



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 recruitment of new Troopers and 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.



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In the past, the NYS Trooper exam would routinely get 25,000 or more applicants, and admission to the NYS Police was extremely competitive. The most recent exam, which was highly publicized, resulted in just 8,000 people taking the exam.

New member hiring has had to increase dramatically to keep pace with the number of retirements and resignations. New Troopers are being hired within six months of taking their entrance exam. Previously, it would take five years or more to get hired. The Governor budgeted for 1,000 new State Troopers to be hired in the 2023 fiscal year. While these 1,000 Troopers are a much-needed addition, most of them will just backfill openings created by retirements and resignations.

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 2023, NYSPIA members handled a nearly 1,100% increase from 2021 in TERPO cases. Each of these cases is important and requires roughly 8 hours of work to prepare for hearings.

We were pleased to hear the Governor's support for increasing the funding for additional CSU members, hate crime investigators, computer crimes investigators, federal task force officers, and now retail theft investigators. Unfortunately, the BCI does not have enough members to do all of the work associated with these investigations. These units go unfilled, largely due to the steady stream of retirements without enough qualified members available in the ranks to take their place.

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 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.