



NEW YORK STATE POLICE

# INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

I.U.P.A. • LOCAL 4 AFL • CIO



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 1100 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 felony level 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.

Each one of our members were originally hired and assigned to the position of uniform Trooper, here in New York. 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 Troopers that represent the very best our agency offers. Their performance must stand out amongst their peers and they must demonstrate the intelligence and maturity to investigate the complex crimes mentioned above. The NYSPIA membership is made up of the very best Troopers, now promoted to Investigators and Senior Investigators, in the state.

The New York State Police, along with every other police agency in the country, continue to deal with historic policy changes and a job expectation that seemingly changes by the day. Our members have displayed a strength, resilience and compassion that I am incredibly proud of, through what has been the most difficult of times for Law Enforcement officers nationwide. We, as an agency, have proven to be highly adaptable to the rush of 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 out a few items that deserve consideration in the pending budget.

Our highest priority continues to be the replacement of retiring members within our ranks. We continue to lose members to retirement at a concerning pace. Last year I detailed out the extreme number of Senior Investigators that entered retirement causing a shortage amongst our Senior Investigator ranks. I am pleased to report today that the Division of State Police have filled most of these open Senior positions, no longer with "acting Seniors", but with actual Senior Investigators, for which we are thankful. Now we need to backfill the open Investigator positions that have been created. Nearly every special detail and station BCI personnel in the state are running at a reduced level while the workload continues to increase exponentially due to the continuing rise in violent crime. The Legislature can debate the causes for the increase in crime but there is no debating the fact that these crimes need to be investigated to prevent future crimes from being committed. This year we ask the Legislature to provide new recruit classes to help us replenish the ranks necessary to keep all New Yorkers safe. A substantial incoming recruit class will allow the Division of State Police the ability to fill our BCI ranks once the new Troopers assume their duties.



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We were pleased to hear the Governor's support to increase the funding that is used to battle the spike in gun violence across the state. The expansion of our "Community Stabilization Units" across the state will support our attempt to thwart the rise in violent crime. These units proactively address areas plagued with gun violence and have proven to be an asset during these trying times. We ask for the Legislatures support to expand these units and every other BCI unit that investigates gun crimes.

Last year, I asked the legislature to consider support safer, more appropriate equipment for use by the 300 BCI members working undercover in the most dangerous of conditions across the state. With your support, Division has explored this concept and approval of the updated equipment appears imminent. For this we are thankful. However, approval for use of new equipment is only the first phase. We respectfully request that the Legislature conclude this process by providing to Division the funding to purchase the firearms and related equipment to complete the project. The estimated cost is approximately \$150,000.00 and will be a small investment in the safety of the undercover police officers in dangerous situations across NYS.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to bring these important 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.