

**Testimony of Superintendent Keith M. Corlett  
Before the Legislative Fiscal Committees  
On the FY 2020-2021 Executive Budget  
February 12, 2020**

Thank you, Chairs KRUEGER and WEINSTEIN, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee, for the opportunity to discuss Governor Cuomo's Executive Budget for the Division of State Police. I am Keith Corlett, Superintendent of the New York State Police. I have served as a Trooper for nearly 35 years, and I am honored to lead the dedicated sworn and civilian members of our great agency.

I would also like to thank the Legislature for recognizing our critical mission – to protect and serve all New Yorkers. Your unwavering support has enabled the State Police to earn its reputation as one of the top law enforcement agencies in the nation.

For more than 100 years, the State Police has consistently provided a high level of professional public service. We learn and adapt to the needs of a constantly changing society, and we strive for continuous improvement in every aspect of our work.

Our mission priorities remain improving highway safety; providing professional police services and investigative support; preparing for and responding to emergencies and disasters; and detecting and preventing terrorism.

The Governor, and the State Police, recognize the dynamic nature of terrorism around the world and the persistent threats within New York. Our ever-increasing role in the State's counter-terrorism efforts help provide a wide range of counter-terrorism initiatives and capabilities enabling New York to remain one of the safest states in the country.

New York City remains a top terrorist target, and our expanded presence in the city -- primarily at mass transit hubs, and bridge and tunnel crossings -- has enhanced the collective efforts of the State and our partner agencies to detect, deter and respond to terrorism.

An emerging problem for New York State is an increasing number of serious, bias-motivated incidents, which included the horrific attack in Monsey, Rockland County, on December 28, 2019. We stand with the Governor, the legislature and all New Yorkers to condemn these incidents.

We continue to strengthen our ability to deal with these types of crimes, and assist our local partners as needed. In 2019, we conducted hate crime trainings around the State, attended by more than 400 law enforcement members.

State Police now has 120 investigators statewide who are specially trained in hate crime investigation. Additionally, we strengthened our partnership with the New York City Police Department by assigning a State Police investigator to work full time on the NYPD's hate crimes unit. Moreover, the Governor has added additional funding to the Executive Budget to further our investigative commitment and training.

The State Police is unique as the only law enforcement agency within New York with the ability to deploy large numbers of professionally trained police officers anywhere within the State and beyond, on short notice, in response to emergencies or natural disasters. We continue to partner with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to enhance disaster preparedness and response readiness. This partnership has enabled the State Police to better coordinate with state agencies and provide support to local communities following significant events.

Illegal drug use, in particular the availability of heroin, opioids and synthetic drugs such as fentanyl, along with the toll they inflict upon the abuser and their families, remains a critical public safety issue. Building on the resources and training provided over the past few years, the State Police will aggressively investigate drug-related offenses, particularly criminal trafficking, and assist local police agencies with their investigations whenever requested.

Our highest priority continues to be the safety of the public and our Troopers who protect them. With your support, the Executive Budget continues to provide our Troopers with the necessary equipment, training and other valuable resources to achieve the best levels of safety as they carry out their duties. To that end, this Executive Budget enables us to hold additional Basic School Academy classes ensuring staffing levels remain at appropriate levels.

Again, I am honored and exceedingly privileged to represent the nearly 6,000 dedicated men and women of the Division of State Police that serve and protect the people of this great State. They do so selflessly, with tremendous pride and at times with great personal sacrifice.

Thank you for your support for all of them, for the State Police and for the opportunity to address you this afternoon. I welcome any questions you may have.