

Commissioner's January 2025 report to Public Safety and Law Enforcement Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I hope you all had a restful Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year. A few Public Safety initiatives from the past month:

Old Business:

- The new Domestic Terrorism Prevention billboard is up, located on Route 17 Eastbound by exit 106 – this billboard encourages individuals to report persons of concern to our Team
- I am extremely happy to announce that we have filled the Rabies Control Officer position with an incredibly qualified and dedicated individual, Joanne Gerow. Joanne hosted a meeting along with Deputy County Manager Huck and me, of Town Supervisors and Municipal Animal and Dog Control Officers to discuss what role the County plays in supporting their endeavors.
- Sheriff Schiff and I are met with the sub-committee of legislators to discuss critical communications needs. We have submitted a Resolution to this Committee looking for one-time funding and recurring funding for these solutions. To that end, I have also submitted a resolution requesting approval for the creation of a per diem position of Deputy Fire Coordinator, who will be tasked specifically with special operations coordination between the Public Safety agencies and local first responders.

New Business:

- I attended the NYS Region II Emergency Management meeting in Dutchess County
- I attended the Regional Threat Assessment and Management meeting in Ulster County
- The Sheriff's Office, 911 Center, and State and local law enforcement have fielded a number of drone sightings, although all were unconfirmed we continue to work with our FBI partners to track and report credible sightings.
- I want to acknowledge the incredible work of all of our Public Safety partners in response to a number of serious incidents over the past month. I find it difficult to put into words an adequate representation of how well everyone is collaborating and partnering, particular cross-disciplinary operations
- Lastly, I want to thank and acknowledge Commissioner Green along with all of the folks in the Division of Information Technology Services, for hosting the Cybersecurity Capabilities Workshop, as well as the Office of Counter Terrorism Cybersecurity Incident Response Team from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for their tremendous support in making it such a successful day! I think every person who attended left with a renewed sense of the importance of what ITS does to keep us as safe as possible from cyber threats.