



Suffolk County's Largest Independent Union

30 Orville Drive Suite A, Bohemia, New York 11716 Tel: (631) 589-8400 Fax: (631) 589-3860
24-Hour Emergency Tel: 1-800-795-4831 www.scame.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Cheryl A. Felice
President

Lydia Sabosto
Executive Vice President

Josephine Passantino
First Vice President

Deborah J. McKee
Second Vice President

Frank A. Denaro
Third Vice President

Joseph L. Congedo
Fourth Vice President

Daniel Farrell
Treasurer

Kathleen A. Malloy
Secretary

UNIT PRESIDENTS

Civil Service-Adrienne Clemens

Consumer Affairs-Jay Selleck

Crossing Guards-Cheryl A. Amuso

CSEB-Frank Casiglia

District Attorney-Cindy Topper

DPW Blue-Shaun Fitzpatrick

DPW Buildings-Robert Beck

DPW Sani Blue-Frank Denaro

DPW Sanitation White-Joseph R. Furio

DPW White-Christopher A. McVoy

DSS-Susan LaSala

Employee Services-Debra J. Heitleband

Family Services-Lydia Sabosto

Fire Rescue-Brian Butler

H. Lee Dennison Unit-

Mary-Valerie Kempinski

Hauppauge South-Catherine O'Neal

Health Services-Alice J. Peltz

JJF Skilled Nursing Facility-

Linda Ogno

Labor-John J. Sarno

Medicaid-Joan Travan

Medical Examiners-Brian Macri

Parks-Kenneth Blinn

Patient Care-Maria Nancy Rivera

Police Civilian-Sebastian Chiamonte

Police Emergency-Suzanne McBride

Probation-Anne Abel

Retirees-Ann C. Bender

Riverhead County Center-

Joseph A. Stasys

SCCC Blue-Brian Blakely

SCCC Security-Paul Minott

SCCC White-Josephine Passantino

Sheriff's Civilian-Louis S. Giancontieri

Vector Control-Brian Viggiano

Brian O'Dwyer
O'Dwyer & Bernstien, LLP
Counsel

Sondra Palmer Randall
SCMEBF-*Administrator*

May 26, 2009

Commissioner Richard Dormer
Suffolk County Police Department
30 Yaphank Avenue
Yaphank, NY 11980

Dear Commissioner Dormer,

It has been brought to AME's attention that effective April 28, 2009 at 23:45 hours the Police Department has made the decision to close the Dispatch Radio known as 'Command Band' on the midnight tour and combined with the dispatch function for the 5th Precinct Radio. While certainly we understand that all departments are under fiscal pressure in these difficult economic times to conserve resources and implement cost saving measures, when it comes to public safety, decisions of this magnitude cannot be based on monetary measures.

As you well know, Command Band is the essential resource utilized to deliver critical services across our island, such as those of the Aviation, Emergency Services and Marine Division. Outside Agencies such as the FBI, Secret Service, Probation Officers, Sheriffs Dept., as well as Nassau County and many smaller groups monitor this centralized band and should they need us, depend on the ability to request help from one location regardless of their location. This Radio Band handles all of the needs of Fire Island and all of the waters surrounding our Island. With the warm months of the Summer Season fast approaching, radio traffic can be just as much or even heavier than any other radio band currently in use.

This decision causes grave concern for safety on our part as well as the part of the dispatchers who must perform this function. It seems to us, to quote a commonly used phrase, "Penny-wise; Pound-foolish" has taken place here. For the cost of a dispatcher's salary, we are risking not being prepared should a major event occur anywhere on this Island of ours, including that of Fire Island. The taxpayers we serve trust that our Police Department is prepared for any event with the appropriate resources to serve them in the safest manner possible; certainly short-changing this function does not serve this purpose. Additionally, compromising the 5th Precinct Radio Band by overloading it with traffic from another dedicated radio not only compromises the safety of the entire community served by this radio but also that of all of

the communities on Fire Island as well as delivery of specialized services to our entire Suffolk County Community just as we begin the busiest season of our calendar year.

How much are we expecting one Dispatcher to handle? They are already short-staffed in a job function that is high-stress to begin with! I implore you to reconsider this decision and restore this radio to its' fully-staffed, round the clock function immediately. The safety of the police officers, the public we serve, and the health and well-being of the professional dispatchers who perform the services depend on it!

Sincerely,



Cheryl A. Felice
President

CAF/elf

Cc: Executive Board
Debra Alloncius, AME Legislative Director
✓ Suzanne McBride, Unit President, Police Emergency Unit
Jack Eddington, Chair, Public Safety Committee, SC Legislature