



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: 315.435.2070 • onondagacountylegislature@ongov.net • www.ongov.net/legislature

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – JULY 15, 2025 **MARK A. OLSON, CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. McCarron, Ms. Fiato, Mr. Bush, Mr. Garland

ALSO ATTENDING: Also see attached

Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. PROBATION: Kristen Jackson, Director

- a. Amending the 2025 Onondaga County Budget to Accept Grant Funds from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for Statewide Targeted Reductions in Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) (\$298,116)**
- b. Personnel Resolution**

Purpose: For Onondaga County Probation Department to accept the \$298,116 Statewide Targeted reductions in Intimate Partner Violence Initiative grant funds from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Objective/Work Plan: This grant program is intended to improve the public safety response to intimate partner abuse and domestic violence. Funding will be used for the prevention of and intervention (e.g., enforcement, prosecution) in incidences of intimate partner violence through evidence-based, survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive strategies. These strategies are part of a collaborative plan developed through partnership with the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office, Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, Syracuse Police Department, and Vera House, Inc. It should be noted that this funding is structured similarly to GIVE (Gun Involved Violence Elimination) and is expected to be renewed annually. Probation will be creating a new dedicated Domestic Violence Unit and will have dedicated personnel that will support this collaborative strategy.

Funding Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Budget: \$298,116

- Collaborative effort with Sheriff's Dept., District Attorney's Office (DA), Syracuse Police Dept. (SPD), and Vera House
- Addressing partner violence in Syracuse and the County
- Planning to use funding to create a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit
 - Currently have Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Unit
 - Believe splitting units apart to create 2 separate units will be beneficial to support this initiative
- Initiative has a heavy focus on high risk individuals identified at arrest level by law enforcement
 - Law enforcement will be using DA-LE (Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement)
 - Risk assessment tool to evaluate which cases are high risk
- Will be collaborating to create a Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT)
 - Multidisciplinary team
 - Start following offenders immediately
 - Make sure victims have what they need
 - Ensure offenders are being held accountable
- Will need funding for dedicated staff and for providing offender accountability programming within the department for Probation Officers – which eliminates barriers officers have getting the programs

- Working in conjunction with Vera House to supply the programming
- Working with DA Victim Advocacy and Coordinator

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Has Probation seen a spike the last few years in applying for this grant?
 - Probation:
 - This is a state initiative rolled out statewide
 - Formula used to determine which jurisdictions got what funding
 - State told everyone upfront what the funding would be
 - Have been working together (SPD, Sheriff, DA and Vera House) the last 6 months to create the program and make it specific to Onondaga County
- The funding level of \$298K does not seem like a lot
 - Probation:
 - Only using it to add a Probation Supervisor position, as well as 2 half funded Probation Officers
 - These are offenders already have seen come through the Probation Office
 - Funding to offset additional programming doing and the participation in the DVHRT
 - Other partners are getting more funding
 - Total is close to \$1M
- How much local dollars are being put into this expanded program?
 - Probation:
 - Nothing; not in Probation
- Will Probation be working with the other 12 municipal police departments?
 - Probation:
 - Will bring in when needed as far as individual offenders
 - State plan initially only selected SPD, but everyone felt it was necessary to advocate bringing in the Sheriff
 - Work well with Sheriff on GIVE, and wanted to replicate that same program
 - Other law enforcement agencies may be brought in, but that will be driven by the state
 - Probation will work with the other agencies
 - District Attorney:
 - DCJS is statistical – saw the major issue in the City of Syracuse
 - Modeled on GIVE, which has been in place for 10 years – evidence based solutions to gun violence
 - Trying to replicate with intimate partner violence – pilot program
 - Expect first year to be implementation throughout jurisdictions picked to participate
 - Based on DCJS numbers, saw focus in City of Syracuse
 - Went to DCJS as a county team (Probation, SPD, Sheriff, DA) and lobbied to include Sheriff's Office
 - Domestic violence crosses boundaries; it may be reported less in towns and villages, but it exists
 - Idea of program is enhanced prosecution and investigation, and evidence based arrest
 - So often domestic violence survivors may call 911, then back off and not prosecute for a number of reasons
 - Idea to build evidence based prosecution, so if victim survivor does not want to prosecute, the DA has done the deep dive investigation to take it to another level and still prosecute the most violent offenders
 - Identify and carve out the most violent domestic abusers – most at risk to do violence to their partner
 - Will have standard for identifying these people – for those that do not have a history with law enforcement, but the act against their partner is so egregious it has to be dealt with
 - Idea is to provide support for the survivor victim, but also enhance prosecution and treatment of the perpetrator
- What is being done with sex offenders that come back?
 - Probation:
 - This will allow Probation to have a separate sex offender unit
 - Supervisor will be solely focused on sex offenders to dedicate time for treatments, supervision and intervention
 - Examples include working with Catherine Diana, LCSW, using polygraphs, heavy supervision and monitoring

Does the same go for domestic violence in finding the worst of the worst

- District Attorney:
 - Always had a special investigation bureau focused on sex offense, sex offenders, child pornography
 - Have multidisciplinary team to child advocacy center to deal with children
 - Have specially trained prosecutors – participate heavily with investigation of crimes, same as homicides
 - Idea to pour the same resources into this as they do into homicides
 - DA has higher close rate for homicide in the city and county versus nationwide, due to the expertise that is involved with the coordination of all the agencies (SPD, Sheriff, DA, etc.)
 - Want to replicate the success with homicides into other disciplines
 - This specific program is intimate partner violence
- Is this grant a one off? How will the position be sustained?
 - Probation:
 - DCJS has given every indication that this will be similar to GIVE, which has been in place for 11 years
 - Do not anticipate the funding going away
 - This is a very involved and heavy implementation phase
 - Law:
 - Personnel resolution has language saying that it is to the extent the grant funding is available
 - The position disappears if grant funding goes away

A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Ms. Fiato, to approve items 1a and 1b. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Joseph Coolican, Deputy District Attorney

- a. **Amending the 2025 Onondaga County Budget to Accept Grant Funds from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for Statewide Targeted Reductions in Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) (\$621,678)**
- b. **Personnel Resolution**

Purpose: For Onondaga County District Attorney's Office to accept the \$621,678 Statewide Targeted Reductions in Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) grant funds from the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Objective/Work Plan: This funding will support the efforts to reduce intimate partner violence in Onondaga County. The funds will be used to assist our partnering agencies and organizations, both law enforcement and service providers, in implementing a coordinated community response to intimate partner violence. The focus is on survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally-responsive interventions that focus on the needs of the survivor. The efforts also go towards holding the offender accountable for their behavior and for the consequences of their actions.

Funding Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Budget: \$621,678

- Not only creating a Domestic Violence Unit in DA, but guidance document requires a separate Civilian Coordinator for the program, as well as a Crime Analyst to track everything – as far as successes or not
- DCJS is performance oriented, and they require statistical analysis of everything; DCJS has staff that covers anything that happens in the state involved in the criminal justice system
- Will have an experienced ADA to focus on Domestic Violence cases, which are currently handled by the Special Victims Bureau
- DA will subcontract with Lemoyne to hire the Coordinator and Crime Analyst

Questions/Comments from the committee?

- What will the qualifications be for the separate Civilian Coordinator?
 - List of them in DCJS guidance document including a Master's Degree, experience in public policy, experience in project management
 - Provided the document to Lemoyne in the last couple days; they will post the job

- Lemoyne does this for the GIVE Coordinator, as well as Crime Analyst; mirroring GIVE
- Successful statewide and have great reputation with DCJS, which is why they are generous
- Very positive relationships with partner agencies (Sheriff, SPD, Probation)
- Does the County have any say of who is chosen?
 - Absolutely; will be at the table along with Kristen Jackson, rep from SPD, Sheriff and Vera House
 - Will ensure they pick the appropriate person for the project

A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Ms. Fiato, to approve items 2a and 2b. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

3. SHERIFF: Lisa Dell, Chief of Civil

a. Authorizing the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office to Accept Reimbursement for Expenses Incurred in Assisting the United States Capitol Police

Purpose: To authorize the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) to enter into an agreement with the United States Capitol Police (USCP) with respect to an intergovernmental agreement to accept reimbursement for expenses incurred in assisting the United States Capitol Police.

Objective/Work Plan: The United States Capitol Police desire to engage in an agreement with the Onondaga County Sheriff's office where the United States Capitol Police may ask the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office to expend its time and equipment to assist the United States Capitol Police on matters including, but not limited to, physical dignitary protection, physical site protection, perimeter security and emergency response readiness. The United States Capitol Police are willing to defray the costs associations with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office performing such duties from the Onondaga County taxpayers.

Funding Source: Overtime and expenses reimbursed through 525260-Public Safety Other Govt based on expenses.

Budget: United States Capital Police will reimburse OCSO for expenses incurred in connection with the OCSO's provisions of services requested by USCP, to include law enforcements services, equipment and resources utilized on behalf of the USCP.

- Capitol Police – reimbursing for expenses when they come to town and bring (i.e.) dignitaries, Congressman
- Need services like extra security, personnel, certain equipment, etc.
- Enter into agreement to reimburse for any overtime or costs
- Never been reimbursed before

A motion was made by Ms. Fiato, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: JULY 15, 2025

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Joe Collicase	DA
Michelle Robbins	DA
Lucy Loke	DA
Jeremy Young / Lisa Dill	OCSO
Kristen Jackson	Probation
Shelley Passaro, Fischer	OCSO
Susan Dean	Finance
Dan Kranz	CF
Ben Yaw	Law
Joe Frateschi	Leg.
Ethan LaMontagne	Leg.
John DeSantis	Leg.
Jiri Bube	Leg.