

Consolidation Proposal:

**Westchester County
Department of Public Safety
and
Department of Emergency Services**



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Executive Summary

A consolidation of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) and the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services (“DES”) into a single agency would offer substantial financial and operational benefits to the County and its taxpayers.

By combining the two agencies, Westchester County would achieve immediate and significant cost savings. In the first year following a consolidation, savings are estimated at \$690,000 through the elimination of a commissioner and other administrative positions. The savings resulting from consolidated operations would grow with each passing year – to more than \$1.5 million annually by the end of Year 3 - as a result of attrition in the combined work force, elimination of duplicative personnel and tasks, and other efficiencies.

A single agency also offers the opportunity to more efficiently deliver police and emergency services to Westchester residents. This report will show how a consolidation would:

- eliminate duplication of services
- centralize communications
- combine the DPS Hazardous Devices Unit (Bomb Squad) and DES Hazardous Materials Response Team
- unify command and control at major incidents and emergencies
- reduce administrative costs
- merge budget, human resources and some training functions



- improve grant administration, including a more efficient allocation of the counter-terrorism funding that now comes to DPS and DES separately
- provide better emergency response to local communities

In short, a consolidation would save money and enhance the core missions of both agencies as they now exist.

DPS was created in July 1979 through a merger of the Westchester County Parkway Police and the Westchester County Sheriff's Department. As initially organized, DPS included an Office of Disaster and Emergency Services (ODES). This Office was responsible for disaster preparedness as well as for coordinating the county's response to requests for emergency disaster assistance from local municipalities.

In 1997, the County established the Department of Fire Safety Services, which was replaced two years later by DES. Upon creation of DES, the functions of ODES were transferred from DPS to DES. The County Charter and Code provisions relating to the establishment and functions of DES are attached (See Appendix A.)

The consolidation of police and emergency services administration in order to streamline operations has been successful locally in the City of White Plains, which manages police and fire operations under a single Department of Public Safety.

Consolidating Westchester County police and emergency services management under a unified administration has the potential to bring cost savings and operating efficiency to these essential services of Westchester County government.



Introduction

In these difficult economic times, Westchester County has reaffirmed its commitment to reducing the cost of county government to the Westchester County taxpayer. In the case of the provision of essential county services, the primary cost cutting measure is to increase the efficiency with which such services are provided.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to propose the consolidation of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) and the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services (“DES”) into a single department¹ and provide a preliminary assessment of the efficiencies and other benefits to be gained by doing so.

The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Emergency Services serve overlapping purposes and bear similar responsibilities and goals. As presently organized, however, these departments operate with two autonomous administrations and personnel who may work side by side without coordination or integration and, in some instances, while performing the same or similar functions. We anticipate that a consolidation of these two departments will achieve both cost savings and a better response to various emergency situations by the County.

¹ It should be noted that the proposed structure is not without precedent. The City of White Plains presently has a consolidated Department of Public Safety, responsible for the provision of police, fire and emergency services within the city. In addition, numerous states operate this type of organizational structure on the state level, including Alaska, Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Texas and Utah.



History of Divided Emergency Services Management in Westchester County

The Westchester County Department of Public Safety was formed in 1979 as a consolidation itself of the Westchester County Parkway Police and the Westchester County Sheriff's Office. As initially organized, DPS included an Office of Disaster and Emergency Services (ODES), which was responsible for disaster preparedness as well as coordinating the County's response to requests for emergency disaster assistance from local municipalities.

In 1997, the County established the Department of Fire Safety Services which was replaced two years later by the current Department of Emergency Services. Upon the formation of DES, the functions of ODES were transferred from DPS to DES. The County Charter and Code provisions relating to the establishment and function of DES are attached (see Appendix "A").

Proposal for Consolidation

Based upon our preliminary research, it appears that Westchester County would benefit from the abolition of DES and the transfer of its functions to the Department of Public Safety as set forth below.

Legal Authority

The County Legislature, pursuant to Section 107.21 of the County Charter, is empowered to "create, organize, alter or abolish departments, commissions, boards, bureaus, offices and employments and/or transfer their functions and duties." The Legislature created



each of DPS and DES under this statutory authority and it may reorganize them, as herein proposed, under this same authority.

Organization

As set forth above, we propose that DES functions be transferred to DPS and that DES be abolished. In their current respective forms, DPS and DES have at least eight constituent units serving similar functions. These functions will be, in some instances, fully merged into single operating units and in other cases, where this is not practical, they will be realigned so as to share as many resources as possible.²

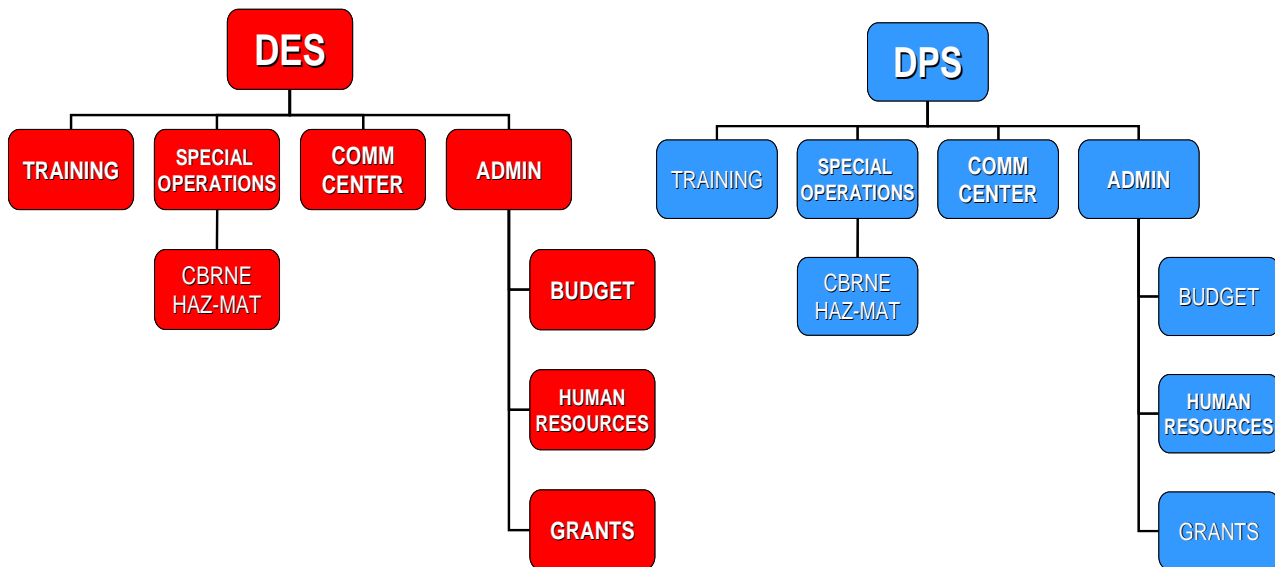


Figure 1 – DES & DPS Overlapping Functions

As shown in the partial proposed organization chart, below, certain DES functions which overlap with current DPS functions would be immediately merged into single units. Over time, functions within other units which overlap between DES and DPS would also be merged under the proposed consolidation.

² Certain administrative functions, such as human resources, can be fully merged as they are not dependent on the nature of the work performed by the personnel they service. On the other hand, certain functions, such as training, are highly dependent on the nature of the work performed by the personnel to be serviced, but even in such a case, the disparate units can share a facility and administrative resources.



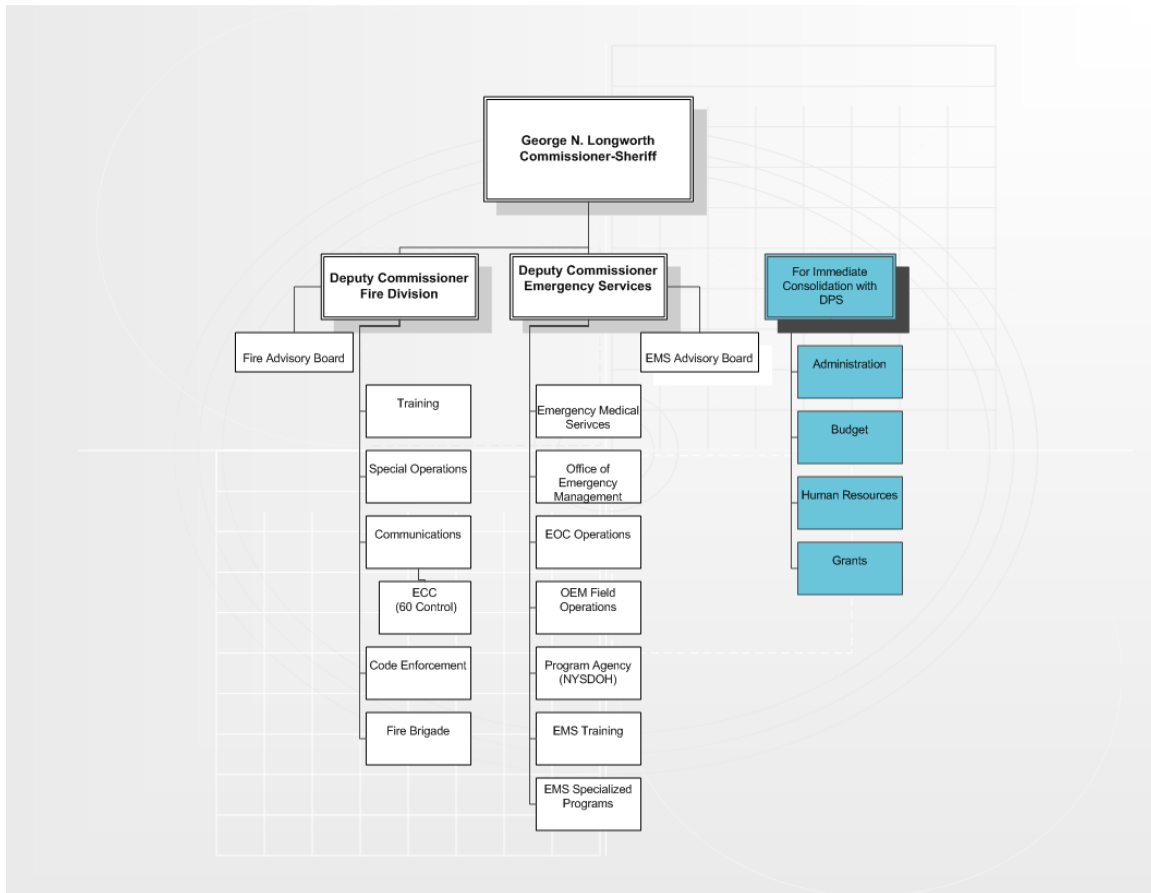


Figure 2 - Initial Merger of Individual Units

Under the within proposal, the present commissioner of DPS would retain his position. In order to accommodate the additional functions, DPS's internal organization would be restructured to provide for, among other things, two deputy commissioners to oversee the fire and emergency services functions transferred to DPS. There would be one deputy commissioner for fire services and one deputy commissioner for emergency services. Given the need to retain their specialized skills and to maintain institutional knowledge, we anticipate that the present DES deputy commissioner for the fire division would be appointed to serve as deputy commissioner for fire services and the present DES commissioner as deputy commissioner for emergency services. The current first deputy

commissioner of DPS would serve as the DPS first deputy commissioner for police services. Each of the three deputy commissioners would oversee the various units as shown in the proposed organization chart for the post-consolidation DPS. The color coded sections indicate areas to be studied for future further consolidation.

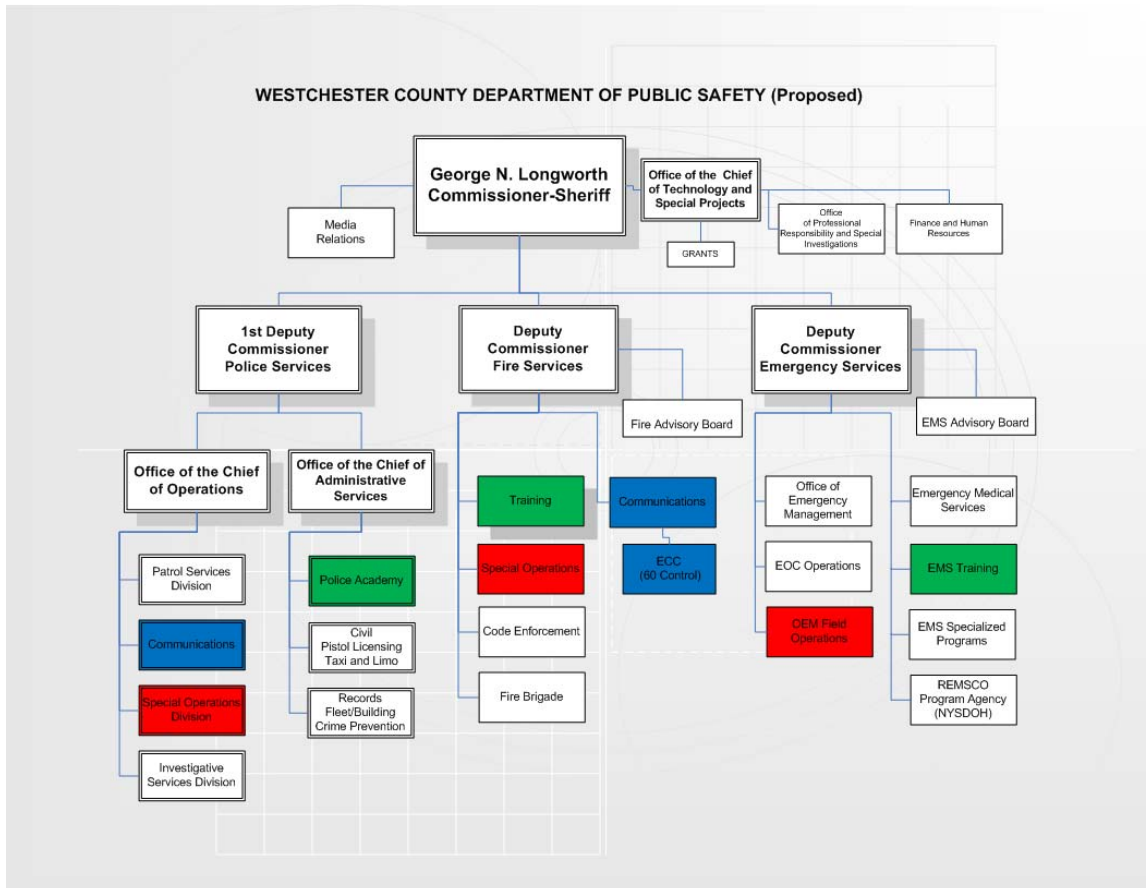


Figure 3 - Proposed Post-Consolidation DPS Organization Chart – Day 1

Cost Savings and Operational Efficiencies

Our preliminary research identifies a number of areas in which cost savings and operational efficiencies would be realized upon the consolidation of DPS and DES without degrading the core mission of either of the present departments.

Personnel Costs

DES and DPS each has one commissioner and one deputy commissioner. Each of the departments also has one vacant and unfunded line for a second deputy commissioner. In the proposed consolidation, there will be one commissioner and three deputy commissioners. The third deputy commissioner in the post-consolidation DPS model will fill one of the presently unfunded deputy commissioner lines (of the two that exist between the two departments – the remaining deputy commissioner line to remain vacant) and the cost of the third deputy commissioner will be paid for by reallocating grant funding from a soon to be vacated Program Specialist line in DES (described below) and from Section 708 Emergency Preparedness Grant (708 Funds). The 708 Funds were increased from \$412,500 in 2009 to \$750,000 in 2010 and we expect that the 708 Funds will continue at the higher amount over, at least, the next several years. Thus, at the commissioner level, consolidation would generate an immediate tax levy savings in the amount of \$240,000.00 representing the DES commissioner's salary and fringe benefits.

In addition to the Commissioner-level consolidation and savings, we propose the following:

- Immediate or near term personnel savings may be realized from the immediate consolidation of the budget, human resources, and grant management functions of DPS and DES. The proposed consolidation plan would shift three current DES positions into DPS's existing Finance & Human Resource and Grant

Management units. Inasmuch as former DES employees will need time to learn DPS payroll, personnel and purchasing workflow and current DPS employees will need time to learn the workflow regarding former DES functions, we propose that no positions be cut initially. We anticipate, however, that at least one (1) of DPS's payroll clerks will retire within the next two years and the position could then be abolished. The total cost savings for this position is approximately \$74,000 in salary and fringes per year. Additionally, the current DES Budget position (classified as Budget Specialist II) could be phased out within two (2) years after consolidation with the current DPS Director of Finance & Human Resources assuming that function. The eliminated Budget Specialist II line would result in a total salary plus fringe benefits tax levy savings of approximately \$98,000.

- In the short term, we can reduce by two the number of Program Administrators in the Fire Services Division. One Program Administrator position would be eliminated after hazardous materials and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (“CBRNE”) responsibilities are combined under the DPS Special Operations Division. The second Program Administrator position – a DES Code Enforcement Officer who performs Fire Inspector and Code Enforcement duties for all County property would be transferred to DPW or Risk Management in keeping with the functions of the position.³ If used to fill an actual vacancy in DPW or Risk Management the tax levy saving (from not

³ The Code Enforcement Officer conducted approximately 315 inspections of DPW maintained facilities in 2009 and reviews current and future building plans for safety and code compliance. In addition, the Code Enforcement Officer works closely with Risk Management on safety related issues.



filling from the outside) in salary and fringes would be approximately \$140,000. If transfer or elimination of this position is not effected, DPS will consider training the incumbent in TLC base station inspections, as an added responsibility, in furtherance of that mission. Eliminating both of these Program Administrator positions would yield a combined salary and fringe savings of approximately \$276,000.

- By utilizing and sharing the maintenance staff currently assigned to the police academy and firing range, two additional positions (Senior Mechanic I and Senior Mechanic III) could be eliminated over two (2) years for a salary and fringe savings of approximately \$199,000.

- With the re-alignment of workflow among both Departments clerical staff we believe two Office Assistant Word Processing positions and two Staff Assistant positions could also be phased out over three (3) years for a combined savings in salary and fringe saving of approximately \$320,000 by the end of the third year.

Further, we expect that at some future time, police and fire/EMS communications will be consolidated at least to the point of operating in the same facility. There will then be an opportunity to eliminate duplicative supervisory personnel costs. At the three (3) year mark, additional realignments in staffing and workflow should allow for the elimination one Program Specialist Emergency Management Planning and one Program Specialist



Emergency Services Communications for a combined saving in salary and fringe of approximately \$180,000.

Following the consolidation, functions and personnel will be further analyzed with respect to promoting maximum efficiency and economy and, where possible, additional positions will be eliminated by attrition and/or reassignment as overlapping or redundant operational functions are identified and combined.⁴

General Operating Expenses

Another area of potential savings is in general operating expenses. An immediate significant savings in current operating expenses can be achieved by moving the balance of the leasing costs attributed the Emergency Operations Center,⁵ located within the New York State Traffic Management Center, to grant funding as well. This would result in approximately \$142,000 in savings to the tax levy. Further analysis following the transition will likely identify other operating expenses that can be combined, reduced or deleted. This may include fleet maintenance, equipment/supplies purchasing and deployment, telecommunications, to name a few. At this point in the process, it is too early to estimate additional operating expense savings.

⁴ We have noted that the DES operating budget carries thirteen (13) positions for Fire and EMS coordinators who receive an annual stipend for services in the event of mutual aid callouts. These individuals serve on an as-needed basis and should not be classified as County employees. The treatment of the coordinators as independent contractors or, in the alternative, counting them as part-time employees would be more in keeping with their duties and would reduce the DES employee headcount by as many as 13. This would not represent a cost savings but, it would correct an unnecessary inflation of the headcount of County employees.

⁵ Presently approximately \$108,000 of the \$250,000 annual cost is paid by the grant funds.



Projected Savings	End of Year 1	End of Year 2	Year 3 and Subsequent
Reduction of personnel through attrition and/or elimination of positions			
Commissioner DES	\$239,909.00	\$239,909.00	\$239,909.00
Program Administrator Fire Svcs - Code Enforcement	\$138,791.00	\$138,791.00	\$138,791.00
Payroll Clerk	x	\$74,464.00	\$74,464.00
Budget Specialist II	x	x	\$98,354.00
Program Administrator Fire Services	x	\$138,791.00	\$138,791.00
Sr. Maintenance Mechanic III	x	\$109,034.00	\$109,034.00
Sr. Maintenance Mechanic I	\$90,089.00	\$90,089.00	\$90,089.00
Office Assistant Word Processing	x	x	\$74,464.00
Office Assistant Word Processing	x	\$74,464.00	\$74,464.00
Staff Assistant - Emergency Services	x	\$90,089.00	\$90,089.00
Staff Assistant - Emergency Volunteer Services	\$81,089.00	\$81,089.00	\$81,089.00
Program Specialist Emergency Management Planning	x	x	\$87,667.00
Program Specialist Emergency Svcs Communications	x	x	\$93,030.00
Operating Expense Reduction			
Balance of TMC Lease to 708 Funding	\$142,000.00	\$142,000.00	\$142,000.00
Projected Tax Levy Savings Salary Plus Fringes and Operating Expenses	\$691,878.00	\$1,178,720.00	\$1,532,235.00

Figure 4 - Projected Cost Savings

Position Count	Tax Levy	Grant	Total
Department of Emergency Services Department Position Count on 1/10/2010	71	7	78
Eliminate DES Commissioner Position	70	7	77
Create Deputy Commissioner Emergency Services (vacancy and 708 funds)	69	8	77
Transfer Code Enforcement Function/Position to DPW or Risk Management	68	8	76
Eliminate Senior Maintenance Mechanic I	67	8	75
Eliminate Staff Assistant - Emergency Volunteer Services	66	8	74
Fire and Emergency Services Division Position Count at end of Year 1	66	8	74
Expected Retirement 1 Payroll Clerk	65	8	73
Eliminate Program Administrator Fire Services	64	8	72
Eliminate Senior Maintenance Mechanic III	63	8	71
Eliminate Office Assistant Word Processing	62	8	70
Eliminate Staff Assistant - Emergency Services	61	8	69
Fire and Emergency Services Division Position Count at end of Year 2	61	8	69
Eliminate Office Assistant Word Processing	60	8	69
Eliminate 1 Budget Specialist II	59	8	67
Eliminate Program Specialist Emergency Management Planning	58	8	66
Eliminate Program Specialist Emergency Services Communications	57	8	65
Fire and Emergency Services Division Position Count at end of Year 3	57	8	65

Figure 5 - Projected Position Count

Capital Projects

The proposed consolidation may obviate the need for certain capital projects currently planned for each of DPS and DES or allow them to be downscaled or combined for cost savings or increased efficiency.

DES and DPS maintain adjacent facilities on the Grasslands Reservation where each conducts training, maintains offices and stores and maintains equipment. DPS presently shares its Police Academy facility with the New York State National Guard. The National Guard unit is due to vacate its portion of the facility this year, turning it over to the County for its own use. DES and DPS each currently have planned capital projects for the expansion of facilities for office space and for training. The confluence of this proposed consolidation, the departure of the National Guard from the Police Academy and the proximity of the Police Academy to the DES facility provides a unique opportunity to maximize efficiencies in the use of the two facilities and minimize the need for new construction.

The departure of the National Guard should free approximately 25,000 square feet of additional office and/or classroom space at the Police Academy and some DES units could be relocated to the Traffic Management Center/EOC (using Entergy funds), freeing up space at the DES facility. These opportunities negate the need for DPS's proposed move of certain units to 450 Saw Mill River Road in Ardsley and allow for the County to cancel the DES capital project for expansion of its main facility (BES05, currently at \$9,000,000). While this will need to be examined more closely, we believe that the



current DES capital project could be replaced with an anticipated DPS capital project that will address needed repairs and construction at the Police Academy to make the facility suitable for the needs of a post-consolidation DPS and address current DES Headquarters critical needs as well.⁶

In addition, DES has the Fire Training Center Strip Mall Live Burning Building Capital Project (BFT05). DPS also has a planned capital project for the construction of a Tactical Village Training Site. It is possible that the Tactical Village project could be incorporated into the present DES capital project at a significant cost savings and without need for an additional, separate capital project.

Emergency Response Efficiencies

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the emphasis of emergency planning has shifted from natural disaster scenarios to terrorist attack scenarios. A disaster scene will often be a crime scene as well, requiring criminal investigation. Even in the event of a non-crime scene incident, such as a natural disaster, law enforcement will be involved in rescue, evacuation, traffic control and the maintenance of order. The consolidation of the functions of law enforcement and disaster response into a single entity would (1) facilitate more cohesive planning across the various disciplines required to properly prepare for and respond to disasters – whether natural or man-made – and (2) facilitate a more efficient response and allocation of resources in connection with a disaster. Disaster planning and on-scene incident command require all aspects of public safety

⁶ Although the Police Academy building is spacious and well-constructed, the physical plant is in need of substantial upgrades and maintenance. The heating and air conditioning systems appear to require total replacement, as do the windows on the entire facility. These improvements would be funded under a new capital project.



(police, fire and EMS) to sit at the same table, speak with a united voice and operate under a unified command. This proposal moves Westchester County significantly toward that goal.

The improved functional coordination which will result from this proposal will allow the County to be able to put forth a truly integrated Incident Management Team (IMT) to support local municipalities and the County's own disaster management functions. This IMT will include highly trained and experienced DPS employees augmented by other County Departments and additional subject matter experts from other jurisdictions. This team will be deployable to incidents in any Westchester community and to support the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Grant Funding

Westchester County is the recipient of substantial state and federal grant support. These grant funds are administered by both DES and DPS, and in many instances, the grant programs' purposes cross between the present functions of DES and DPS. The unified approach to grant application and management will make the most efficient use of grant funding and ensure that all public safety functions are adequately provided for, even as the available funds are likely to be decreasing and grant programs grow more competitive. In addition, the consolidation of the two departments may facilitate a more efficient allocation of grant funds already awarded.



Training

DES operates a training facility located adjacent to DPS's own training facility, the Westchester County Police Academy. Each department currently conducts training programs autonomously at its own facilities. In some instances courses are conducted by outside agencies and simply hosted at the training facilities. Although much of the training provided by the Police Academy and by DES is distinct, there are areas of commonality, *e.g.*, Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program, incident management, and hazardous materials training. Even with disparate training needs as between the DPS and DES functions, there are potential efficiencies to be gained by consolidating the administration of the two facilities into a single training entity under the new administration. Over time, duplicative administrative positions can be eliminated through attrition in this model.

Emergency Communications Center (ECC)

The Emergency Communications Center, known colloquially by its call sign, "60 Control," was established in the late 1950s. It began as a volunteer group operating in White Plains and later moving to the basement of the Parkway Police headquarters in Hawthorne. In the early 1980s, the ECC was relocated to the site of the original Fire Training Center on Dana Road in Valhalla and began to employ a paid staff.

Although it may not be feasible to do immediately, consolidating the functions of the ECC with the present DPS communications center – perhaps in a renovated Police Academy facility – has potential long term benefits including:

- o Less duplicative supervision in a combined communications center;



- Ability to better handle a multiagency event
- Providing a better career path for the communication operators;
- Uniform working conditions for county employees in similar job functions
- Cross training of operators to provide for a larger pool of qualified communications operators for fire, EMS and law enforcement
- Better coordination of police, fire and EMS responses.
- Improved access to county trunked radio system and opportunity to increase countywide radio coverage.

Special Operations

Both DPS and DES designate certain responses “Special Operations.” One area of commonality between the Special Operations Unit of DES and the Special Operations Division of DPS is hazardous materials or CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear and Explosive) incident response. A release of any such materials requires a specialized response by trained personnel to assess, contain and either clean up or arrange for the clean up of such substances. DES maintains Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) comprised of volunteers from local emergency service organizations throughout Westchester County for such a purpose, while DPS presently has assigned to the Special Operations Division and Forensic Investigations Unit thirty-two (32) police officers who are trained hazardous materials technicians.⁷ Currently, the efforts of the two departments can be, at times, redundant and uncoordinated. In addition to being wasteful of resources, current arrangements lend themselves to confusion of command and

⁷ There are seven (7) bomb technician members of the Hazardous Devices Unit and twenty (20) Special Response Team members, all of whom are Haz-Mat Technicians, plus two (2) members of the marine unit, one (1) member of the Aviation Unit and two (2) members of the Forensic Investigations Unit who have been trained as Haz-Mat Technicians.



control. Moreover, crime scene integrity and evidence collection is a substantial concern in CBRNE incidents. DPS is presently engaged in an effort to get advanced training in the hazardous materials and public sampling which will aid DPS in properly maintaining CBRNE incidents as crime scenes and in the proper collection of evidence. It would, thus, be both fiscally and tactically sound and efficient to employ a single CBRNE response team to cover the full spectrum of incidents with a more unified response.

Under a consolidated DPS, the HMRT will be an arm of the DPS Hazardous Devices Unit (formerly known as the Bomb Squad). The Hazardous Devices Unit will respond to all potential CBRNE incidents and utilize available volunteers of the HMRT to support its operations. This should significantly reduce response times to CBRNE in Westchester County and ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

In addition, the fire Cause and Origin Team, which operates under DES utilizes DPS detectives as well as police officers from other law enforcement agencies - some of whom are arson investigators - to assist with investigations. This function would be better performed under the consolidated Department of Public Safety to eliminate command and control issues and streamline the investigative process.

Conclusion

Consolidating DPS and DES will immediately achieve cost savings and improve the County's ability to protect its residents by seamlessly integrating various emergency



response elements into a fully integrated public safety service to both support local municipalities and the County's own functions.

More specifically, the consolidation of DPS and DES is expected to produce the following benefits:

- reduced administrative costs
- reduced duplication of effort and expense
- improved command and control
- reduced response times
- improved training through comprehensive planning and coordination
- interoperability and shared services, facilities, and equipment
- more effective use of grant funding
- improved support and response to local communities
- improved countywide mutual aid coordination

In addition, the public safety in Westchester County will benefit from greater command and control of operational resources and improved resource management together with a unified chain of command which will aid in the decision making process and facilitate the flow of information to all involved in emergency operations.



Appendix A – Laws of Westchester

CHAPTER 193 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Sec. 193.01 Department established.

[Added by L.L. No. 14-1999

Editor's Note: Section 1 of L.L. No. 14-1999 repealed the former Ch. 193. Department of Fire Safety Services, §§ 193.01, 193.11, 193.31 and 193.41, added by L.L. No. 2-1997.]

There shall be a Department of Emergency Services headed by a Commissioner of Emergency Services. The County Executive shall appoint the commissioner, subject to confirmation by the County Board, to serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. The commissioner shall be appointed on the basis of his or her administrative and managerial experience and qualifications for the duties of the office. The commissioner shall have and exercise all the powers and duties as set forth in section 193.02 and as required by the County Executive or the Board of Legislators. In addition, the commissioner may divide the county into zones or regions as he or she deems appropriate to effectively perform the duties of the department and may appoint such personnel as is necessary to accomplish these objectives within the amounts appropriated therefore. There shall be at least two deputy commissioners in the Department of Emergency Services, who shall be appointed by the commissioner and who shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner. In the case of the absence of the commissioner from the county, or of the commissioner's inability to perform the duties of the office, a deputy commissioner selected by the commissioner shall act as commissioner until the commissioner returns or the disability ceases. There shall also be a County Fire Advisory Board and an Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board. The commissioner shall not exercise supervisory authority over the County Fire Advisory Board or an Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.

Sec. 193.02 Powers and duties of the department.

[Added by L.L. No. 14-1999; amended by L.L. No. 9-2005]

The Department of Emergency Services shall:

1. Develop and maintain programs for emergency medical services training and certification, emergency medical services-related activities and mutual aid emergencies in which the services of emergency medical service providers would be used;
2. Develop and maintain programs for fire training and certification, fire service-related activities and mutual aid in cases of fire and other emergencies in which the services of firemen would be used;
3. Cooperate with the office of fire prevention and control and other state agencies in furthering such fire related and emergency medical service programs;
4. Coordinate radio communications and develop uniform procedures for dispatching for both fire and emergency medical services, including medical telemetry and control, between hospitals and ambulances by medical emergency radio system; ambulance dispatching, inspection and certification;
5. Provide direct dispatch for those municipalities that enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the county for those services;
6. Develop and maintain a county disaster preparedness plan, in accordance with Article 2-b of the Executive Law, for the coordination of emergency services in the event of natural or other disaster or emergency;



7. Assist with the powers and duties of the County Executive in his capacity as the county's local director of civil defense under the New York State Defense Emergency Act, as codified in chapter 784 of the laws of 1951, as amended;

8. Coordinate the provision of disaster and emergency assistance by local disaster preparedness and civil defense forces in the event of a state of emergency or disaster within the county;

9. Provide a hazardous materials response unit;

10. Establish, maintain and supervise specialized teams, such as technical rescue and weapons of mass destruction-chemical-biological-radiological-nuclear-explosive (WMD-CBRNE) response in accordance with New York General Municipal Law § 209-bb, as may be amended from time to time. The specialized teams shall be under the direction of the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services or his authorized designee (hereinafter the "Commissioner"). As a prerequisite of membership on a specialized team, each member shall obtain from his or her sponsoring municipality or sponsoring organization a written authorization of the municipality or organization expressly extending said municipality's or organization's insurance coverage to the member while that member is participating in the activities of the specialized team that complies with General Municipal Law § 209-bb(3). The Commissioner shall appoint an oversight committee whose membership shall be representative of the emergency services agencies, organizations and associations. The Commissioner and the oversight committee shall work with the specialized teams to establish the policies and procedures, including but not limited to, officer hierarchy, by-laws, training and budgets. The Commissioner shall have approval of all aspects of operation of the specialized teams; and

11. Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law or required by the County Executive or the County Board of Legislators.

Sec. 193.03 County Fire Advisory Board; Terms; Duties.
[Added by L.L. No. 14-1999]

The board shall consist of not less than five (5) members who will address the concerns of fire related issues. In no event shall the board consist of more than twenty-one (21) members. It is recommended that the composition of the board contain; nine (9) members of the public at large; three (3) members from the Association of Fire Districts; three (3) members who are career firefighters; three (3) members of the Westchester County Volunteer Fireman's Association; and three (3) members from the Westchester County Association of Fire Chiefs. The terms of office shall be for one (1), two (2) or three (3) years and such terms need not be the same for all members. The board shall have the duty to cooperate with the office of fire prevention and control and other appropriate state agencies in relation to programs for fire training, fire service related activities and mutual aid in accordance with the provisions of New York State County Law § 225-a.

Sec. 193.04 County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board; terms; duties.
[Added by L.L. No. 14-1999]

The board shall consist of not less than five (5) members who will address the concerns of emergency medical services related issues. In no event shall the board consist of more than twenty-one (21) members. The terms of office shall be for one (1), two (2) or three (3) years and such terms need not be the same for all members. The board shall have the duty to cooperate with appropriate state agencies in relation to programs for emergency medical services training, emergency medical services related activities and mutual aid in accordance with the provisions of New York State County Law § 223-b.

