

Testimony of George P. Beach II  
Superintendent of State Police  
Before the Legislative Fiscal Committees  
On the FY 2017-2018 Executive Budget  
January 31, 2017

Thank you Chairman *YOUNG*, Chairman *FARRELL* and distinguished members of the Committees for the opportunity to discuss with you Governor Cuomo's Budget for the Division of State Police. I am George Beach, Superintendent of State Police.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Legislature for its enduring 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 leading law enforcement agencies in the nation.

On April 11, the New York State Police will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our founding in 1917. Then Governor Charles S. Whitman signed the Wells-Mills Bill into law establishing the State Police. As we reflect on the 100-year legacy of excellence in our agency, we recognize that our role in New York continues to encompass our original purpose while the expectations placed upon the agency in the ever-changing environment of law enforcement continues to expand. Our Members are faced with greater threats and demands of their abilities than at any time in our history. This is the reality of our mission.

For a century, the State Police has consistently provided public service through its core missions while adapting priorities to ever-changing societal needs. We have striven for continuous improvement in every aspect of our public service. Our current mission priorities include reducing the number of deaths, injuries and property damage caused by motor vehicle accidents through traffic enforcement and motorist education, providing professional police services to communities and investigative support to police departments around the State, engaging in emergency preparedness, planning and response activities, and serving a crucial role in the State's counter-terrorism efforts through our collaborative work with federal, local and other State agencies.

My first and foremost priority continues to be the safety of the public and our Troopers who protect them. Toward that end, we will continue to provide our Troopers with the necessary equipment and other valuable resources to achieve the best levels of safety in the performance of their duties. During the past year, with your support, we outfitted the agency with (800) new patrol rifles, (1746) rifle resistant body armor plates for every patrol vehicle, additional plates for large deployments (3492), and (1500) new ballistic helmets as well as (1914) new fit kits for existing helmets statewide. Both you and the Governor have paid close attention to this need after observing the increasing level of sophistication and tactics employed at criminal events in the United States and abroad.

The Governor continues to dedicate funding to enhance efforts to detect and deter terrorism in a time when such acts are constantly a threat to the safety of New Yorkers and are news headlines around the globe. As a result, New York remains one of the safest large states in the nation. Using intelligence-based investigative techniques and targeted enforcement, State

Troopers are now assigned to potential target locations and with federal and local partners provide greater protection for the public through asset integration strategies. Our increasing presence in the New York Metropolitan area adds an additional layer of security for our citizens as they travel through the city's public transportation venues. It is also intended to provide a deterrent effect to both terrorism and other criminality as the State moves to open road tolling at all of its MTA bridges and tunnels where we will have a 24-hour presence.

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 police officers anywhere in the State on short notice in response to an emergency or natural disaster. The State Police is also available for large-scale deployments to meet an immediate need for law enforcement services in any community. In addition to our traditional investigative law enforcement responses, we continue our partnerships with the Office of Emergency Management and Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services with a focus on disaster preparedness and response readiness.

Illegal drug use and its impact continues to dominate headlines in our State. Heroin availability and abuse continues. State Police will continue to aggressively investigate drug related offenses and assist local police agencies in this regard where the identity of their personnel hampers success. State Police Contaminated Crime Scene Emergency Response Team Members responded to a 38 percent increase in Methamphetamine and other drug manufacture locations statewide in 2016 (478 versus 347). Our Troopers, as first responders, continue to patrol with Naloxone, the opioid reversal drug which we have administered 218 times in medical emergencies involving drug overdose. One hundred ninety-eight (198) of those administered Naloxone survived the overdose.

This year was the first year for the Campus Sexual Assault Victims Unit that arose from your "Enough is Enough" legislation and the Governor's commitment to combatting sexual assault on college and university campuses statewide. Fifteen (15) State Police personnel worked across the State last year to ensure uniformity in the handling of campus sexual assault investigations, provide investigative assistance to campus or local law enforcement in receipt of these allegations, and educate individuals and campus communities regarding victim's rights and support resources. During the year, the Campus Sexual Assault Victims Unit investigated or assisted with the investigation of seventy-five (75) campus cases of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence or stalking.

Agency staffing remains an area of constant executive-level discussion within the State Police. New and core mission priorities, both internal and external, investigative statistics, Member safety, transportation trends and personnel attrition, among others, factor into our needs requests. We continue to request and conduct Academy classes so that adequate staffing levels are maintained to perform our new and core mission priorities, without sacrificing the response time or the safety of our Troopers. We will continue to look for additional efficiencies through our partnerships with other law enforcement agencies throughout the State.

New Yorkers have come to expect public service from a stable, professional and adequately resourced State Police. I am proud to say that 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 agency, especially as we celebrate our great traditions on our 100th Anniversary.

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