



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

**TIMOTHY T. BURTIS**  
Chairman

**TAMMY BARBER**  
Deputy Clerk

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2025** **MARK A. OLSON, CHAIR**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. McCarron**

**ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Mr. Romeo**

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

- 1. DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Bill Fitzpatrick, District Attorney
  - a. Authorizing Advance Step Placement**

*PURPOSE: For Onondaga County District Attorney's Office to request that our Victim Assistance Supervisor be moved from a Step 3, Grade 31 to a Step 6, Grade 31.*

*OBJECTIVE / WORK PLAN: The Victim Assistance Supervisor is a crucial, public facing position that ensures victims of crime, as well as families of the victims of homicides, are treated with compassion, respect and patience as they encounter what may well be the worst moments of their lives. They are expected to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, there are administrative requirements to comply with the New York State Office of Victim Services. The Victim Assistance Supervisor has authority to speak on behalf of the District Attorney on issues related to their duties. In order to attract a qualified candidate, it is necessary to offer a salary commensurate with the duties and qualifications of the position.*

*FUNDING SOURCE: New York State Office of Victim Services*

**BUDGET:**

Grade 31, Step 3 = \$65,477

To

Grade 31, Step 6 = \$67,933

- The person holding the position unexpectedly retired at a salary in the \$80K range
- The step increase request is to attract candidates and will not affect the budget
- Duties include:
  - Coordinate hotel arrangements for of out of town trial witnesses
  - Arrange security for witnesses in protective custody
    - Some witnesses need to be relocated out of town
- Salary will increase according to the 2026 salary schedule
- To the Legislators not returning next year, thank you for the support throughout the years

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- As a Funeral Director, thank you for the resources provided to families in need
- Is the position currently staffed?
  - No, the position is not staffed
  - Balancing the responsibilities of the open position with the needs of the new STRIVE victims has been challenging

- Is there an alternate phone number than can be called until the position is filled?
  - If there is an issue, contact the DA directly
- Mr. Garland requests to cosponsor

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

**2. SECURITY: Chris Reidy, Director of Security**

**a. INFORMATIONAL: Update on the School Bus Stop-Arm Program**

- First 4 districts were 100% live on September 4, 2025
  - By the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October 2025, the following districts were installed with Stop-Arm cameras:
    - Baldwinsville, Liverpool, North Syracuse, East Syracuse, Fabius-Pompey, Jamesville-Dewitt, LaFayette, Onondaga Central
  - Provided 2 to 3 weeks of operation before notices of review were sent
- On average, 80 review notices are received per day with 49% turning into tickets
- To date there have been about 5,000 potential violations; 2,600 notices of liability were issued
  - Of the 2,600 notices, 230 have requested hearings
  - Violations were issued for a bus last in line inside the loop at Gillette Road school where children are in a safe area
    - Set up a geo fence around the school to limit what comes in for review
    - 175 violations were dismissed related to Gillette Road school
  - Violations were also issued for a bus completely isolated within the property at Van Buren Elementary
    - 50 violations were dismissed
  - This is not a money grab
- Some retraining is needed for drivers
- Biggest concerns early on were:
  - Getting a balance on what is considered a violation
  - Divided highway
    - Divided highway is enforceable with a school bus
      - Will not enforce if an actual barrier exists that children will not be crossing over (ie: Brewerton Rd.)
      - Regular 4 lane road (ie: Old Liverpool Rd.) will be enforced
- Highest volume of violations are in North Syracuse and Liverpool
  - Henry Clay, Brewerton Rd., Old Liverpool Rd.
- Lowest volume areas are Fabius-Pompey and LaFayette
- The biggest question is how to gauge if the program is successful or not
  - Gillette Road is the only school that has a person with multiple tickets
  - At this point, seeing one time fines with no repeats
- Beginning to see more alertness with the school buses
- Next steps for 2026
  - Get remaining districts live – F-M, Skaneateles, Jordan-Elbridge, West Genesee, Marcellus, Lyncourt, Solvay, West Hill, Tully
- Goal is to have all school districts in place by next school year

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- Does Security reach out to superintendents?
  - Yes, once MOU's are in place, will schedule installation for remaining districts
  - Hopeful to start installations by spring break to be ready in September
- What is the reason for the long stop-arm duration after the child enters the bus?
- What is the training of the bus driver?
  - There is definitely a re-education needed for bus drivers
  - Need to have another kind of media outreach to explain when cars need to stop
  - A web page has been created for the program
  - Biggest hurdle is getting hearings scheduled

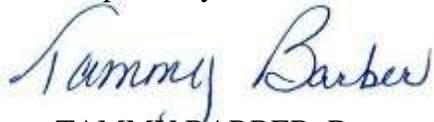
- It is ok if a fine will help the driver learn the rules
- What is the protocol for when the arm is dropped, when the child is on the bus, or when they are sitting?
  - Will look into it
- Would it help to install a manual override if a bus is in a parking lot?
  - Can become a problem with re-enabling the switch
  - Anything that looks like a parking lot is not being enforced
- Have there been any municipalities throughout the state that have started the program and stopped?
  - Not aware of any
  - City school zone program and county bus arm program are different programs
- Comments from Chair Olson:
  - This is my last meeting as Chairman of Public Safety
  - Thank you to all Committee members for your help and service
  - Thank you to every Fire, EMS, Police, Sheriff, Emergency Management, 911, DA’s office, Probation, and Corrections for everything you do to keep us safe in our community
    - Very proud of the work they do and everything done to help keep the community safe
  - As Chairman, thank you all very much for everything and be safe

**3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Dan Wears, Commissioner**

**a. Tour of Mobile Command Vehicle**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



TAMMY BARBER, Deputy Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2025

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Lucy Loke	DA's Office
michèle Robbins	DA's Office
William Fitzpatrick	DA's Office
Marie Washo	Financial Operations
Charles Gould	County Leg
Dan Wears	EM