

POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

of the **NEW YORK STATE TROOPERS, INC.**



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Statement from NYSTPBA President Charles W. Murphy Regarding the 2023-2024 Executive Budget

The New York State Troopers Police Benevolent Association (NYSTPBA), the labor union representing more than 7,000 active and retired Troopers and State Police supervisors, has historically taken a strong stance in advocating for more Troopers to be added to the New York State Police. We are referring to manpower levels of sworn members, the men and women who wear the gray uniform, patrol our highways and respond to emergencies.

We are thankful that Gov. Kathy Hochul's proposed 2023-2024 Executive Budget provides funding for four new State Police Academy classes to help make up for classes that were not able to be held during the COVID-19 pandemic. The loss of those planned classes, coupled with expected annual retirements and the ever-increasing demands being placed on New York State Troopers, has caused our manpower to be stretched to its limits. New York State Troopers are always prepared and ready to respond to whatever crisis arises.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in 2020, Troopers had the scope of their mission expanded. During the early stages of the response, the State Police were responsible for the safe transport of thousands of test samples from numerous testing sites to appropriate laboratories for analysis. We assumed new responsibilities related to the management, security and logistical support to testing and vaccination sites throughout the state. As thousands of public and private-sector employees were ordered to stay home to help prevent the spread of the virus in the early stages of the pandemic, New York State Troopers bravely showed up to work every day and risked their lives – and the lives of their families – to respond to emergency calls and assist in whatever capacity was needed.

Troopers are often the first to respond to a 911 call for emergency, including those of a medical nature. In addition to rendering first aid and even life-saving advanced medical techniques – as many of our Troopers are also trained medics – Troopers are more frequently responding to calls that involve a drug overdose. A case in Long Island in January received public attention after a Trooper had to be administered Narcan after displaying symptoms of an opioid exposure while assisting at the scene of a vehicle crash where the unconscious driver had just received a Narcan treatment.

In the traditional sense of law enforcement, community stabilization units partner the most experienced New York State Troopers with local law enforcement agencies to combat community-specific crime problems. These partnerships have proven to be an effective tool in areas across the state.

With an increase in the frequency of natural disasters and their path of destruction, just this past September the Governor ordered an overall contingent of 100 Troopers to head to Puerto Rico to aid in relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona. Troopers assisted local first responders as they navigated flood-ravaged areas during blackouts and dangerous conditions to provide help to residents during the time of crisis.

Being a New York State Trooper is a dangerous and unpredictable job, but we all feel strongly about serving and protecting the public and the communities across the state. We need the necessary tools to help carry out our mission, which is why it is of the utmost importance to increase the number of New York State Troopers.

Thank you, members of the New York State Legislature, for your time and consideration.