



NEW YORK STATE POLICE

INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

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421 LOUDON ROAD, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12211

Good afternoon, Senate and Assembly members. My name is Tim Dymond, and I am a Senior Investigator with the New York State Police. I am the elected President of the New York State Police Investigators Association (NYSPIA), which represents approximately 1150 State Police Senior Investigators and Investigators, located strategically throughout New York State. Our members are assigned to the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) and handle the most serious cases in every county across the state. These cases include, but are not limited to; murders, rape, robberies, burglaries, kidnappings and human trafficking. We also deal with the most highly specialized and dynamic assignments including counterterrorism, gang and undercover narcotics investigations, forensic investigations, dignitary protection, special investigations and cyber-crimes. Most recently, our members have been handling the large majority of the TERPO's and ERPO's in the rural areas of New York.

Each one of our members began their career as a New York State Police uniform Trooper. The hiring process to become a NY State Trooper is grueling and competitive, which is one the reasons the New York State Police are one of the premier Law Enforcement agencies in this great country. Our membership is comprised of hand selected, experienced Troopers that represent the very best of our agency. Their performance must stand out among their peers and they must demonstrate the intelligence, maturity and integrity to investigate the complex crimes mentioned above.

The New York State Police, as an agency, have proven to be highly adaptable to the current Law Enforcement reforms and continue to take a leadership role in the law enforcement community, while providing the highest quality law enforcement services to the citizens of New York State. To maintain this level of service, I have detailed below a few items that deserve consideration in the pending budget.

Our highest priority continues to be the replacement of retiring members within our ranks. Like most Law Enforcement agencies across the country, we are struggling with recruitment and retention. We continue to lose our most experienced members to retirement at an alarming rate. The BCI is down roughly 100 Investigators from where we were just a few years ago and realistically 200 or more Investigators from where we should be to be most effective. Most backroom BCI units and special details in the state are running at a reduced level. At the same time, the workload continues to increase exponentially due to the continuing rise in violent crime and the recent explosion of TERPO cases required by our membership to manage. In 2022, NYSPIA members handled a nearly 470% increase from 2021 in TERPO cases. Each of these cases is important and require roughly 8 hours of work to prepare for hearings. This year, we ask the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal



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of 4 additional State Police Academy recruit classes to help us replenish the ranks necessary to keep all New Yorkers safe. These recruit classes will allow the Division of State Police the ability to promote qualified Troopers to fill our BCI ranks to appropriate levels so the most serious crimes are given the attention they require.

We were pleased to hear the Governor's support for increasing the funding that is used to battle the spike in gun violence across the state. The expansion of our "Community Stabilization Units" statewide will support our attempt to thwart the rise in violent crime. These units are led by Senior Investigators and proactively address areas plagued with gun violence and serious crime. CSU has proven to be an asset by seizing hundreds of ghost guns statewide and by removing some of the most dangerous criminals our state has from the streets. New York is a safer place when these units are in the street. We ask for the Legislatures' support to expand these units and every other BCI unit that investigates gun crimes.

Lastly, we ask for the Legislature to support additional funding to bolster the ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) and CCU (Computer Crimes Unit) members across the state. Computer crime cases continue to skyrocket and our ICAC and CCU members are overworked and falling into a backlog statewide. There is no mission more important than protecting our children statewide.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to bring these issues to your attention on behalf of my membership. Your assistance with the budget concerns mentioned today will help us to maintain the highest level of professionalism that the citizens of this great state have come to expect from the New York State Police. I am confident that you will share the same concerns that we hold today while making decisions related to the NYS Budget.