

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
March 31, 2008

Committee Members

In Attendance: Vito Pinto, Chair, William Burton, Peter Harckham, Gordon Burrows, Judy Myers, Ken Jenkins.

Guests in Attendance: CEO: Bill Randolph, Andrew Neuman DPS: Martin McGlynn, Tom Belfiore BOL: Louise Gantress, Rick Pezzullo, Alicia Maxey-Greene and Melanie Montalto.

Minutes

Chairman Pinto called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Martin McGlynn of the Department of Public Safety spoke to the Committee about agenda item number 3, proposed legislation to prohibit hand-held devices while driving. Tom Belfiore, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety joined the discussion.

The Committee discussed enforcement and the danger of driving and text messaging at the same time with Commissioner Belfiore, Martin McGlynn, and Andrew Neuman of the County Executive's Office.

The Committee questioned if the language in the legislation included using a hand held device at a red stop light. Chairman Pinto asked for a legal opinion from the Law Department.

Legislator Burton asked for revisions in the language to reflect specific incidents' and situations, including prohibiting text messaging at traffic lights and exemptions for a running car that is in the park position. The Committee agreed after much discussion and asked that the language be brought back to the Public Safety & Security and Legislation Committees.

No action was taken on the proposed legislation as the Committee is waiting for revisions.

Moved by Legislator Burrows and seconded by Legislator Harckham the minutes of March 10, 2008 were passed with a vote of 5-0.

Moved by Legislator Harckham and seconded by Legislator Burton the minutes of March 17, 2008 were passed with a vote of 5-0.

Moved by Legislator Harckham and seconded by Legislator Burton the minutes of March 25, 2008 were passed with a vote of 5-0.

Moved by Legislator Myers and seconded by Legislator Harckham the Committee on Public Safety and Security adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

A complete audio recording of this meeting is on file.