attention on a matter, one which they believe will save lives, the Legislature should “pivot”. She continued to speak to this point. She stated she believes the threats from these three (3) are so much more than juvenile pranks. She spoke to her interpretation of the seven (7) TikTok videos and her opinion of some of the actions of the Sheriff’s Department. She stated in her opinion, if people are not held accountable, or scared what deters other people from doing the same thing. She stated without that, people will copycat the behavior. She stated one of the Sergeants at the Sheriff’s office said that he would give the training on how to survive an active shooter, if there are at least five (5) people and up to 100 in a class. She suggested the people in the meeting room all take the training.

Chairwoman Nacerino verified the list that Ms. Harris submitted to the Legislature at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, she personally gave to the Clerk for distribution to all of the Legislators the next working day. She stated that she brought this matter forward on tonight’s agenda in order to hear everyone’s voice. She stated she did not pivot to do this, it is evidence that this Legislature does care and she hoped Ms. Harris realizes how much hers profounds statements resonates with the Legislators.

Jason Whitehead, Resident of Brewster, stated he has two (2) children that have gone through the Brewster School District. He stated he has been a prosecutor for eight (8) years and worked for a judge for five (5) years. He stated currently he works in the Law Department of Westchester County for County Executive George Latimer. He stated Scott Rhodes asked him to join CEPAB, and he did. He referred back to the comment made by Legislator Jonke. He stated volunteering is tough. He stated Scott Rhodes does the work for CEPAB after work and on the weekends. He has invested a great deal of time to his formation and participation of CEPAB. He offered his praise to Scott Rhodes and all the members of CEPAB’s for their dedication. He stated based on the information shared this evening, it is clear that the Sheriff and District Attorney did their threat assessment. He questioned why the Putnam County Attorney was not present at this meeting. He stated the County Attorney’s Office is the Office that would address juvenile delinquent cases. He stated he believes the County Attorney may have had a different statement to make in terms of Juvenile Delinquent charges. He cited penal law 490.20 “Making a terroristic threat”. He stated he has handled cases like that in Westchester County. He stated when looking at someone’s intent there is subjective intent and an objective intent. He continued to speak to his opinion of how this matter could have been handled, and he believed it was a matter that should have been handled in Family Court. He stated in closing he does not understand why we have not heard from the Putnam County Attorney regarding this matter.

Abigail Lyons, Resident of Carmel, stated she had several questions. She expressed her appreciation, that the Sheriff and District Attorney addressed them. She stated it has been nine (9) weeks before she has heard from this Legislature regarding this matter. She stated she does have a question related to something the District Attorney said. She stated he said they cannot investigate quickly, and they cannot just put the cuffs on these kids within a few days. She stated a few weeks ago there was an incident with a Snapchat incident that involved a 7<sup>th</sup> Grader in the Middle School, within three (3) hours they were told that student was going to Family Court. She spoke to her interpretation of the Snapchat video versus the TikTok videos and her opinion of why these two (2) incidents were handled differently. She explained she as a black mother stood in front of the Legislature on April 4<sup>th</sup> and was told that it wasn’t the time or place

to speak to these incidents after waiting weeks. She stated she called the County Executive's Office and spoke to the Secretary who said he would get back to her, he never did. She stated she also called the District Attorney's Office, he never called back either. She stated the reason she was calling is because she wanted the answers that were provided today, or at least be informed that something was being done. She stated instead there was silence everywhere. She stated when she keeps hearing this is not Putnam County, these are not our values, there is no racism here, in her opinion those are lies. She stated she did not understand why the Sheriff's staff had walked out of this meeting. She spoke to her frustration based on her experience at a school forum that she attended. She stated they brought their fight to the School District and are doing everything they possibly can there, because they know there is work to be done there. She stated their fight is also here because we put you in those seats. She stated in her opinion, you are all sitting up there lying. She continued with her accusations towards the Legislators. She stated it is her opinion there is racism in this County. She stated she went through the Schools in this County and graduated from Carmel High School, and she chose to stay here because she thought it changed. She stated to be told those kids made the videos because they thought it would make them popular, she does not believe that. She stated she believes if this occurred in New York City, it would have been handled much differently, possibly resulting in arrests. She stated Putnam County is approximately 50 miles north of the City, and she does not understand the discrepancy in how this matter has been handled. She stated in her opinion there is no change here. She stated at her local grocery store in Carmel, ShopRite, she has been stopped about three (3) times in the last year at the checkout line to check her cart. She stated she believes things need to change. She stated unfortunately those kids will be back in school, and that is a fight they will take up with the School Board. She stated she feels the way she has been treated by specific people on the Legislature and some community members in the last nine (9) weeks has been horrible. She stated she learned about CEPAB during this process. She stated in her opinion to learn of CEPAB and to hear they are to serve as a liaison and she did not hear anything from them for weeks, that was terrifying to her. She read from an email she sent to the Legislature (4/10/2023), requesting issues of racism, sexism, and discrimination against LGBTQ communities be discussed. She explained she was going to read it so everyone will understand how hard she is fighting for things to stay on people's agendas, and that people understand they are taking credit for things that the parents are doing. She stated the School Board did it also.

Chairwoman Nacerino expressed her appreciation to Abigail Lyons for her heartfelt comments. She stated in her opening statement she addressed the fact that we still have issues to be addressed, such as eliminating any racial inequalities that still exist. She explained the members of the Legislature cannot speak to the law enforcement decisions and the process that was carried out. She stated upon receipt of Abigail Lyon's email on April 10, 2023, this agenda item was already on the April agenda. She stated at the Full Meeting on April 4, after the Legislative Chair explained the matter was not a matter on said agenda, she immediately stated she would put it on the Protective Services Agenda. She stated she agrees that everyone in this community needs to feel accepted, and that is why we are all here tonight. She stated she values working to do better. She stated it is her hope that together we can form a coalition of acceptance, regardless of color, creed, or sexual orientation. She stated the County Law Department is very well aware of the situation at hand. She stated we had heard about the TikTok videos but had not seen them until after the March Protective Services meeting. She stated after that meeting, they were sent to her and she did see them.

Legislator Montgomery clarified that she did know about the videos.

Norma Peirera, Resident of Carmel, read a definition of racism. She encouraged the Legislators to listen to the parents and to her, a Grandmother. She stated that she loves Putnam County. She stated that she has worked very hard to change a broken system.

Sheriff Kevin McConville who was standing in the doorway of the capacity filled meeting room requested to provide clarification. He stated he requested the members of the Sheriff's Command Staff to step into the hallway so they could give up their seats in the meeting room #318, to make room for members of the public, who were standing in the hallway because there were no vacant seats. He stated each of his Department Members are still standing in the hall and they are all available to answer any questions.

Andrew DeStefano, Resident of Patterson, stated he has been a resident of Putnam County for 22 years. He stated he would like to speak to a topic that he has been studying and has certification in, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). He spoke to the four (4) principles of CPTED: natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement and maintenance of property and border. He stated during the court case in Florida regarding the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, which occurred on February 14, 2018, his professor was called to testify to speak strictly to CPTED. He stated that is how important this information is. He continued to speak to CPTED assessments and his assessment of the Matthew Patterson Elementary School. He stated the Matthew Patterson Elementary School was built in 1971. He stated that was way before the need to consider CPTED as a result of school shootings, bullying, etc. He continued to speak to the approach of CPTED and some of the changes that could be made in the Putnam County Schools. He concluded he would gladly volunteer to go to the schools, free of charge, and do a site assessment.

Jean Hopper, Resident of Mahopac, stated she is a resident of Putnam County, 30 years. She stated that she raised both of her children here. She stated her opinion as to whether Carmel is racist. She then requested that everyone have an open mind, and not resist because of fears, because she believes that is what racism is, fear and ignorance. She stated as a white woman who has lived here for 30 years, she has seen and heard racism. She stated some topics that she believes should be addressed, the need for a human rights commission, affordable housing, ban on books etc. She stated it is her opinion that a political party majority Legislature lacks diversity, new ideas, inclusion, and the voice of all the people. She continued to speak to her hope that everyone works towards a more diverse, enriched community.

Jim Wise, Resident of Carmel, stated he has two (2) kids in the George Fisher Middle School. He quoted some verbiage from some of the said TikTok videos. He stated as Mr. Whitehead stated New York has a law related to making terroristic threats and this law has an element that objectively states there must seem to be an intent to frighten a community. He stated what was said on those videos, in his opinion, objectively is a threat to a community. He stated he does not believe there is a requirement that the students have to actually intend to carry out the action. He cited an incident in the Brewster School District that occurred on March 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated the

Sheriff's Department immediately investigated the situation and on the same day a notice was sent out to the community providing an update. He stated on March 22<sup>nd</sup> a similar incident occurred in the Brewster School District, again the Sheriff's Department was immediate and an update and transparency to the process was provided. He stated on March 23<sup>rd</sup> a 12 year old made a vague statement on Snapchat in a group chat with other students, he stated the Sheriff's Department made an arrest in three (3) hours, in his opinion, in contrast to what was shared earlier. He stated the parents were given transparency about the situation. He continued to cite other threats that were made and stated there were immediate responses. He stated however in February when three (3) students made the statements he read and created a video that demonstrated the violence, and the setting was an exact layout of the George Fisher Middle School, there was no transparency from the Sheriff's Department, no transparency from the School District, which he knows does not fall under the Legislature's jurisdiction. He stated this void of information makes people feel unsafe in the community and gives rise to rumors. He stated one of the rumors is that one (1) of the three (3) students is connected, because of how quickly it all seemed to be swept under the rug. He continued to express himself on what he has heard in relation to this incident. He stated he would like the Legislature to ask the District Attorney if one of the three (3) students is related to someone who works in the District Attorney's office, because that is a rumor in the community.

Evelyn Joseph, Resident of Carmel, stated she just moved to Carmel six (6) months ago. She stated she has a grandson in the elementary school. She stated he has experienced racism. She stated he came home and told her about the incident which involved a student calling him a racially derogatory name and he told her he called the student a name back. She stated they ended up in the Principal's Office and it was worked out. She stated, in her opinion she has experienced racism. She stated she has been followed by a Sheriff's Deputy three (3) times as she has driven to work, early in the morning. She stated that she also feels that she has received unwelcoming looks from employees at the ShopRite grocery store. She stated in one instance she asked to speak to an employee's Supervisor, and after that she has received more of a welcome. She stated her opinion is the three (3) students who made the said videos should be arrested. She stated that an example needs to be made to prevent other kids from doing something like this.

Eileen McDermott, Resident of Brewster, and a representative of Putnam Pride. She questioned how this meeting was publicized. She stated there are more people in the community who need to hear this and have their voice heard also. She stated the videos targeted black and brown students. She stated there have been 164 mass shootings in the United States. She stated in her opinion, these videos should not be taken lightly. She stated it is her opinion the culture of racism and homophobia exists. She stated until these parents spoke up, she believes what we have witnessed is a total silence and dismissal of their concerns. She urged this Legislature, particularly this committee to be proactive in responding to these issues in the future. She stated her belief is even though the Legislature does not have the power to arrest anybody, the Legislature's voice sets the tone. She stated this is a reactive meeting and she says the same to CEPAB. She stated until the parents demanded it, there was no comment from CEPAB. She stated now when we hear comments from the Sheriff's Department and CEPAB the credit goes to these parents, who refused to sweep this under the rug and stay silent. She stated that she echoes Legislator Montgomery's comments about the Human Rights Commission. She continued to speak to her opinion about this matter. She requested that Sheriff McConville be

brought into the meeting and address the discrepancies between the handling of the many incidents that have been pointed out.

Sheriff McConville stated the determination is made based on the facts and evidence that is collected, that is shared with the District Attorney's Office and they make the decision if the case will be prosecuted or not. He stated each case while they seem alike, is significantly different based on the facts that are developed.

Andre Lyons, Resident of Carmel, questioned if the differences between the incidents could be shared.

District Attorney Robert Tendy, stated he needs to speak generally, otherwise he is broadcasting how to commit a crime properly. He continued a general explanation. He stated an opinion is not formulated by what someone claims. He stated as much evidence as possible is collected and a determination is based on the evidence. He stated if you think the actions of the District Attorney Office is coming from anywhere other than a place of severe desire to fairly and justly enforce the law, you are simply mistaken. He stated you do not need to agree with it.

Jim Wise, Resident of Carmel, requested that the District Attorney address the persistent rumors in the County that one (1) of the three (3) children has a relative in the District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Tendy stated that is not true. He stated also he cannot use anyone in order to set an example to others, if he does not have the legal authority to do it, that would be unjust.

Legislator Ellner requested the Carmel Board of Education Member who is in the audience, speak to this matter.

Carmel Board of Education Member John Curzio stated he is not going to comment on the law enforcement part of this. He stated the School District obviously condemns in the strongest terms the racist, vial, hatred comments that were in the videos. He stated they are working with several agencies, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Attorney General's Office amongst others. He stated they are working to bring in various classes for training to combat systemic racism in the schools.

MaryAnn Carpenter, Resident of Holmes, she clarified that her children attend the Carmel Schools. She stated she attended the Carmel schools growing up. She stated in her opinion the community has not gone further in the way people are accepted. She stated when she attended the Carmel Schools, she saw racism and bullying which still goes on today. She stated unfortunately these incidents are still not being handled in ways that would deter future occurrences. She spoke to a personal incident where she was at a kindergarten play date at the Kent Elementary School with her child. She stated the parents of the children at the play date formed a circle and were engaging in a very racist conversation involving Muslims and that they did not agree with the schools' teachings about Muslims or about how black history is being taught. She stated she is a teacher, and she believes many teachers feel fear to teach history the way it actually happened. She stated she would like to see change in this community. She continued to speak to the matter.

Cindy Trimble, Resident of Cold Spring, stated 40 years ago she married a black man, and her son is half black. She stated she has lived in Cold Spring her entire life. She stated she went to school with the Sheriff. She stated without one hesitation of a doubt Kevin McConville, the Putnam County Sheriff, is not a racist. She stated she believes it is unfair to paint with a broad brush that the members of the Legislature are racist. She stated she can say there is a lot of good energy in the room, but believes the energy needs to be brought to the schools. She stated in her opinion there is still a need for more security in the Putnam County Schools. She stated she approached Haldane Schools a few years ago about putting in metal detectors and armed security in the schools. She stated their response was they did not want the schools looking like a jail. She stated in our world there are metal detectors and armed security in many areas of our world to protect things, except we do not do it to protect our most precious commodity, our children. She stated the pressure needs to be put on the schools. She stated if a shooter comes to a school the children need to be protected from the front doors in. She stated she is retired from law enforcement and that is the way she thinks. She stated she heard tonight a lot about your feelings towards the Legislators, but she did not hear what it is that you want to the Legislature to do. She stated she believes what you want them to do is what should be communicated.

Legislator Montgomery stated she would like this Legislature to establish a Human Rights Commission.

Chairwoman Nacerino facilitated additional comments from the members of the audience who had previously addressed the Committee and members of the Legislature.

Chairman Nacerino thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and expressing themselves. She stated there is a lot of work being done in Putnam County, including the establishment of CEPAB, which has been said several times consists of residents who volunteer their time. She stated there is good work being done in our County to unite our community and not divide it. She stated there is another agenda item to address and another meeting. She stated tonight is a catalyst for change and we have made great strides from being together and listening to one another.

#### **Item#12 - Update/ Team-Up for School Safety Program/ Sheriff Kevin McConville**

Chairwoman Nacerino stated she and Sheriff McConville have been speaking about the program “Team-Up for School Safety” for a while. She stated Legislator Crowley has also requested to have this topic discussed in Committee.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated the “Team-Up for School Safety” program emanated from the Tops Grocery Store shooting in Buffalo, New York and the school shooting that occurred in Uvalde, Texas. He stated after those incidents occurred the Sheriff’s Department changed their deployment strategy to show a greater presence at the school in a random organized structure to provide greater security and physical presence. He stated they did a full threat assessment and took actions, as stated earlier: put into use technology, human intelligence, and studying active shooters in a variety of settings and environments. He stated at the time he received a call from then County Executive Odell, requested an in-depth briefing of the steps the Sheriff’s

Department had been taking. He stated she came up with the concept to allocate \$2 million of funding (American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA Funds) to target harden some of the schools in Putnam County. He stated the intent of said funding was to provide an equal level of security and target harden schools within Putnam County. He stated they met with the schools and had discussions with the Youth Bureau Supervisors and School Resource Officers. He stated they also met with the school Superintendents and requested that they develop a “wish list” and once received the lists would be reviewed and researched. He stated the process began in June of 2022, the “wish list” did not begin to come into the Sheriff’s Department until September of 2022. He stated a variety of requests came in. He stated they reviewed those that were submitted and they allocated funding for the particular schools districts. He stated they are in the process of purchasing some items. He explained one item in response to the research of his Command Staff, is a system called Door Ajar. He stated it provides an audio and visual alert if a door is propped open. He stated 50% of the school districts declined the use of the Door Ajar System and 50% have requested the Door Ajar System. He stated they are in the process now of assuring they are in compliance with the ARPA standards and rules. He stated they also researched a number of different programs, applications and devices reported to propose school security in different buildings. He stated they did not have enough funding to purchase bullet resistant glass. He stated so they researched and found methodologies that would level the playing field across the schools. He stated in December of 2022 they came across a vendor that utilizes existing Wi-Fi in schools that do a number of different security related activities that would improve the ability of the school to respond to an incident, make notification and to have law enforcement respond urgently. He stated they did a demonstration in January of 2023. He stated all the schools were invited and Superintendents were notified if they could not attend, sending a representative was permitted. He stated only few came to the demonstration. He stated the demonstration solidified their confidence in this system that it would be functional in each of the Putnam County Schools. He stated they met with the County’s Commissioner of Finance and the Director of Purchasing to be compliant with the ARPA rules on the most appropriate way to purchase what would be needed. He stated in mid-January they requested each school provide the number of laptops, mobile phones, any Wi-Fi device they would want the program deployed to as well as a lanyard with an equivalent to a panic alarm on it. He continued to speak to the features of the program. He stated they have one school that has agreed to do a trial test, so we can be sure that the program is everything they think it is and is as effective as they hope it is. He stated in the next week or so they have a meeting with said school members and their I/T Department personnel and the Vendor representatives to implement it. He stated it is a three (3) hour installation with one (1) hour training. He continued to speak to features of the program. He stated they have allocated in the last two (2) weeks \$150,000 to do work at the schools. He stated they are working with Finance and Purchasing to get that approved. He stated it is troublesome and very disheartening. He stated he has not been welcomed into every school district to meet and discuss this matter with them. He stated when he has been granted the opportunity to meet with a School District, he had with him two (2) documents: a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for urgent and immediate accesses to their internal close circuit television systems. He stated to date, they have only received one (1) MOA signed and returned to the Sheriff’s Department. He stated he has followed up with the other schools who have the MOA, and has been told they are reviewing it. He stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> MOA is access to their card access systems, so the Sheriff’s Department could gain entry. He stated the schools have been very slow in their responses to the Sheriff’s Department requests that would provide them the ability

to provide assistance and information so they can gather accurate quotes. He stated a problem is they cannot approach a vendor without a specific request. He stated in accordance with the ARPA requirements, per the Commissioner of Finance there is a clause which allows the establishment of a long-term MOA to purchase these for a five (5) year period. He stated the company he is working with does a lot of work with Federal Agencies. He spoke to a case that the company worked on. He stated they believe the programs have a tremendous amount of application. He stated they are anxiously awaiting the schools to complete their data so they can obtain an accurate cost estimate. He stated in the interim as stated one (1) school has agreed to conduct a field test. He stated once it has been completed, he will return to this Committee and provide an update.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated this sounds like a great coordinated effort. She stated it is disappointing to hear that school districts are dragging their feet on this issue.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they do not get it either. He stated all of what he has proposed to the school officials is in an effort to improve the safety in our schools for the students, the faculty, etc. He stated he is happy that Putnam County is looking to approve the bus patrol program. He stated the Sheriff's Department does not think the safety of the students begin when they arrive at the front door of the school, they believe it begins when they get on to their school bus. He stated they continue to conduct research in terms of programs that are available. He spoke to the 911 cellular program that they are looking at currently.

Chairwoman Nacerino stated the school officials cannot preach that they are supporting school safety and then not seize the opportunity to improve school safety through coordinated effort with law enforcement. She stated perhaps each Legislator should reach out to their school districts. She stated the protection and safety of the students, teachers and staff is a priority.

Legislator Addonizio suggested in reference to the bullet proof glass, possibly there would be some grants that could be applied for. She stated especially for the schools that have the glass doors at their entrance.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they are looking into a product that would be less costly. He stated it is a film that goes over the existing glass, and it would provide a level of increased safety and security. He stated once they get all the information from the schools and they know how much the 911 cellular program will cost, then they will know what the balance of ARPA funding will be and will then look into applying it to that. He stated in reference to Legislator Addonizio's question about the grants. He stated the schools would need to submit the applications. He stated some schools have grant writers. He stated he has reached out to Putnam's Senate and Assembly representatives requesting if they could identify funding sources. He stated he has a meeting coming up with the Senator in a few weeks to discuss this project.

Legislator Sayegh questioned if the schools' representatives have offered a reason for their hesitation.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated he does not have any factual information to answer that question with.

Legislator Crowley stated she spoke to one of the Mahopac Trustees, who was very excited to hear about the \$2 million ARPA funding. She questioned if the field testing needs to be approved by the ARPA Committee prior to it starting.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated no it does not.

Legislator Crowley stated we know that cellular service can be an issue in older buildings. She questioned will that affect the 911 cellular program.

Sheriff Kevin McConville explained it is dependent on the age of the school and the strength of the Wi-Fi, that is why a field test is necessary. He stated he would like to conduct a field test with a second school. He stated he has discussed that with the vendor, and they are willing. He stated the challenge is to get the second school quickly. He stated he does not want to implement it when there are only a couple of weeks of school left. He stated the 911 cellular program does not require any boosters or enhancements.

Legislator Crowley questioned when the Radio Project comes on will that help to boost the signals in the schools and address some of the safety concerns in the schools.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they are two (2) separate projects. He stated the schools were offered an equivalent of a panic button in a small radio console. He stated it is confusing as to the number of schools who have availed themselves of that free opportunity.

Legislator Ellner stated in November of 2022 he was invited to meet with the Sheriff and the members of his Command Staff. He stated that he did meet with them and was very impressed. He stated their approach was first, to be protective and harden the schools, second, God forbid we had an event at a school, they focus on what could be done to terminate the event as quickly as possible. He stated he believes we need to encourage the schools to accept any and all tools that can be provided. He stated that there is a tool that most of the deputies have, which is kept locked in their police car, it is a long gun. He stated many of the schools have offices for their School Resource Officers (SRO). He stated he would like the schools to be approached and request that they put a safe in the SRO Offices, so a deputy would not have to leave the school, should there be a horrific event.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they have researched that. He stated that unofficially has been mentioned and to date, he repeated unofficially, the schools have not been very receptive to that proposal. He stated the topic will be approached again by Captain Shepplerly with the school officials.

**Item#13 - Other Business - None**

**Item #14 - Adjournment**

There being no further business at 9:53PM Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Diane Trabulsy.