

**Public Safety Committee**  
Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 7-20-17  
Thursday, June 15, 2017 3:30 PM  
Legislature Chambers

**Attendance**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Rich John	Chair	Present
Peter Stein	Vice Chair	Excused
James Dennis	Member	Present
Anna Kelles	Member	Present
Martha Robertson	Member	Present
Catherine Covert	Clerk of the Legislature	Present
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present
Kenneth Lansing	Sheriff	Present
Matthew Van Houten	District Attorney	Present
Patricia Buechel	Probation & Community Justice Director	Present
Paula Younger	Deputy County Administrator	Present
Ray Bunce	Jail Administrator	Present
Dooley Kiefer	Legislator	Present

Guests: Press; Phoebe Brown and Taili Mugambee, Ultimate Re-entry Opportunities (URO); Ken Schalthor and Lisa Ellin, Cooperative Extension Re-Entry Program; Rebel Todhunter, Research Intern; Lily Gershon, Freeville resident; Reed Steberger, City of Ithaca resident; Sheila Vakharia, Long Island University Assistant Professor

**Call to Order**

Mr. John, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

**Changes to Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Minutes Approval**

May 18, 2017

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Martha Robertson, Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Anna Kelles, Member
<b>AYES:</b>	John, Dennis, Kelles, Robertson
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Stein

**Privilege of the Floor**

Mr. John provided an overview of the rules for speaking Under Privilege of the Floor.

Scott Davis, Danby, spoke of his support for law enforcement and said he had been a school

teacher for his career. He spoke of his recent experience of a situation involving two elderly sisters that had been taken advantage of by an individual from a paving company demanding money. This incident was reported to the Sheriff's Department; however, when following up on the matter, calls to the Department are not being returned. He expressed concern with the process with how this was handled and said he would like to have this addressed.

Sheriff Lansing said he has been addressing this and is able to answer questions outside this meeting. Mr. John said he would also be willing to meet with Mr. Davis.

Ms. Kelles said she has spoken with Ms. Holmes of the Office for the Aging and said there are lists available of fraudulent activities.

## **Jail**

### **Access to Inmates by URO**

Mr. Bunce stated when the URO (Ultimate Re-Entry Opportunity) program first began, representatives came up to the Jail to meet with staff and explain the program. He said a program or request has not yet been submitted. There are requirements and logistics to work out before allowing individuals of programs to enter the Jail.

Mr. Mugambee, URO Coordinator, said he began working with the URO program in January. He believes the lead Mentor of the program has submitted a request and has not yet received feedback. Since the request has been submitted, there have been personnel changes and a letter will be drafted as a follow-up to the request. He said the request is allow individuals to enter the Jail to begin building relationships with the people who are there and help them when they come out by having a plan in place. The focus will be on assisting with housing, sustainable employment, facilitate the process to receive any needed services such as mental health, social services. It is important that people have a support system when they leave the Jail.

Ms. Robertson disclosed that she was a member of the advisory committee.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Bunce said he is interested in having further discussions about this program. He explained the importance of how schedules and services provided in the Jail need to be coordinated.

## **Re-entry Program Progress Report**

### **Progress Report on Tompkins Re-entry Program (ID #7116)**

Ken Schlather and Lisa Ellin provided a progress report on the Tompkins Re-entry Program and the Scope of Work as detailed in the contract that began in September 2016.

Mr. John asked if information concerning recidivism could be provided. Mr. Mareane believes the consultants will be able to address that question.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.