
Commission Meeting

of

NEW JERSEY CAPITAL BUDGETING AND PLANNING COMMISSION

LOCATION: Committee Room 11
State House Annex
Trenton, New Jersey

DATE: October 10, 2003
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION PRESENT:

B. Carol Molnar, Chairwoman
Anthony F. Annese, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Joseph Cryan
Patrick R. Brannigan
Gary Brune
Robert A. Roth

ALSO PRESENT:

George LeBlanc
(Representing Senator Wayne R. Bryant)
Beth Schermerhorn
(Representing Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi)
David Rousseau
(Representing John E. McCormac)

Michael Vrancik, Acting Executive Director



Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
James E. Sulton Jr., Ph.D. Executive Director New Jersey Commission on Higher Education New Jersey Department of State	3
Susan A. Cole, Ph.D. President Montclair State University	5
Daniel W. Foster Director Resource Planning and Management Administrative Services New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety	18
Lieutenant Robert Plaza Budget Operations Bureau Division of State Police New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety	26
John N. Hartman Assistant Director Administration Division of Criminal Justice New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety	30
Howard L. Beyer Executive Director Juvenile Justice Commission New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety	40
Rosanne Fairbanks Director Administration Juvenile Justice Commission New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety	51

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Keith Poujol Manager Facility Support Services Juvenile Justice Commission New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety	52
Norma E. Blake State Librarian	58
APPENDIX:	
Statement submitted by Daniel W. Foster	1x
Statement submitted by Howard L. Beyer	20x
Statement submitted by Norma Blake	32x
lmb: 1-65	

B. CAROL MOLNAR (Chairwoman): I'd like to call the meeting to order. In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law, the Commission has provided adequate public notice of this meeting by giving written notice of time, date, and location. The notice of the meeting has been filed at least 48 hours in advance by mail and faxed to the Trenton *Times* and *The Star-Ledger*, and filed with the office of the Secretary of State.

I'll now do a roll call.

MR. VRANCIK (Acting Executive Director): Senator Littell. (no response)

George LeBlanc for Senator Bryant.

MR. LeBLANC: Here.

MR. VRANCIK: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Here.

MR. VRANCIK: Beth Schermerhorn for Assemblyman Biondi.

MS. SCHERMERHORN: Here.

MR. VRANCIK: Dave Rousseau, for the State Treasurer.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: Here.

MR. VRANCIK: Kevin McCabe, Department of Labor. (no response)

Gary Brune, OMB.

MR. BRUNE: Here.

MR. VRANCIK: Patrick Brannigan, Governor's Office.

MR. BRANNIGAN: Here.

MR. VRANCIK: Mr. Roth.

MR. ROTH: Here.

MR. VRANCIK: Mr. Annese.

MR. ANNESE: Here.

MR. VRANCIK: Chairperson Molnar.

MS. MOLNAR: Here.

Thank you.

MR. VRANCIK: We have a quorum.

MS. MOLNAR: Thank you.

At the last meeting, we tabled the minutes. Do I hear a motion to approve the minutes?

MR. ROTH: So moved.

MS. MOLNAR: Do I hear a second?

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Second.

MS. MOLNAR: Any discussion? (no response)

If not, we'll take a vote on the minutes.

MR. VRANCIK: George LeBlanc for Senator Bryant.

MR. LeBLANC: Yes.

MR. VRANCIK: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Yes.

MR. VRANCIK: Beth Schermerhorn for Assemblyman Biondi.

MS. SCHERMERHORN: Yes.

MR. VRANCIK: Dave Rousseau for the Treasurer.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: Yes.

MR. VRANCIK: Gary Brune.

MR. BRUNE: Yes.

MR. VRANCIK: Patrick Brannigan.

MR. BRANNIGAN: Yes.

MR. VRANCIK: Mr. Roth.

MR. ROTH: Yes.

MR. VRANCIK: Mr. Annese.

MR. ANNESE: Yes.

MR. VRANCIK: Ms. Molnar.

MS. MOLNAR: Yes.

Motion carries, right?

MR. VRANCIK: Easily.

MS. MOLNAR: Okay.

Is there an Executive Director's report?

MR. VRANCIK: Not at this time.

MS. MOLNAR: Okay. We'll take our departments now at this time. We'll do the Commission of Higher Ed.

I'd like to welcome James Sulton and Dr. Susan Cole.

Good morning.

JAMES E. SULTON JR., Ph.D.: Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the Commission. Thank you for inviting me to appear before you today. I am Jim Sulton, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education. It is my pleasure to appear today along with Dr. Susan Cole, President of Montclair State University. We are both here to offer brief presentations and discuss capital needs of New Jersey's senior public colleges and universities with you. Following my remarks, Dr. Cole will offer comments, and then we would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

During the regular monthly meetings of the Commission on Higher Education and the New Jersey's Presidents Council in September, CHE staff presented a draft of Stage 1 of the long-range plan for higher education, a Blueprint for Excellence. The Commission is statutorily responsible for developing and regularly updating a long-range plan for higher education with the advice and assistance of the Presidents Council.

In the spring of 2002, we kicked off a new planning process for higher education in our state. Over 500 stakeholders have been involved in the planning process, which included Governor McGreevey's Education Summit and several public fora held throughout the state -- a vision statement, articulating the shared responsibility of the State and its colleges and universities to create and sustain a higher education system that is among the best in the world, lies at the core of our work. Seven principal State objectives push us toward the achievement of that vision.

More detailed action plans and performance measures will be evolving as the plan progresses. During the month of October, we will seek broad, public input on the draft before adopting its final stage in November. The capacity of New Jersey's colleges and universities to fulfill the educational needs of students in our state has been a central concern throughout the planning process. The plan recommends an annual State appropriation for the regular renewal of facilities at public research universities and State colleges and universities, for the maintenance of the State's Higher Education physical needs.

The Commission is currently analyzing institutional responses to a capital needs questionnaire that complements our 2001 capital planning

report. This new information will inform efforts over the next year to develop a State policy and predictable funding, to promote rational planning and assist these institutions with the ongoing maintenance and renewal of campus physical plants.

In the interim, however, it is important to recognize that the State has only been able to provide periodic funding to maintain the capital assets of its public research universities and State colleges and universities. Our recent research indicates a need for more than \$170 million to address preservation and maintenance, regulatory compliance, and deferred maintenance needs that will not be met in conjunction with major renovation and construction projects anticipated over the next six years. The senior public colleges and universities have not received a direct capital funding appropriation for this purpose since Fiscal Year 1999. I respectfully urge you to consider funding in Fiscal Year 2005 to prevent a further backlog of projects.

Nationally recognized standards for annual maintenance of colleges and universities specifically recommend that between 1.5 percent and 3 percent of current replacement value be dedicated annually to maintenance and renewal. For Fiscal Year 2005, the Commission recommends an appropriation of \$36.3 million, which is 1 percent of current replacement value, estimated at \$3.6 billion, along with a required institutional match of 0.5 percent by the institutions, to avoid additional deferral of critical maintenance and compliance projects.

Thank you.

Dr. Cole.

S U S A N A. C O L E, Ph.D.: Is that on (referring to PA microphone)?

DR. SULTON: Yes.

DR. COLE: Okay.

Good morning, Madam Chair, members of the Commission. I'm Susan Cole, President of Montclair State University, and I'm here today representing New Jersey's 12 senior public colleges and universities: The College of New Jersey; Kean University; Montclair State University; New Jersey City University; New Jersey Institute of Technology; Ramapo College of New Jersey; the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey; Rowan University; Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey; Thomas Edison State College; the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey; and William Paterson University of New Jersey. I appreciate the opportunity to address you today. I will keep my comments brief, and I'll be glad to answer any questions you might have.

New Jersey, unlike the majority of other states, does not adequately or regularly invest in the capital facilities of its public colleges and universities, and the consequent urgent capital facilities and major equipment needs of the State's campuses have been documented for years. A recent survey conducted by the Commission on Higher Education identified unmet capital needs of more than 3.7 billion just for New Jersey's 12 senior public colleges and universities.

For decades, the State's institutions have been left essentially on their own by the State to make the choice between inadequate facilities, on the one hand, and on the other hand, independently selling bonds and laying off the obligations of debt service on operating budgets that increasingly must rely on tuition revenues to sustain the quality of the campus environment. The State's public colleges and universities are, as a consequence, among the most leveraged

public institutions in the nation and are already carrying more than 1.2 billion in debt, and that debt is going to increase significantly again this year.

Just to give you a few limited examples of what I'm talking about:

The College of New Jersey, for example, recently completed two science buildings, two parking structures, and has a new library, another parking structure and a residential complex under construction.

Richard Stockton College has planned 29 million in repair and renovation projects for the academic year.

Montclair State University, where our enrollment is growing extremely rapidly, has recently completed a parking garage, four new residence halls, and has under construction the largest academic building ever built on the campus, a theater, and a massive upgrade of the entire campus utilities infrastructure.

Rutgers, in continuing collaboration with the redevelopment efforts in New Brunswick, is currently constructing a public safety building and student housing downtown.

UMDNJ has underway approximately 500 million in a building program across its campuses.

A number of New Jersey's institutions are approaching the limits of what the bond-rating agencies assess as responsible debt, and debt service obligations are an increasing portion of underfunded operating budgets. A number of our institutions are carrying particularly high levels of debt per student, and for the nine State colleges and universities that have been particularly disadvantaged in receipt of capital funding from the State, debt is already equal to over 30 percent of the replacement value of our campuses.

Lack of support for the upgrading and expansion of capital facilities of its colleges and universities has a long-term and a negative impact for the State. One of the more dangerous results, the inadequacy of the science and high technology and specialized facilities on New Jersey's campuses, clearly will affect the State's ability to remain competitive in the high-knowledge economy. One of the more visible results is the deficit in the types of amenities found on the campuses of the nation's great public universities, such as adequate residence halls, and athletic and recreational facilities. And one of the more compelling results is the dramatic lack of capacity we have to meet the current demand for higher education by the people of this state.

The critical point here is that the under-building of New Jersey's public colleges and universities is not marginal, it is very dramatic. New Jersey's ranking has just dropped again, and the State now ranks 45th out of 50 states in its public four-year enrollment per capita. Just to reach the national mean, New Jersey would need to serve 68,000 more students -- just to reach the national mean. This dramatic shortfall in capacity coincides with current projections of the fifth highest growth rate in the nation in the number of high school graduates in the decade between 2001 and 2011. We could have as many as 36,000 more students seeking enrollment in the State's institutions each year. The results of the under-building of New Jersey public higher education become apparent as soon as one looks at states of comparable size. Each year, New Jersey educates 20,000 students fewer than North Carolina; 25,000 fewer than Georgia; 35,000 fewer than Virginia; 47,000 fewer than Indiana; and a whopping 130,000 fewer than Michigan -- all states of comparable size.

New Jersey came later than other states to a fully developed sense of the importance of public higher education, both in supporting the economic development of the State and in assuring that economic and other societal obstacles do not limit educational opportunity for all who have the ability to benefit from it. But the time has come to catch up with history and for the State to begin to think strategically about the investment it must make to secure the future.

Over the past year, the idea of taking a proposal for a major, general obligation bond to the voters to support capital construction on the State's campuses has received increasing attention. Hopefully, there will be serious consideration given to such an initiative, which would enable the State to address its serious capacity problem, enable the State's institutions to stand at the forefront of research and the high knowledge disciplines that will be critical to the State's future competitiveness, and address the educational needs of its growing population.

A major bond, if properly structured, could have a very significant impact on meeting the urgent backlog of higher education facilities' needs, and could have a profound and long-term positive impact on both the economy and the quality of life in New Jersey. Such a bond would require the active support of all sectors of government, as well as the business and higher education communities. And speaking for the entire higher education community in the state, I can assure you that we would mobilize all our resources to work with government, the business community, and the communities throughout the state to assure the success on the ballot of such an initiative.

Beyond a potential GO bond, it is time for New Jersey, from a long-term policy perspective, to come to terms with the fact, as have most other states in the nation, that its public colleges and universities need a regularly recurring source of funds to maintain, upgrade, and expand their facilities. As important as a bond would be, and it would be very important indeed, such a one-time event needs to be buttressed with ongoing attention to the continuing needs of these heavily used and critically important institutions. An annual appropriation for maintenance and renewal, as recommended by the Commission on Higher Education, would be a modest but a very useful start to a renewed commitment by the State to sustain its public campuses for the education of New Jersey's current and future students.

Thank you.

MS. MOLNAR: Thank you.

I had a few questions for my fellow members up here. Is there strong support from the Governor's Office and Treasury regarding a major bond for higher ed, or any supporters?

MR. VRANCIK: David.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: I believe that the Vagelos Commission -- that's one of the things that they're -- or which -- one of the commissions that is looking at it, at the total restructuring and everything, is looking at that topic. I think we'll just wait to see what they have to recommend.

MS. MOLNAR: Are they also looking at the possibility of an annual appropriation?

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: I don't think they're looking at that. I think they're looking at the overall capital needs. On that issue of an annual appropriation, what I'd like to ask President Cole and Director Sulton is -- you say that most states have this. Can you give us some information on these states that have it? And just as a point of reference, if in an ideal world, yes, we would all like to put 1 percent of our capital plan aside every year. It's a shame that during the 1990s, when we had lots of money, we weren't doing that. Now, when we have hard times, we don't have-- Just for reference, if we were to do that for State buildings, which we probably should do just as well as the colleges, we would have to put -- what was it, Gary? It's 12 billion, so we'd have to put \$120 million aside that wouldn't be available for other things in the budget, and that's what it comes down to. A budget always comes down to a choice between, do you fix a building or do you provide current services to the public? And normally fixing a building, just like in your own household budget sometimes, fixing something gets put aside because of current expenses. But I would just ask for information. You referenced other states, and I'd like to see that information and whether or not, for the last three or four years, they have still kept up with their commitment as well.

DR. COLE: Mr. Rousseau, I'd be glad, and I know the Commission would be glad as well, to provide you with detailed information about how other states provide capital support to their public institutions.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: And also on ideas about how they fund them, as well, if it's a regular fund appropriation, if it's some other means.

DR. COLE: Yes.

DR. SULTON: Dr. Cole is right, Mr. Rousseau. And I would add that in several states you find they have a capital budget for higher education, and that is a distinct difference when it comes to New Jersey -- that we don't have pay-as-you-go capital on a regular basis. And therefore, when hard times kick in, as you aptly described looking at the '90s as compared with the current decade, they have already a base, that we don't have, on which to build.

MS. MOLNAR: Mr. Brannigan.

MR. BRANNIGAN: I'd like to address the issue. The Governor's Office is very involved and is working with and communicating with all of the sectors of higher education, both the research universities, the four-year institutions, the community colleges, and the independents. There are a number of major issues occurring right now, and they are all interrelated. You have the Jobs, Economic, Growth Commission (*sic*), sometimes called the Vagelos Committee (*sic*) because he's chair of it, and you have the restructuring of higher education. You had the study that was conducted of the Commission on Science and Technology, all of which look at the economic growth of our state, and providing for the quality of life of New Jersey. New Jersey is a state that will depend on having a robust higher education community.

But the Governor's Office is consistent in its message that these are all interrelated, and that the restructuring of the research universities is very important, as is capacity building, but that we don't think that we will be able to move ahead unless you move ahead on addressing all of the issues, rather than a single issue. But we are deeply committed to building our higher education system to be the system that Dr. Cole described, and Dr. Sulton, as

a world-class system, because we realize that our future in the State depends upon it.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Can I ask a follow-up on that?

MS. MOLNAR: Sure.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: If we had a funding mechanism in place, would tuitions drop?

DR. COLE: Would tuitions drop? It would depend on what happens with operating support and capital support.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: If there was what you described, which we just discussed, some sort of current and on-going revenue stream for capital, would tuitions drop? And I'm going to ask the same question later in terms of capacity. But if that was available today, would tuitions drop?

DR. COLE: It depends on how much capital support and how much operating support the institutions receive. The public institutions in the State raise tuitions only to the extent that they need to do to meet their needs, and if the operating support is there and the capital support is there, then you don't put the burden on student tuition.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I know how it works. I just wanted to understand. I guess the answer is, is realistically, probably not.

DR. SULTON: I might qualify it a little bit more. I think that you have a reasonable expectation there, but it would differ from one institution to another, as to whether or not, because the tuition-setting is an individual institutional decision. It's hard to say, flat out, if it's dropped.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Well, 9 percent seemed to be a pretty common institution number this year.

DR. SULTON: Well, New Jersey has held under double digits for a couple of years now, which is admirable, and in comparative context, no question about it. Other states have gone way up into the double digits now, even into scary territory -- 40 percent.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I was following up on that topic. I have some other questions when you're ready. Can I do that now?

MS. MOLNAR: Yes, sure.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: President Cole, with the -- just so that I understand, in terms of the numbers on Page 2 of your wonderful statement here, are they apples to apples? Is New Jersey's 20,000 students fewer than North Carolina when the numbers go up? Is that full-time to full-time, or does that include our -- what about our county colleges? I recognize you're here in terms of higher ed, but is it apples to apples, just so that I understand it?

DR. COLE: That is an apples-to-apples comparison, but it is only of the four-year public institutions. It does not address the community college comparisons. I can tell you, from the research that I have done, that you would find that New Jersey educates approximately the same number of students in its community colleges as states of comparable size. The major deficit is in four-year institution.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: And in the four years of full-time students only?

DR. COLE: This is not full-time only. It's full-time and part-time. But the predominant majority of the students are full-time in both baskets of apples.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: My other question was, for the priorities that you listed -- I guess this goes to you, Director -- there is-- I have what makes up the 36 million, that's part of your testimony, and I read through each listing of that. But what I don't get is a sense of priorities. Like I see, Rowan wants a million-six, New Jersey wants a million-four. Is there a set of priorities within that, or is it just by institution, or is there something that crosses institutional lines that would be able to guide us, because I didn't see that?

DR. SULTON: Well, in answer to all those questions is, yes, sir. The institutions have facilities and master plans which include a prioritization of their projects.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Yes, I got that.

DR. SULTON: And so, we have to go institution by institution to give you that breakdown.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Right. So I don't have any -- I have that. I read through that stuff for each thing--

DR. SULTON: Okay.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: --but there's nothing that says, in terms of your world, "Hey, this priority at William Paterson counts more than this at Rowan or vice versa."

DR. SULTON: Nothing so centralized as that.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Okay. And so, you would follow the 1 percent guideline or the half of percent guideline in order to try and determine some priorities, or you'd leave that up to us if we were trying to figure out an amount. If we were going less than 36 million-- Suppose we were going less

than your request, what sort of guidance would you give us if we were looking at priorities? Why don't I put it to you that way. Do you follow me?

DR. SULTON: Yes.

DR. COLE: Oh, yes.

DR. SULTON: We would give you whatever guidance you need to break it out.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Okay. All right. Thank you.

DR. COLE: I think, basically, what you're asking us is, we could do it by lowering the percentage across the board or by prioritizing the needs of the institutions.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: That's correct. Thank you.

MS. MOLNAR: Any other questions or comments?

Mr. Brune.

MR. BRUNE: I have a question for Dr. Sulton, for a second. I understand and I heard fully well the point about being leveraged to the hilt. But sprinkled throughout the project was -- appear to be some projects that might have their own revenue stream, things like parking facilities, new residence halls. I want to make sure I understand the rationalization for where the State comes in. If you have an example where you're building a new parking facility, wouldn't that be a perfect opportunity to leverage something?

DR. SULTON: Dr. Cole might like to speak to that as well. From my planning purposes at the Commission, we have separated out all revenue-generating projects from others. But as someone who runs an institution, she'd probably be in a better position to speak to that.

DR. COLE: Normally, when an institution will put in its capital priorities, it will put in both the revenue and non-revenue generating projects, so you have an overall sense of everything that is needing to be built. We would look to the State, primarily, for funding for non-revenue projects. The reason knowing about the revenue projects is important is, because even though they're revenue projects, when the rating agencies come in, they count them against our balance sheet because we are responsible for them. And so they do have an impact on how the institution is rated and our overall leveraging in terms of borrowing the funds.

MR. BRUNE: Thank you.

MS. MOLNAR: Any other questions or comments? (no response)

If not, on a positive note, I read somewhere -- I guess it was *U.S. News* -- that New Jersey residents get one of the best values for their dollars at our higher ed. So I want to thank you for looking out for our students, and I want to thank you for your presentation,

DR. COLE: Thank you.

DR. SULTON: Thank you.

MS. MOLNAR: Our next department is the Department of Law and Public Safety. I'd like to welcome Don (*sic*) Foster. Dan Foster, I'm sorry. Typo. Dan Foster.

DANIEL W. FOSTER: Before I begin, I would like to introduce Captain (*sic*) Plaza, to my left, from the Division of State Police. He's the Bureau Chief in our Budget Office.

Good morning, Chairman (*sic*) Molnar, members of the Capital Planning Commission (*sic*), and Acting Executive Director Vrancik. On behalf

of the Attorney General, Harvey, thank you for this opportunity to outline the Department of Law and Public Safety's capital budget request for Fiscal Year 2005. I would also like to thank the Commission for the support it has provided to the Department over the past several years.

The State Police Troop C Headquarters in Hamilton was recently occupied and the adjacent Technology Complex will soon be completed. Funding provided by the Capital Commission has given the Troop C Headquarters building, the forensic laboratory, and the high-tech criminal science facility new state-of-the-art equipment. Through this facility, the State Police will now have the tools to better and more efficiently perform its mission -- from DNA and ballistics testing, to compiling and reporting crime statistics, to investigating high-technology computer crime, to providing sophisticated computerized dispatching.

Concerning the Department of Law and Public Safety's capital request for Fiscal Year 2005, our first capital priority is the 9/11 Communications Center in Totowa. As the responsibilities placed on the State Police increase, the ability to effectively communicate is of the utmost importance. This request would fund the construction of a much-needed communication center at Totowa in northern New Jersey, and the purchase of the new radio equipment for the Totowa, West Trenton, and Buena Operational Dispatch Units.

Totowa is operating in space that was originally designed as a report room for the Totowa Patrol Station. The Totowa Communications Center remains overcrowded, in need of repairs and numerous upgrades. It is time to construct a new facility for this important function.

The radio equipment for existing communications centers will provide those centers with state-of-the-art radio equipment, which is on par with the equipment recently installed at the new Hamilton Complex. As part of the aftermath of September 11, we have realized that all of our communications centers must be equipped to handle large-scale crises, as well as the increased volume of calls handled on a typical day.

Our second priority is a request for capital preservation funds to address fire safety at the Division of Consumer Affairs' Weights and Measures facility in Woodbridge. This is a facility where millions of dollars worth of sophisticated equipment remains at risk due to the need for a sprinkler system. The equipment at risk includes precision testing scales and balances, calibrated measuring devices, and other precision instruments used to verify the accuracy of commercial equipment, pharmaceutical scales, and supermarket weighing equipment.

We are also requesting funds for the critical repairs to the Regional Medical Examiner and State Toxicology Laboratory at the Albano Institute of Forensic Science in Newark. This institute is a 22-year-old, State-owned facility used by the New Jersey Medical Examiner as a base of operations for mass disaster planning, training, and other medical examiner functions. It is the largest morgue in the state, and serves as the staging area for catastrophes. Several modifications are needed to ensure the continued health and safety of those that work in this facility, as well as a consistent quality of scientific performance.

We are requesting that the HVAC system be replaced, as well as various floors and refrigeration units at the Medical Examiner's office. In addition, we are requesting that the parking lot be resurfaced.

Another serious concern is the condition of our aging helicopter fleet. This year's request includes funding for the purchase of three light, twin-turbine engine helicopters and two intermediate twin-turbine engine helicopters.

Recent events have demonstrated the need for a rapid response in crisis situations. We have examined our airborne law enforcement mission with emphasis on domestic preparedness, as well as our air ambulance responsibilities. Three of the four aircraft used for the Air Ambulance Program are more than 14 years old. As these aircraft continue to age, maintenance and repairs occur more frequently and become more costly. The replacement of these ships is essential.

Numerous State Police facilities require continuing fire safety retrofits, roof repairs, HVAC replacements, and critical repairs. These requests remain high on our list of priorities. Over the years, the Commission has provided funding to minimize emergency repairs. This request is made in the hope that, once again, you will provide funding to help keep our State facilities well-maintained.

Another critical need for the Division of State Police is the modernization and replacement of the telephone system. Currently, patrol stations are using an antiquated, 23-year-old telephone system. This system disrupts phone service for lengthy periods of time, and citizens are unable to contact our patrol stations. The inability to contact our road stations by

conventional telephone service, even for a short period of time, potentially compromises the safety of both our citizens and our State Troopers.

Our radio equipment request asks for \$10 million to continue funding for overhauling our analog radio system. We are fortunate to have received a \$30 million Federal grant that can help fund this project, but additional State funding is necessary to complete it. I cannot emphasize enough the need for the reliable communication equipment and the need to modernize the radio system in New Jersey. Simply put, radio communications are a Trooper's lifeline.

Over the past few years, funding was made available through the State to develop many of the critical internal systems needed by the Division of State Police to manage their resources in a cost [effective] and efficient manner. Despite many significant improvements, there is still a long list of critical internal information systems that need to be built. There is still no automated inventory system to keep track of the thousands of materials used by the Division. We have yet to develop a comprehensive personnel system, which is the integral part of meeting the requirements of the consent decree.

The Division of State Police cannot lose the momentum it has gained since the advent of the Federal consent decree. Our Fiscal Year 2005 capital budget IT request is aimed at keeping the critical infrastructure in place, upgrading obsolete equipment, and developing those systems necessary to support law enforcement in the 21st Century.

As you know, plans for the new State Police Emergency Operations Center at West Trenton will continue to move forward with construction proposals that are expected in mid-October, and an anticipated award date in

December of this year. Our Fiscal Year 2005 capital request seeks your support to buy furniture and specialized emergency operations equipment that are not included in the funding.

The need for homeland security forces the issue of our ability to provide security for a number of vulnerable ports, sensitive military facilities, nuclear power plants, refineries, and other strategic locations. The purchase of five, fully equipped, 44-foot Sea Ark marine vessels is requested to strengthen Marine Police operations. The Marine Police presence at Lake Hopatcong remains critical because, year round, it is the most heavily boat-populated lake in the state. The State Police facility at Lake Hopatcong is presently a renovated bait shop, built in 1948, and is inadequate. We are requesting funds to purchase a property adjacent to the existing space.

We also look forward to the development of a new State Police Professional Learning Center and Headquarters in West Trenton. Construction of this facility would address the State Police's training needs, as defined by the consent decree.

Over the years, funding has been requested for the purchase of two vehicles to replace two severely outdated Weights and Measures trucks. These trucks test the weighing scales, used by the State Police, for enforcement of truck weight and size regulations, and they also are used to test the accuracy of shipping scales and container sizes.

We have also included other requests, like the purchase of lease facilities, mobile crime-scene laboratories, regional training center, and renovations which are all critical to the mission of the State Police.

Your continued support and funding will help to maintain our infrastructure. Again, I want to thank you for the support you have given us in the past, and I will be happy to address any questions you may have.

MS. MOLNAR: Thank you.

Any questions or comments?

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I have a couple.

MS. MOLNAR: Okay.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Is that all right?

MS. MOLNAR: Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Thanks.

The first one -- and good morning and thanks for your time and your testimony -- is on the 9/11 Center. Any Federal money out there? And if so, what's the budget for the Federal money?

MR. FOSTER: We've actually looked at all the resources that are available, and we have not been able to find anything else to be able to address this situation.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Even if we got the cash from Washington that we should get for the Homeland Security and the response to 9/11, there's nothing there that would help us in terms of building this facility?

MR. FOSTER: Actually, most -- we have a statewide list of first responder grant money that's--

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: That's out there.

MR. FOSTER: There have been many projects identified. Again, they are done in priority order. There's nothing for the 911 Totowa Center at

this point. I mean, they are operational. It is an overcrowded situation, and it really needs to be addressed.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I don't have any issue with the addressing it. I just find it -- I'll be honest with you -- surprising that there's not any money available for a center that would be -- what -- 20 miles from New York City, or so? That just doesn't make a lot of sense to me. There's been applications that have been denied -- is that what we're saying -- or we never tried?

MR. FOSTER: I don't know that. I will go back and check on that before -- and just to ensure that it's not on the list or hasn't been requested.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I'd like to know that, and I know that in particular -- like, I represent a city with a port and the first responder money that they're asking for there seems to be high dollar. And I guess I just want to understand what part of the Federal Government works with that. And if there isn't any, I'd like to know that through the Chair.

MR. FOSTER: And through the Chair, we will provide you the answer.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I'm in no particular order, but on Page 14, I want to understand the outdated Weights and Measures trucks. And the reason for that is the highway safety initiative, that's a concern of mine. Route 78 runs through -- I'll be selfish and say -- my district, but we've all seen the highway safety initiatives put out there by the government. Does this have any impact? I mean, what's the cost of the measurements, the truck safety? Because I couldn't pick that up looking through the priorities. Maybe I just missed it.

MR. FOSTER: We have a \$300,000 request for the Weights and Measures trucks.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: What's the issue now? Are you saying that they don't work or they are outdated or-- We've seen the administration take a very pro-active approach with the trucks that are too heavy, and a concern about public safety in that regard. My interest is, is what does this do to help combat that?

MR. FOSTER: Well, I can offer that the vehicles are 1984 vehicles. And then, due to the age and the wear and the condition, they have deteriorated to the point where they need to be replaced.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: You know I'm going to ask you the life span, the other questions. I'll come back. How long should they last? Have they been calibrated? Are they properly maintained? Through the Chair, I would appreciate it if you could just follow up with some more information on that for me.

MR. FOSTER: Certainly.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: With the facility that's opened now, as you mentioned in the opening part of your statements today, with the new headquarters and the DNA facility, I was wondering -- because we sat here last year and talked about the backlog of DNA testing -- if there's been any reduction in that yet, or do we foresee some and when? I'm not asking you to have that today. I'm asking, through the Chair, if you could provide that.

MR. FOSTER: Okay.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: And my last question is, is we were chatting a little bit. Was there just some Federal money sent out for helicopters anywhere?

MR. FOSTER: No.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: No, nothing. And what's the life span of a helicopter and a medi-vac helicopter?

L I E U T E N A N T R O B E R T P L A Z A: Sir, for a corporate helicopter, the life span is approximately -- they say about 15 to 17 years. For a helicopter that's used for medi-vac, they estimate -- the industry standard is probably about 12 to 14 years. The ships that are currently in use are probably approaching 16 years old. Let me just clarify that, I think they're around 16.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: And these are all -- three helicopters-- I don't know the difference between the light, twin-turbine, and an intermediate. I'll be perfectly honest with you. Are these all medi-vac helicopters?

LIEUTENANT PLAZA: No, sir. The three light, twin-turbine engine helicopters would be utilized to replace our general police mission, for the most part. The general police mission, right now, is serviced by three, single-engine Bell aircraft. A consultant survey that was done approximately seven to eight years ago -- I'm sorry, maybe even longer than that now -- suggested that single-engine aircraft should not be used in a state as congested as New Jersey, flying over congested areas, as well as flying over water and operations of that nature. We've been utilizing these aircraft. They have been performing admirably, but we're at the point now where if we had transferred to a twin-engine light-- The light and the intermediate are just basically -- the capacity of the aircraft to, maybe, carry loads or to perform mission specifications. But

ideally, it would be nice if we could have five ships of the same nature. But fiscally, it would be more responsible to request the lighter weight ship for the general police mission, which is probably about a third of the costs.

The medi-vac ships, the twin-engine intermediates that you see -- the cost of the ship is, roughly, around \$10 million. That ship would be needed for the medi-vac service, because obviously you have a flight crew of approximately four people, and then if you were transporting two additional -- it just needs a stronger capacity. The performance that it's asked -- the mission that it's asked to perform is a much more critical mission. They're asked to fly in all kinds of weather conditions, land sometimes in parking lots to pick up accident victims.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: So, if a fellow was looking at these five, and they're grouped really two and three--

LIEUTENANT PLAZA: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: --what priority of the two and the three is -- which one is first and which one is second?

LIEUTENANT PLAZA: I would have to say the medi-vac ships, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: So the two are, versus the three?

LIEUTENANT PLAZA: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I have a couple more, Madam Chair, if that's all right?

I was surprised that the second priority was for sprinklers at 110,000 in Woodbridge. Is that right?

MR. FOSTER: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I know where it is. It's near the prison down there, right? Off Route 1, I think. Is that right? Is that where the facility is? Wood building, brick? What kind of building is it? Is it a fire hazard, I guess? It might be the way to ask.

MR. FOSTER: At this time, I don't know what the building is made of.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Okay. I guess that's it.

Thank you.

MS. MOLNAR: Thank you.

MR. ROTH: Madam Chair?

MS. MOLNAR: Yes.

MR. ROTH: Perhaps I'm having a senior moment, but I seem to recall over the last couple of years that we've approved -- this Commission has approved the purchase of helicopters for the State Police. Am I correct? Were they purchased? What's their condition? Can anybody answer that question, those questions?

MR. FOSTER: We did have an approp a couple of years ago. I think there was fiscal constraints. We couldn't go forward with it at the time. And then there was language that provided us with the ability to go forward with helicopters. But at the same time, we're faced with some real tight fiscal restraints.

MR. ROTH: So, we're really talking today about the same helicopters we approved two or three years ago?

MR. FOSTER: For the most part, yes.

MR. ROTH: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I had one other one. I'm sorry. I remembered what it was.

MS. MOLNAR: Okay, Assemblyman. That's okay.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: The Medical Examiner -- and do we share in Priority 3, in the largest morgue in Newark, the stuff that's done there. And I don't understand the function that well. Is it something that services counties, as well. Is this something where maybe--

MR. FOSTER: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: --other-- Should counties or other municipalities, or whatever else is serviced, chip in, for lack of a better way to put it, or is this something that we provide as a service? Maybe you could just explain it for me a little bit?

MR. FOSTER: If I have it correct, I believe what happened was, there was a charge several years back, but then it became an issue that the State would provide the service statewide. Let me confirm that.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Okay. So this is a service we provide to every county?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER FROM AUDIENCE: Four.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Four counties. They are?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER FROM AUDIENCE: Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Somerset.

MS. MOLNAR: Could you identify the speaker for our court reporter?

MR. FOSTER: Yes. That's John Hartman, the Chief Administrative Officer from the Division of Criminal Justice.

MS. MOLNAR: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: So what -- we actually provide autopsy, morgue-type services for these four counties?

JOHN N. HARTMAN: (speaking from audience) Under contract, correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Okay. So they pay.

MR. HARTMAN: They pay for the services, for all the operating costs.

MS. MOLNAR: Could you come up to the mike? Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: So these counties pay for this service?

MR. HARTMAN: They pay for the operating costs of the autopsies. That's correct. But not for the physical plant. This was built about 20 years ago, when the State operated the facility.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Okay. So what we're looking for here is-- Does the place operate at a profit, a loss?

MR. HARTMAN: No. Just at a-- No. It operates to break even. We only charge the counties for what it costs us to perform the service.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Gotta ask, sitting here, on this. Why wouldn't we just go to the counties and ask each to throw in a hundred each?

MR. HARTMAN: We have asked and--

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: And they said, "No, go back here."

MR. HARTMAN: --they've been unreceptive, particularly the larger urban counties.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Which I can figure out which ones they are, from here. (laughter)

Thanks.

And my last thing is the boats. Do we share services with the State Troopers? I mean, Union County has a county police that provides port service with marine-type stuff. You mentioned Lake Hopatcong, which I don't know much about, but do we really need boats at this point? To be honest--

LIEUTENANT PLAZA: Sir, the boats that are used-- I mean, we patrol the Hudson Bay and also all the refineries, and all along the Delaware River, as well as, we assist the Coast Guard with any events that are going on up by Liberty State Park and in that areas. Most of our ships that are in the -- probably above the 32-foot range, the larger ships that we need, are probably 1987 vintage and older. The requests that we have -- I believe it's for-- They're a 44-foot ship. Three of our larger ships have been placed out of service this past year, with an additional five that have been identified for replacement, as 1987 vintage and older.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: How many identified for replacement? You said three out of service, and one more?

LIEUTENANT PLAZA: Three are out of service, and there are an additional five that we have that are beyond their life span, to put it easily.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: So that's why we're looking for five boats, five vessels.

LIEUTENANT PLAZA: Yes, sir.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Okay. All right.

Thank you.

MS. MOLNAR: Any other questions or comments?

Mr. Brannigan.

MR. BRANNIGAN: Just a comment on the helicopter issue. The Governor's Office has been in communications with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security about supplying New Jersey with the infra-ray (*sic*) equipment for our State Police helicopters, which would enable them to dramatically improve the security around Newark Airport (*sic*), by being able to identify potential terrorists hidden in different areas. The Department has been optimistic on supplying us with at least two ships' equipment, which is approximately \$2 to \$3 million. So it's critically important, particularly if you remember the articles about the manpad, rocket-launched missiles, which were attempted to be smuggled into the country.

So the issue of helicopters, because of homeland security, is a far more significant issue today than it was two or three years ago. The driving force, really, is our ability to reduce vulnerability in areas that we're very vulnerable.

MS. MOLNAR: Thank you, Mr. Brannigan.

MR. ROTH: Would those helicopters, coming from the Federal Government--

MR. BRANNIGAN: No, it's equipment for our current fleet.

MR. ROTH: Oh, it's equipment for, not helicopters.

MR. BRANNIGAN: Yes. It's infra-ray equipment for our fleet.

MR. ROTH: Okay, I'm sorry.

MR. VRANCIK: The request for the equipment at Totowa -- there's a 911 Commission that meets regularly. I know they're addressing a statewide 911 communications network. Is this consistent with that, or a part of that overall effort?

MR. FOSTER: It is consistent with the needs addressed by, and in conjunction with, the 911 Commission.

MR. VRANCIK: I guess I didn't ask the question right. Is it a critical part of that network, or is it ancillary to, I guess, is a better way of--

MR. FOSTER: It's a critical part of it.

MS. MOLNAR: Mr. Rousseau.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: Just a follow-up on a couple of Assemblyman Cryan's questions. And I still believe that we are going to -- and when he's done with his legislative career, we're going to hire him in Treasury, but-- (laughter)

The issue about the 911 center and his question to you about Federal funds. There are Federal funds that you have available. You've just decided to prioritize other things with those Federal funds instead. Correct?

MR. FOSTER: Yes.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: I mean, this is a decision you made to do other things. Could you give us a list of what things you believe are a higher priority than this, that you're using with those existing Federal funds? So for us to look at -- maybe this Commission believes that you should be using your Federal funds for this, instead of some of the other things that you're looking at. Because you didn't say-- You were clear. You said you've just decided to come for State funds for this. You have Federal funds available. I think it's something like \$120 million, or something. I know some of it's dedicated to certain things, but if you could just outline why -- where you're spending your Federal money so we can take a look at it and decide, and the Legislature later on. Maybe it's better that, if this is really a high priority, maybe

we hold off on something you have on that list. We don't know what's on that list. Maybe everything on that list is a higher priority. Maybe it isn't. If we can look at--

And the other thing. I'm going to go back to these Weights and Measures trucks that he had. I'm just amazed that there's no-- It appears from reading this, are these basically trucks that you use, that you know they're a certain weight, you put them on the weights and measures, on this scale, just to verify the scale is correct? Is that what I'm reading that these trucks are?

MR. FOSTER: That is correct.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: There's no other--

MR. FOSTER: They have 5,000-pound scales on them that--

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: There's no other-- I mean, technology has changed so much in the last 20 years -- there's no other way to check these scales other than putting something that supposedly weighs what it is onto the scale? I was reading what they were used for, then I kept on going back to it. I wasn't clear. But then, the more I read it, it seemed like all you do is put these trucks on the scale to make sure that the scale reads 5,000 pounds, or whatever. Is there no other way to do that than to spend \$300,000 on two trucks?

MR. FOSTER: Well, they actually go as much as 25,000 pounds.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: But there's no other way, with technology, to check a scale anymore, other than putting something on it to check it?

MR. FOSTER: I don't know of any other, unless-- I can check with the Weights and Measures people.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: I mean, are we finding out that we're having major problems with our scales?

MR. FOSTER: Yes. It's just deteriorating. They have frequent mechanical repairs, and it's getting to the point where--

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: No. Which has the frequent mechanical repairs, the truck that you're checking the scales with or the scales? Because I'm reading this as these are the trucks that you check the weight of -- you check the functioning of the scales with these trucks.

MR. FOSTER: It's the actual trucks.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: And there's no other way to check the functioning of the scales other than using these trucks?

MR. FOSTER: I don't know of any other way.

DEPUTY TREASURER ROUSSEAU: I mean, I'm sure that trucks get weighed at other spots. That if it was weighed coming out of the shipyard in Elizabeth, where it is weighed for a lot of reasons, and it's on their manifest that it's 25,000 pounds, or whatever it is, and then it goes 15 miles down the road and happens to get a weighing, they should be the same by that point in time. Or if they're not, then we know something's wrong with one of the two scales. It just seems strange that these are trucks that check-- These aren't the scales. These are trucks that check that the scales are accurate. That's how I read this, and I just thought there would be some way-- If this is how we were doing it 20 years ago, that there's got to be some different way. It just was odd.

MR. FOSTER: I don't know of any new technologies.

MR. ROTH: Madam Chair, this really confuses me.

Are these trucks basically empty trucks that you've loaded weights into to bring them up to a certain weight? They move around from weigh station to weigh station to check the scales. Is that what we're talking about?

MR. FOSTER: Yes. They go and they actually verify--

MR. ROTH: We have to buy new trucks to do this? I mean, the Army -- the Department of Defense has auctions all the time where they getting rid of their old trucks. Why couldn't we buy enough of those, which are relatively cheap. I think you can buy them for a few thousand dollars each. Leave one at every weigh station and put some weights in it. You don't have to load it with gold bricks. You can load it with rocks.

MR. FOSTER: Well, it's not just the weights.

MR. ROTH: It seems to me like \$300,000 to check scales is outrageous.

MR. FOSTER: Well, it's the trucks with all the equipment in it also.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: What equipment?

MR. ROTH: I'm sorry.

MR. FOSTER: I believe it's the trucks with the equipment in it.

MR. ROTH: What equipment are we talking about? I thought we were just talking about weights.

MR. FOSTER: It says here, "To provide the purchase of two trucks, currently operated by officers. The trucks are used primarily in the field of commercial operation to verify the accuracy of shipping scales and scales designed to weigh transport vehicles."

MR. ROTH: Well, you just said the only way they can verify whether those scales are operating is by putting something on them that weighs that much that they know the weight of. An old duce-and-a-half truck filled with rocks would weigh just as much as a new truck filled would.

MR. FOSTER: The trucks themselves, though, carry 5,000-pound -- what I'm calling -- scaled test carts. And they actually have 21,000-pound test weights on them.

MR. ROTH: All right. Thank you.

I'm still confused.

MS. MOLNAR: Do you want more information, perhaps?

MR. ROTH: Definitely.

MS. MOLNAR: Could you follow up with some additional information on this?

MR. FOSTER: Sure.

MS. MOLNAR: Mr. Brune.

MR. BRUNE: Dan, just a couple of quick questions.

In Priority No. 12, one of my questions is the interoperability plan for which we got \$30 million from the Federal Government.

MR. FOSTER: Yes.

MR. BRUNE: I think that's where you allude to, in your testimony, that the cost of that is higher. Is part of that cost in this request somewhere, or is that an out-year cost, the remaining value?

MR. FOSTER: It would be out-year cost.

MR. BRUNE: Okay.

As you unfold the plans for that, is the Department talking to NJ Transit and people of that sort that have a similar need for, kind of, a global interoperability plan?

MR. FOSTER: Yes.

MR. BRUNE: So when we see cost estimates that -- we can assume that that reflects the combined effort.

MR. FOSTER: The other departments, yes.

MR. BRUNE: Okay.

Just one other question. In a world of 911, Dan, as I understand -- you can correct me if I'm wrong -- there's over two hundred 911 stations locally held around the state. And then, I wanted to ask you how many the State Police is running at the moment. Is it three?

MR. FOSTER: Three.

LIEUTENANT PLAZA: Yes, sir.

MR. BRUNE: Three. And I guess the question is, obviously, in a time of constraints around here, is there some need for a rationalization of the sheer number of 911 sites? The question that might come to mind is -- I'm sure there's a reason for this -- but is there a reason that the State Police cannot run, say, one state-of-the-art facility in Hamilton, and parse the calls out from there? Why is there a need for three at the State level and 200 at the local level -- all of which need equipment upgrades?

LIEUTENANT PLAZA: Sir, the three centers that we have also do the regional dispatch for the State Police, basically, for dispatching the troopers, as well as doing the 911 calls. So there's one North, Central, and South Jersey. That's how those three centers are broken up right now. The State Police,

because of the volume of 911 calls that they get, for instance, if there's an accident on Route 195, with the advent of cell phones, that one accident could possibly generate 100 phone calls. And needless to say, that call, that 911 call, has to be picked up by the operator. It becomes quite a burden, obviously, if there's several accidents in the area and then other incidents going on -- just the volume of calls that are coming in. It actually takes the operators away from dispatching the troopers.

So what the State Police is doing now, and you're probably familiar with it, is we've proposed a call-taker center. So the center -- what we're going to do is, hopefully, all the 911 calls will come into the call-taker center, and then from there it will go out to the three regional dispatch centers. That will then give -- the operators will be able to give those assignments, or if it's an accident they'll be able to give that to the car in the area that they handle. So those three centers not only do 911, but they also perform the dispatch operations for the State Police.

MR. BRUNE: Okay. I understand. I guess I'm focused on 911 at the moment. I guess what you're saying, from the standpoint of 911, the flood of calls that one gets, if they're all to the Hamilton facility, do they literally spill over to the other two when the volume is above X? Is that how it works?

MR. FOSTER: Actually, what happens is they may receive multiple calls, for example, on an accident. The calls will come in, and the one person for the area that they know it's from, they will forward it. For example, if it's North Jersey, or something, it gets shipped up to Totowa. The other people there at Hamilton will continue to receive the calls, and answer whatever

questions, and take whatever information is necessary. But the one gets filtered out to the other site right away.

MR. BRUNE: I guess we don't have to resolve this today, Dan. But in terms of volume, I guess the question that comes to mind, is there any benefit to centralize it, number one, versus having three. In other words, have your effort in one place, and handle the volume that way. And then the other question about having -- as I understand it, 225 of these things at the local level, and the relationship between them and yourself as 911 calls come in. I guess we're asking that because there is not a whole lot of money to spread around, and we all have similar needs.

MR. FOSTER: Yes. I just wonder if it's locally, if it's just because it deals with their local law enforcement versus the State Police.

MR. BRUNE: Thank you.

MS. MOLNAR: Any other questions or comments? (no response)
If not, I want to thank you for your presentation.

Our next department is Juvenile Justice Commission. I'd like to welcome Howard Beyer, Executive Director.

HOWARD L. BEYER: Good morning, everyone.

I'm Howard Beyer, Executive Director, and to my left is Keith Poujol, and he is the Director (*sic*) of Facility Management (*sic*) for the Commission. I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here this morning to present the Juvenile Justice Commission's capital budget request. I may go off the script a little bit, because I just want to tell you, a little bit, who we are. I'd like to say that we are very proud to be a part of the Department of Law and Public Safety, but many times we're like the best kept secret in New Jersey,

because we have a very unique role. We take care of troubled and delinquent kids. And it's a very special responsibility, because we represent, really, the last stop for kids who have really failed everywhere along the line. Or we are trying very hard to prevent them to come into the system, by funding counties and trying to divert them from coming into places like the Training School in Monroe, or going into a detention center in one of the local localities. And if we fail, then the kids will become adult inmates, and that's what we're trying very hard to avoid.

The Commission has very carefully examined its needs, and is only requesting funds for projects that severely impact on the services we provide. The request presented here allows the Commission to continue to provide safe and secure facilities for youth in our custody, meet building safety and fire codes, or to initiate projects that provide cost savings later down the line.

Nothing in our request will come as a surprise. Our '05 requests are primarily for projects that have not been funded in the past and become more critical every year they are delayed. Most of the projects have been identified as priorities for a period of time. We have also requested funds for emergency evacuation and continuation of operation purposes.

We are seeking funds for seven priority categories: critical repairs, a replacement residential dormitory, emergency/continuation of operation funds, our most critical fire and life safety needs, roof replacements, suicide safety improvements, and security enhancements that will improve safety for our staff and residents.

And before I detail this year's requests, I would like to bring you up-to-date on a few major projects that the Commission has completed in the last year through funding provided by the Capital Commission.

Last summer, and this was really -- I can only explain this to you. We celebrated the reopening of the Essex Residential Community House in Newark. I'd like to describe it as sort of an oasis in the middle of the city that could use the kind of renovation that our housing unit had. It was really renovated from top to bottom. It really gave a warm type of living circumstance for kids who have gone through a very tough time in life. Today, the building is safe. It has an adequate fire suppression system, and it's really conducive to what we are responsible for, and that's rehabilitation. I just want to say we are not the Department of Corrections and we are not the Department of Human Services. We have a very specific role, and that is to rehabilitate kids -- children, boys and girls.

I'm very proud to say that we really don't have a single inmate in the Juvenile Justice Commission. What we really have are residents or students. We don't call them inmates anymore. Because if you call a kid an inmate long enough, they will become an inmate. And ultimately, that's what we really don't want to happen.

So I'd like to invite you up someday, if you're ever in Newark, to come see what you have approved for us. Because it is really beautiful, and because it did take a long time to get, and it was a lot of work to get it to the condition that it's in. I want to assure you of this, we are working very hard to keep the place looking beautiful so that any guest who comes in, or any resident

who comes in, that you're finding a very safe, secure, and well-kept environment.

Any day now, we are going -- the renovations of our Turrell Building, which houses some of the JJC's most difficult youth, will be complete. This program is designed for youth who have serious emotional problems and have been adjudicated delinquent. The young people are carefully screened for this placement. And because the needs of this population is so great, the Commission has taken great lengths to ensure that the residents are as safe as possible. The Turrell Building is truly a model of suicide safety. I know that this is a subject that is very sensitive to some people in this room. But I come out of adult corrections, which I spent nearly 25 years in, I know what it's like to lose somebody through suicide. But to lose somebody who is a child, whether it be a boy or a girl, is even more heart wrenching, because they really haven't had a chance to really have a shot at life. So we take this issue very seriously in the Commission.

From top to bottom, the facility has been analyzed and outfitted to prevent a young person from hurting himself. We're very proud of this accomplishment. Here's another place that we'd love for you to come take a look and see what we're doing and how well it's working.

We also believe in being a good neighbor -- and whether that means in participating in community cleanups or providing funds for important community programs -- the Commission understands our role as being part of the communities which we are in. And as a good neighbor, the Commission has played an active part in commemorating an important part of the Johnstone Campus, which is in Bordentown. The site is the former Manual Training and

Industrial School, the first vocational school for African Americans. The JJC and the State Arts Council thought it only right to help the alumni association and erect a monument marking its history. About a year ago, that monument was unveiled, and we hosted the event for several hundred guests, including the Secretary of State, who made it a stop on her Underground Railroad March; alumni, family, and friends. It was truly a wonderful day, and it brought, really, all communities and walks-of-life together for a very nice afternoon.

Other projects that we are in progress, include a campus-wide electrical upgrade at our largest facility, in the New Jersey Training School in Monroe; and electrical and fire suppression upgrade at four of our facilities -- Green, Warren, and Pinelands residential community homes, and our Life Skills and Leadership Academy, which we now call it. It used to be known as the boot camp. I just want to tell you why we changed it to the Life Skills and Leadership Academy. Because we really never ran it as a real boot camp. We never brought a kid in only to tear him down, only to build him up. And we have reprioritized what we do at the Academy. We've made education the most important thing to our residents, as opposed to the physical issues.

We are our own school district. Every child, boy or girl, in our system must go to school. And at the Academy, that's what we're focusing on now -- education and vocational skills. We still have drill instructors, and we still have physical endeavors, but education is the most important thing we do. So it's another great unit within the Juvenile Justice Commission.

As we speak, the JJC administrative offices are locating to our new home on Spruce Street, here in Trenton. I want to say we're very grateful for this as well. For the first time, the Commission -- by April of next year, the

Commission will be under one roof. It's like a statement that we are for real, and we're really here. When the opportunity came up for this placement, it was a building that was renovated and they needed a tenant. We were eager to take it. One, because it gave us a home that we could all be in; and we're saving the State over \$400,000 a year in rent. So there's two good things that are happening. And we'd like to invite you to come see us over there, as well.

The Juvenile Justice Commission has a challenge goal -- to turn around the lives of juveniles who are headed down the wrong track and to help them become productive members of the community, instead of becoming adult inmates, and jeopardize safety and further burden the taxpayer.

Our new motto is, "Realizing Potential and Changing Futures," because that's exactly what we do. We are a Commission of hope, as we do it through education, counseling, and building self-respect. And we do it in buildings that are 50, 60, and sometimes 80 years old. Sometimes they have leaky roofs. Sometimes they're overcrowded or poorly designed for the purposes for which we have designed them. But we do it in a world that is much different than it was a few years ago, and it's a world that requires us to be able to evacuate and relocate the 1,200 kids we are responsible for.

Our first priority has been, as it's been in other years, is -- remains critical repairs. Last year, the JJC did not receive funds for critical repairs. However, last week, and I want to thank the Executive Director, a \$500,000 critical repairs allocation from an inter-departmental account was approved. A spending plan for these funds will be submitted to OMB for their approval, which includes addressing fire codes, health, and environmental violations.

Even with these much-needed funds, the Commission will not be able to fund other essential building repairs.

As you know, structural and mechanical problems that are not addressed don't go away. They only get worse. Prior to this recent 500,000 allocation, our critical funds had been exhausted, leaving us with no funds to address an emergent situation. If a tree falls on a building, as we were afraid of in Hurricane Isabel, or a heating system were to fail during the winter months, we would not have the funds to fix them. Furthermore, we do not have the beds to relocate juveniles. It would become necessary to take a building off-line. We cannot afford to lose a building, even for a short period of time. We really need to fix these buildings as it occurs.

Last year, we asked you to consider funding a project to allow us to replace a dormitory building at our Voorhees Residential Community home. The current building has deteriorated and is not designed to accommodate residential needs. And it isn't just that we can move the kids out. One of the issues -- a real-world issue, as far as where our residential places are -- that if we close the place, it's not easy to find a community that will just let us come in. Because even though we are trying desperately to change our image and tell communities that you don't have to be afraid of our kids, that's much easier said than done. We need those beds, and we need to keep them where they are. We just need to fix the places that they're in, and so that they can be in a safe and secure environment. This remains the same as it did last year when you sat here.

The construction permits will be completed and issued by the first month of the new year and will be valid for one year. If this project is not

funded in Fiscal Year '05 capital budget, new building permits will have to be obtained. The overall design will need to be modified to conform to International Building Codes, and will severely impact the cost of the project. The Commission has spent \$135,000 in design funds. We do not want to see these funds wasted, and we do not want to incur further costs to redesign this project. We really, really, really want to provide a safe, secure, modern housing for the young people in our care. And by funding this project, we can do that for more than 30 children.

As you know, the Governor and the Attorney General have directed every State agency to be prepared for any type of emergency. This affects some states differently than others. But the Commission needs to be prepared to evacuate and house any or all of our kids, located through the state. That will require the purchase of buses, tents, and trucks. To meet this mandate, the Commission needs to upgrade telecom and data lines, augment our information technology systems, and renovate our control center in Bordentown. We have requested funds for some of these projects in the past, such as the renovation of our command center, but now they have taken on greater urgency and importance. The past has taught us how important communications become in a severe emergency. The safety of our children lies with us, and we cannot afford not to be prepared for that safety issue.

Not all of our requests are high-profile or flashy. They do not lend themselves to ribbon-cuttings or openings, but they are critical to us. Projects such as the second phase of the campus-wide electrical upgrade at the Training School in Monroe Township, and the installation of a new fire suppression system at the JJC's Juvenile Medium Facility (*sic*), in Bordentown, remains

critical to our operations. Also important is the health and safety of our residents and staff. The Commission is requesting funds to conduct an analysis of the lead and asbestos hazards at our Johnstone Campus, particularly since some of the rooms in question are currently being used by staff. These projects represent real needs, ones that we feel cannot be overlooked.

Fire safety continues to be one of our biggest concerns, particularly at our facilities. Our kids, as you know, can't go home. We are responsible for them 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It came to our attention recently that the water tower at the Training School in Monroe Township will need to be repaired. The tower was recently drained after a leak was detected, and it's now been determined that the water tower is needed to provide enough water pressure to operate the fire suppression system and the fire hydrants simultaneously. This last-minute discovery requires the tower to be repaired and refurbished to meet building and fire codes, at an estimated cost of \$350,000. We cannot afford to ignore this fact without jeopardizing the issue of safety.

Our fifth priority is roof replacement. This has always been a very sensitive subject for me, personally. I remember when I bought my first house. The rugs in the house were beat up and the floor was warped, and I wanted to buy new rugs. My dad told me, "Your roof leaks, fix the roof before you fix the rug. Straighten the floors out, then buy the rug." Well, because we have kids living with us all the time, the issue of the roof repair is tremendous. These roofs continue to deteriorate. In the past year alone, the Commission has replaced or repaired six roofs under emergency conditions. That is something that we do our best to avoid, but funds have not been allocated for this use in

either '03 or '04, and we have no choice. Roof repair and replacement alone has drastically deteriorated our reserve of critical fund repairs. And by funding these projects, we can ensure that we're getting the best product and price through the competitive bidding process.

The overwhelming majority of the youth in the Commission's care are troubled. Some have been physically abused, some mentally abused, many with multiple factors that are difficult to overcome. Many of these young people are on medication to prevent them from being harmful to themselves or others. And so, suicide safety, which I had mentioned before, is an extraordinarily important issue.

I want to thank the Capital Commission for recognizing this in the past. As a result, the State of New Jersey has become a national leader in suicide-safe institutions. While the Commission has made improvements in this area over the past few years with your help, we still have further to go. It is essential that we prevent kids from injuring themselves. With your continued support, we'll be able to do that.

Our final request pertains to the safety of our front-line staff. The Commission is proud of our staff. It's not an easy task dealing with 20, 30, sometimes 50 kids for seven, eight hours at a stretch. While our staff is trained to the very best within our ability to handle the challenge that they bring, there are dangerous times. It is our responsibility to protect our staff by giving them the knowledge and the training to handle difficult situations, and hopefully, to do that without the use of physical force, but also by giving them the equipment to alert us when something is wrong. The Commission has requested a quarter of a million dollars to install a Duress System, an alarm system, at our most

secure facility in Bordentown, the Juvenile Medium Security Facility, and thus completing the final phase of a man down system for all of the Juvenile Justice Commission's secure facilities. This will accomplish a major goal for the Commission.

I want to thank you for your honest evaluation of our request and for your past support. Please remember that the Commission is responsible for New Jersey's most difficult children, who without out help really don't have a chance to succeed. And we do really, and I do mean this from the bottom of my heart, we really do want to change those lives, so that they can be productive citizens and not go on to be a continued burden to New Jersey as adult inmates.

So thank you very much for listening to me this morning.

MS. MOLNAR: Thank you. Thank you for your compassion.

I have one question. Regarding the education component. Do you bill the local Board of Ed, where the child was resident, for the cost of the education?

MR. BEYER: My Director of Administration is here.

MS. MOLNAR: All right. Could you give your name for the stenographer?

R O S A N N E F A I R B A N K S: Hi. Good morning. I'm Rosanne Fairbanks. I'm the Director of Administration for the Commission. We receive education moneys much as the school district's do for kids. So we get education money only for the kids. We don't get any structural money to supply the classrooms. That's the SFEA Act in the 1970s that indicates that we can use the funds for books, for classrooms, for teachers, but not the infrastructure.

MS. MOLNAR: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments?

Assemblyman Cryan.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I do. I have a couple comments and then a couple questions. It's too bad when the school construction money wouldn't help there. I do want to make a comment to my colleagues up here in terms of how important I view the work of the JJC. Particularly, your compassion comes through today, Howard. But this is an ongoing issue for us, as recently as today's *Star-Ledger*, with the improved juvenile center. It's an obligation that we all have. We talk often here about -- well, we try to look at cost benefits. At least, I know, in the past year, we certainly have talked about that. Any time you can rehabilitate a kid and keep him out of our system, if you want to just be cold and calculating on the dollar as to cost savings-- Besides, the quality of life is something we should all factor in. I do want to make it clear that this is a major area for me, of concern in this part of the process, which is the first time I've done that up here.

I wanted to ask -- on Page 6, the fact that -- in terms of some questions -- the \$500,000 critical repair allocation. I hate to do this to you, but do you take it off the top of Priority 1? Do you take it off the top of Priority 1 or is it in addition to?

KEITH POUJOL: The funds requested in Fiscal Year '05 are in addition to the \$500,000 that was provided to Executive Director Vrancik yesterday.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Okay, so they're separate.

Do you have a maintenance schedule for this stuff? I mean, I looked through it, and I didn't -- maybe it's here and I just didn't get it, or didn't understand it. Is there some sort of schedule?

MR. POUJOL: In our secure environments at the Training School and the Johnstone Campus, both of which have maintenance staffs -- and they do have rudimentary computerized maintenance systems where they attempt to replace light bulbs and filters for HVAC systems -- they're continually monitoring the condition of the roofs and other systems. So they have a little more leeway than our community-based program. We have 21 residential and day programs where we have absolutely no maintenance staff, not even a repair. Our maintenance is left to institutional trade instructors and the kids, through a learning environment, and mostly contractors. We spent \$932,000 of critical repair moneys and bond moneys last year, until the well dried up two days ago.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Going back to the school -- are you actually a -- you're not a school district, per se, are you?

MR. POUJOL: No, we're a school district.

MS. FAIRBANKS: Yes, we're considered a school district.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Really?

MS. FAIRBANKS: Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Would they be eligible for school money? I mean, they teach kids. Is that so far a stretch?

MR. VRANCIK: I have to check that one out.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: That's interesting.

My last comment is just a reiteration of what I said. I absolutely believe that this is a cost-effective-- Do we have any sort of stats that show -- and I know you're in an ongoing situation, and I know you've dealt with dilapidated facilities -- but like, for example, in Essex, would you be able, in the out-years, where you've seen an improvement in the facilities -- don't have rats

anymore and those sort of things. We know environment counts. I know it from representing Union County, what environment means in a youth facility. Is there any sort of data that shows an improvement, in terms of the fact that when we supply the right -- that things that we're really obligated to, as a State, in terms of facilities, that it does show an impact in terms of kids not being back into the system? Do we have anything that shows that at all?

MR. BEYER: I don't think there is, but I could just tell you this, being in this business for almost 29 years. It's almost like -- the only way I can describe it, it's like being at home. That's the way we look at the way we do our work. It's like being the head of a household. If you keep your house right, if you have a house that's run with respect, with dignity, with love, caring, you keep the place clean, hopefully -- and there's no guarantee -- people that come out of that house that you're running are going to be successful and productive citizens. That's the route we're going. I can't tell you that there's a study that says it, but I think it's the right way to go.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: I would have to agree with you, and hopefully, we can help you here, in a limited-time income.

I thank you for your time.

MR. BEYER: Thank you very much.

MS. MOLNAR: Gary.

MR. BRUNE: Howard, a couple of questions about -- that stem from the prioritization of the projects. You've listed the dorm building second, and fire safety down around four. I guess we're trying to understand the options here, and how you came to the ranking. Maybe that's the first question. How did you come to the ranking, which is essentially, as I understand it, might have

some fire safety aspects to it, with the sprinkler system. But it seems to be a bed space issue, with fire safety further down the list?

MR. BEYER: Well, no. Fire safety is -- it's very hard. We spend a lot of time trying to come up -- which is the most important, what is more important. The renovation is critical because we don't want to leave kids in an unsafe house. Let's put it that way. So I don't want the roof to cave in. I don't want it to burn down, but I don't want the roof to cave in or the support beams that are holding it up to cave in on the kids.

MR. BRUNE: So there are safety issues at the facility?

MR. BEYER: Huge safety issues, though.

MR. BRUNE: Okay. Have you looked at the repair -- kind of a cost benefit, the cost of repairing the facility versus building-- As I understand, you want -- tried to build a new building, right? Can we presume that the cost of repairing exceeds the cost of a new building?

MR. POUJOL: Yes, you can. We did do a study in March of 2000. We have a consultant report that identifies just the structural issues associated with the former governor's residence there. And Priority 16 is an out-year, for the design, will cost in the neighborhood of \$505,000, just to deal with the structural issues alone. And that does not address the fact that the building, with its age, does not meet current code requirements, does not have fire suppression, does not have adequate indoor air quality, and is not ADSA accessible. Part of the cost for the \$2-million request is a very difficult site. It's a mezzanine-type of facility on the side of a hill. So, just the site work in this complex is very difficult and a leading factor to the cost of this initiative, but it is a good site for our needs.

MR. BRUNE: I might ask, through the Chair, if we could see a copy of that report. Otherwise, the \$2 million, does that include -- do you need land or are you building on existing land?

MR. POUJOL: We are building on the existing site. We've secured -- it's a historic site, and secured the approval of Department of Environmental Protection. We will be demolishing three small cottages to make room for this.

MR. BRUNE: So it's kind of a fully allocated cost when we look at the \$2 million, demolishing?

MR. POUJOL: Yes it is.

MR. BRUNE: Okay.

One other question. You mentioned how, in your testimony, about the International Building Code and the fact that the cost would go up because we'd have to modify the current plans. I'm not familiar with the International Building code. What is that?

MR. POUJOL: We meet with our folks from Treasury, Division of Property Management and Construction, every month, and this has been a barometer. Next year the International Building Code will replace the Uniform Building Code that New Jersey is using now. This design was started two years ago and is a difficult site. So it's taken a substantial amount of time. If, in fact- - When the permits are released, as we expect they will be, they're good for one year. After that year is up, the window of opportunity to permit that, under the old code, expires. That will require Treasury to rebid the design to meet the new, stricter requirements of the International Building Code.

MR. BRUNE: So it sort of sounds like the replacement for the Uniform Building Code. Okay.

Just one last question on the security aspect, Priority No. 3. In my understanding, in an emergency there is a need to communicate between the campuses. That's one thing we're trying to understand. You mentioned some IT work.

MR. POUJOL: In the Bordentown complex, all of communication from both sides of the campus, on the Johnstone side as well as the J-Rex (phonetic spelling) side, all is hubbed to the center control at the Juvenile Medium Secure (*sic*) Facility -- all enunciators, everything we have. That particular area is not fire rated, so that all of the communications that are coming in there, in the event that there's a major issue going in that portion of the building, would essentially knock out the entire communications network on both campuses. So this, I think it's Priority 32 on the center control upgrades, is to expand the center control by about a third, and to provide integration of these systems and redundancies.

MR. BEYER: The other thing is, when you do have a catastrophe or something like 9/11, we need to know where every one of our kids are. So we have designated a spot that everybody, whether you're in secure care or residential care, must feed in, depending how big the emergency. It could be every 15 minutes, every half hour, every hour. We need to know where everybody is all the time.

MR. BRUNE: Thank you.

MS. MOLNAR: I had one other question. You provide a tremendous service to the counties. Do they provide you any funding?

MR. BEYER: No.

MS. FAIRBANKS: No. On the contrary, we provide them quite a bit of funding.

ASSEMBLYMAN CRYAN: Quite a bit of stress, too.

MS. MOLNAR: Yes, thank you.

Any other questions or comments? (no response)

If not, I want to thank you for your presentation.

MR. BEYER: Thank you very much.

MS. MOLNAR: Okay. Our last department is the State Library. I'd like to welcome Norma Blake, State Librarian.

N O R M A E. B L A K E: Good morning, Chairperson Molnar and Commission members. I'm here today with Michael Scheiring, Vice President and Treasurer of Thomas Edison State College, and Diane Koye, our Business Manager. It's a pleasure to meet with you this morning to discuss the facility's needs of the New Jersey State Library.

As State Librarian, I manage both the State Library and the State House Complex, and the Library for the Blind and Handicapped on Stuyvesant Avenue, to serve New Jersey's over 8 million residents. The State Library serves all of State government, but also the library community and the general public. The State Library is also the largest law library open to the public in New Jersey. We see visitors from all over the state and country using our special collections on New Jersey and genealogy.

The State Library also provides high quality information services to individual citizens through the state's 451 public libraries. Last year, about 42 million New Jersey residents visited public libraries in the state, checking out

almost 52 million items, an increase in visits of almost 1 million and an increase in circulation of almost 3 million. The databases and Internet access supplied through these libraries comes in large part from the State Library, which provides the infrastructure for many of our state's libraries.

The Library for the Blind and Handicapped serves not only the blind and deaf, but also anyone who cannot see or hold a book. Due to the aging of the general population, we are experiencing a 10 percent increase in requests for service at LBH each year, especially in the 80-to-89-year-old range. More than 126,000 residents of New Jersey are eligible for service from LBH, and we are reaching out daily to sign them up for services.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your past support, which enabled us to improve telecommunications services at the Library for the Blind in Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002. With these funds, we are able to extend Audiovision, a radio reading service for the blind, throughout the state.

This year, the State Library needs capital funding for its facility, which is over 40 years old and in need of repair. The building has some major problems requiring remediation due to the presence of moisture. The building is not accessible to the handicapped, who may wish to use our services. The building was designed for library service in the 1960s, not for the technology and information needs of today. Only two of five floors were ever renovated, a decade ago. The building suffers from inadequate cabling and wiring for computers. The telephone system is maxed out, limiting our ability to answer requests and to respond to our customers.

In 1995, an independent State House Campus Facilities Study identified a water infiltration problem at the State Library. To remediate the

problem, the firm recommended that the roof and windows be replaced, roof drains be installed, and joints caulked between the marble panel cladding on the outside of the building. To date, no work of this nature has been performed.

Last year, a Treasury Occupational/Environmental Health specialist was called on to determine if the water infiltration problem caused mold to grow around the windows. Each year, if left unattended, the problem will eventually cost more to remediate and may lead to structural problems. In the same 1995 study, the firm recommended that the entrance doors, toilet facilities, and stairs be modified to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Earlier I thanked the Commission for past support of our efforts to upgrade technology. The State Library must continue to acquire library technology in order to provide high quality information service, both within the State Library for the use of our customers and for the state's libraries, which utilize our infrastructure.

A brief overview of our request: To upgrade local area network and servers; install a new telephone system; provide a telephone-based public access catalog for the Library for the Blind and Handicapped; install a customer self-select system for Audiovision, our radio reading service for the blind, so that customers of the Library for the Blind can choose the times they want to listen to their programs; and create a modest wireless training lab for the use of the public.

With the move of the State Archives to newly renovated quarters at 225 West State Street, the State Library has planned a periodicals reading room in that vacated space. Almost one-sixth of the State Library's collection is now housed at the Library for the Blind. The proposed collection moves

would not only complete the relocation of the periodicals collection to the new space, but also return the entire collection to the State Library facility.

In 2002, the Capital Commission approved \$400,000 for a feasibility study for a new State Library facility, later eliminated from the Governor's budget. This feasibility study and subsequent building project would address the long-term capital needs of the State Library.

A new Federal law, the Child Internet Protection Act, was recently upheld that requires public libraries to provide content filtering on all computers that access the Internet in order to be eligible for Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds and E-rate discounts beginning July 1, 2004. We plan to study the filtering needs of our libraries, make recommendations to the library community, and first make our own computers compliant with the Act at a cost of \$20,000, out of the \$200,000 requested.

In summary, I urge the Commission to move forward on our request to remediate the water infiltration problem, to preserve the State's investment, as well as to modify the State Library to permit us to comply with ADA requirements, and to serve all of our patrons. I urge the Commission to consider all of our needs so that the State Library can strive to be the best information resource for State government, the state's libraries, and the general public.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the capital needs of the State Library and the Library for the Blind and Handicapped, and I'd be happy to answer any questions that you have.

MS. MOLNAR: Thank you.

As a member of the West Hill Memorial Library Board, I want to thank you for your services. People don't realize the services you do provide.

Any questions or comments? (no response)

Wow! I think you covered it all.

Well, thank you so much, and we'll be looking at your request.

Thank you.

MS. BLAKE: Thank you for your time.

MS. MOLNAR: Now, we're up to New Business, I guess -- other business.

Number one, our next meeting will be on October 24. It will be in Room 12, which is behind this. It's been totally renovated. I believe that's where the Supreme Court justices, that sat here, would go in there and deliberate on all these wonderful cases. So we'll be meeting there next month.

One of our members sent me a little note, here, suggesting that if we get the testimony ahead of time that perhaps we could dispense with the person from the department reading it. I wasn't sure if you want to discuss it at the next meeting or get some feeling now.

MR. BRANNIGAN: That was actually my suggestion. I thought that maybe we might give the presenter an option where they might just summarize.

MS. MOLNAR: Summarize the bullet points, yes.

MR. BRANNIGAN: But if there's something critically important that would need more, and they want to be precise in what they say, they might read it. But it seems that sometimes the reading is redundant, because we've already read it.

MS. MOLNAR: I believe one of them did skip around, even though they did have it in front of them. They did summarize a little bit.

Mr. Roth, do you have any strong feelings?

MR. ROTH: No, not on this.

MR. VRANCIK: I guess, how would we communicate this? Would we tell them up front, please come with a briefer presentation?

MR. BRANNIGAN: As Executive Director, you could ask people to try to be as -- to make their points, but to try to be concise.

MS. MOLNAR: Mr. Annese.

MR. ANNESE: The important part would be for them to give us the information in our package, so we have the time to read over it.

MR. VRANCIK: We asked them to do that, but, unfortunately--

MS. MOLNAR: We don't always get it.

MR. VRANCIK: --we don't always get it in time to get it out to everyone.

MS. MOLNAR: All right.

MR. ROTH: You know, in this day of e-mail, things can be handled a lot faster. I would have no objection to getting all of this paperwork by e-mail.

MS. MOLNAR: Wow. We'd save a lot of trees.

MR. ROTH: Off this subject just slightly, I noticed that, particularly at this meeting today, there was a lot of noise generated by cell phones.

MS. MOLNAR: There's a sign out there that says to turn off their cell phones. There is a sign.

MR. ROTH: Perhaps in future meetings, we can remind them to do so.

MS. MOLNAR: They can put it on silent or something.

MR. BRANNIGAN: I don't know if I was out of order, but I went back and asked that individual to put their phone on vibrate, because I think he had five calls, one person.

MR. VRANCIK: Yes, it's not that hard.

MR. ROTH: One person.

MS. MOLNAR: Yes, I know if you go to a performance, they tell you to turn it off. I will mention it at the beginning of each meeting.

So the consensus is to get their testimony ahead of time and ask them, maybe, to give a quick overview. And if they feel more comfortable reading it, fine, we won't prevent it, but if--

MR. ROTH: Well, if they have anything to add.

MS. MOLNAR: Sure. All right.

MR. VRANCIK: If it's possible, we'll investigate how easy it is to make available the stuff that's mailed out to everyone, electronically distributed. I guess the problem on your end is printing it all out.

MR. ROTH: Don't you have a place on the Web where, for example, minutes could be posted? I recall going through Google one time, and I found minutes for this Commission there. I was stunned.

MS. MOLNAR: I did, too.

MR. VRANCIK: I'll look into that.

MR. ROTH: Yes.

MR. VRANCIK: I think we can put them out there.

MR. ROTH: It's an awful lot of paper.

MR. VRANCIK: It's an issue of the turnaround.

MS. MOLNAR: Time.

They were last year's minutes that you saw. They weren't the last meeting's.

All right.

The next time we -- let me see the schedule -- next time we have Corrections, Military and Veterans Affairs, Environmental Protection, and Department of State -- and one of our Commission members will give an overview of the Transportation DOT Trust Fund.

Any other business? (no response)

If not, meeting adjourned.

Thank you for coming.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)