

**FY 2013-2014 BUDGET TESTIMONY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE**

February 6, 2013

Thank you Chairman *DeFrancisco*, Chairman *Farrell* and distinguished members of the Committees for the opportunity to discuss with you Governor Cuomo's 2013-2014 Budget proposal for the Division of State Police. I am Joseph D'Amico, Superintendent of State Police.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Legislature for its past support of the New York State Police. Because of your support, the New York State Police continues to enjoy its well-deserved reputation as one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the nation.

Since its inception nearly a century ago, the State Police has consistently provided service through its core missions: to prevent and detect crime, to apprehend criminals and to cooperate with any other agency, whether federal, State or local. Our mission priorities include reducing the number of deaths, injuries and property damage caused by motor vehicle accidents through vehicle and traffic enforcement and education; reducing violent crime on a statewide basis; providing support to local law enforcement agencies; and serving a crucial role in the State's counter-terrorism efforts by working with federal, state and local agencies to ensure the continued safety of the people of New York State.

The State Police is unique as the only law enforcement agency in New York State with the ability to deploy large numbers of professionally trained, sworn police officers anywhere in the State on short notice in response to an emergency, whether man made or natural disaster. The State Police is also available for large-scale deployments to meet a particular, immediate need for law enforcement services in any community. Our agency experienced these type of responses for a number of reasons during this past year, the most significant being the response to Hurricane Sandy. The Governor has identified this experience as an opportunity for improvements in the State's disaster preparedness and response readiness, and we look forward to working with other agencies, to implement the recommendations of the Disaster Commissions created by the Governor to identify needed improvements.

My first and foremost priority continues to be the safety of the public and of our Troopers who protect them. Toward that end, we continue to provide our Troopers with equipment to make them more effective in their daily jobs, such as patrol rifles and electronic control devices or Tasers. Based on the success of the pilot program, the Governor's proposed budget will allow the Division to issue more of these valuable resources to our Troopers this year.

This past year the agency has begun to conduct Academy classes so that adequate staffing levels are maintained to perform our core mission priorities. This has been done in conjunction with making reasonable and prudent staffing decisions to maintain levels of service while insuring the safety of our members. The Governor's Budget recognizes that in order to maintain necessary levels of quality service there must be additional Academy training classes this year for the next generation of Troopers, with two classes bringing in 330 new recruits, and we

appreciate his continued support of this effort. After attrition of current officers, these classes are expected to result in a member strength of 4,657 sworn officers, which reflects an increase of 5.2 percent over the prior year.

The State Police has been working with the New York State Thruway Authority to make a seamless transition in the policing of the Thruway this year. The current model of policing has been successful since the 1950s and there will be no noticeable change in the level of service as we continue to fulfill this public safety role going forward. There has always been an excellent working relationship between our agencies and the integration of these services to our agency will be efficient and effective as this ongoing dialogue continues.

The New York State Police Forensic Laboratory System provides services to a majority of the counties within the State. For instance, we perform approximately 60% of all toxicology laboratory work in the State related to the prosecution of criminal activity and in furtherance of highway safety. Of those cases, approximately 60% are for agencies other than the State Police. The State Police Laboratory also serves as the sole data entry point in the State for the FBI Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The success of DNA in the identification and exoneration of suspects in criminal investigations is well-documented. In the past year, the State Police Laboratory has met the increased demands for service in implementing the requirements of legislation to collect DNA samples for all crimes as a critical step to further this success and ensure that we provide the citizens of the State the best public safety. The Governor's proposed budget allows the Division to continue to provide these valuable services.

An emerging area of concern in public safety at all levels, from federal agencies to local government, is Cyber Security as recognized by the New York State Cyber Security Initiative. The New York State Intelligence Center, led and managed by the Division of State Police, was established in August 2003 as an "all-crimes" fusion center responsible for gathering, analyzing and disseminating information and intelligence to a wide variety of State, local, territorial and tribal (SLTT) governments. This includes the growing number of cyber intrusion threats that occur on a regular basis. As part of the initiative, the Governor's proposed budget provides for the creation of a new, first-in-the-nation facility that brings together monitoring of both the cyber and physical aspects of critical infrastructure in New York State and provides the capability to receive, analyze and share classified intelligence information. The Center will include New York State Police, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Counter Terrorism, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, and other State and local law enforcement partners, as well as federal agency partners.

New Yorkers have come to expect service by a stable, well-deployed and adequately-resourced State Police. I am proud to say that, by the priorities set forth in the Governor's proposed budget, New Yorkers can be confident their expectations are being met. It is the integrity, knowledge, dedication and quality of our men and women that distinguishes the New York State Police. I am honored and privileged to be a part of this premier police agency and its great traditions.

I thank you for your support of the State Police and for this opportunity today to address you.