

**PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Robert C. Sassi, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, L. Stephen Brescia, Thomas J. Faggione, **Kevindaryán Luján**,
Joseph J. Minuta, James O'Donnell, Michael D. Paduch

ALSO

PRESENT: Katherine E. Bonelli, Chairwoman
Barry Cheney, Legislator
Paul Ruskiewicz, Legislator
Kathy Stegenga, Legislator
Christopher Borek, Chief Assistant District Attorney
Stephanie Midler, Assistant County Attorney
Langdon Chapman, Commissioner of Human Resources
Kerry Gallagher, Commissioner of Finance
Alicia D'Amico, Director of Operations and Cost Control
Denise Cross, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources
Gretchen Riordan, Deputy Budget Director
Liz Matis, Budget Analyst

Mr. Sassi called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All committee members were present.

Mr. Luján moved request to create two (2) Criminal Investigator positions and one (1) Assistant District Attorney position, Grade 24, for the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative Program. Positions contingent on grant funding and shall be automatically abolished upon cancellation of such funding, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Borek addressed the committee and explained that the GIVE Program is targeted for the City of Newburgh which has particularly high incidences of gun violence. The program has been very successful in Orange County with the Orange County District Attorney's Office staff and members of City of Newburgh Police Department share their experience across the state. The positions are 100% grant funded with the (2) Criminal Investigator positions being experienced detectives from within the County and one (1) Assistant District Attorney position, Grade 24, to work on violent crimes with no expense to the county.

Mr. Benton asked if the program was working in the City of Newburgh. Mr. Borek replied yes, it has worked better in the past but that is due to current changes in the program. Studies have shown that even in high crime areas it is a relatively small percentage of the population that causes the bulk of the problems.

Mr. Benton asked if arrested do they go to jail. Mr. Borek replied that Orange County has one of the best successes with getting prison sentences on gun cases.

Mr. Paduch asked if any county funds are used for the program. Mr. Borek replied no.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for clarification that these would be new positions and how many do they currently have. Mr. Borek replied yes, they have one ADA with most of the detective work at one point being done by the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if they reimburse the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Borek replied no, they are paid directly from New York State along with the City of Newburgh Police Department and the City of Newburgh. If approved by the Legislature the District Attorney's Office would receive the funds directly from New York State.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if they currently receive funds for the Assistant District Attorney (ADA) position. Mr. Borek replied that the last GIVE grant funded the ADA position and a partial investigator position.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how long the program had been in existence. Mr. Borek replied for several years.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if Mr. Borek was the original presenter of this request. Mr. Borek replied no.

Mr. O'Donnell commented that they are looking to hire (2) Criminal Investigators but have no clue on the impact to the Sheriff's Office and/or the City of Newburgh and if they could lose funding.

Mr. O'Donnell requested that the District Attorney's Office be better prepared when they come before the legislature to request funds.

Motion carried. All in favor.

On the motion of Mr. Paduch, seconded by Mr. Luján, the meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.