

Testimony of George P. Beach II  
Superintendent of State Police  
Before the Legislative Fiscal Committees  
On the FY 2018-2019 Executive Budget  
January 30, 2018

Thank you Chairman YOUNG, Chairman WEINSTEIN and distinguished members of the Committees for the opportunity to discuss with you Governor Cuomo's Budget for the Division of State Police. I am George Beach, Superintendent.

Each year, I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank the Legislature for its significant efforts in understanding our agency's missions and, in doing so, for your enduring support of the New York State Police. That support enables the New York State Police to advance the public safety needs of the State and to continue as one of the leading law enforcement agencies in the nation.

As you are aware, last year the New York State Police celebrated its 100th Year Anniversary. Throughout the year, we were excited to showcase and demonstrate the agency's strengths and capabilities at each of our Troop Headquarters' open houses across the State and at our new State Police exhibit located on the New York State Fair grounds. As I reflect on the 100-year legacy of excellence in our agency, I recognize that our role in New York continues to encompass our original purpose, while the expectations placed upon the agency in the ever-changing environment of law enforcement continues to expand.

For a century, the State Police has consistently provided professional public service through its core missions while adapting our priorities to shifting societal needs. We strive for continuous improvement in every aspect of our public service. Our current mission priorities include reducing the number of deaths, injuries and property damage caused by motor vehicle accidents through traffic enforcement and motorist education; providing professional police services to communities and investigative support to police departments around the State; engaging in emergency preparedness, planning and response activities; and serving a crucial, ever-increasing role in the State's counter-terrorism efforts through our collaborative work with federal, local and other State agencies.

The State Police is unique as the only law enforcement agency in the State with the ability to deploy large numbers of professionally trained police officers anywhere within the State and beyond, on short notice, in response to an emergency or natural disaster. This was clearly demonstrated this past September when State troopers were deployed to both the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. These State troopers and their supervisors helped local law enforcement maintain order, secure and deliver emergency supplies, re-establish transportation and logistical movements on the islands as well as to investigate reports of criminality. All told, more than 200 members of the New York State Police deployed to those islands to assist local law enforcement in any needed capacity.

The Governor continues to recognize the ever-present and increasing threat of terrorism in all its forms within New York State. Funding to enhance our efforts to detect and deter terrorism continues to be a priority use of the agency's budget. Our efforts and those undertaken with our partners all over the State continue to ensure that New York remains the safest large state in the nation. With our increased presence in the New York Metropolitan area, we add an additional layer of security for our citizens as they travel through the City's public transportation venues. This mission is also intended to provide a deterrent effect to both terrorism and other criminality where the State has moved to open road tolling at all of its MTA bridges and tunnels.

Illegal drug use and its impact continues to dominate headlines in our State. Heroin and opioid availability, their abuses and their impact on the abuser and their families continues. State Police will continue to aggressively investigate drug-related offenses and assist local police agencies with their investigations whenever requested. Accordingly, we continue to assist major cities throughout the State with the GIVE Initiative (Gun Involved Violence Elimination) and have recently started assisting police on Long Island with combatting the MS-13 criminal gang and its plague on area communities.

This year was the second full year for the Campus Sexual Assault Victims Unit (CSAVU) that arose from the "Enough is Enough" legislation and the Governor's commitment to combatting sexual assault on college and university campuses statewide. Last year, State Police personnel worked cases across the State to ensure uniformity in the handling of campus sexual assault investigations, provide investigative assistance to campus or local law enforcement and to educate individuals and campus communities regarding victim's rights and support resources.

The safety of the public and our troopers who protect them also continues to be a high priority. Toward that end, we will continue to provide troopers with the necessary equipment, training and other valuable resources to achieve the best levels of safety in the performance of their duties. Moreover, agency staffing remains an area of constant executive-level discussion within the State Police. We have requested and plan to conduct two Academy classes this year so that adequate staffing levels are maintained to perform our new and core mission priorities without sacrificing the response time or the safety of our troopers.

Lastly, New Yorkers expect effective public service from a stable, professional and adequately resourced State Police. I am proud to say that New Yorkers can be confident their expectations are being met. It is the integrity, knowledge, dedication and quality of our men and women that distinguishes the New York State Police. I am honored and privileged to be a part of this agency as we move forward in our second century of service to the public in this great State.

I thank you for your support of the State Police and for the opportunity to address you this afternoon.