



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anthony H. Palumbo

Senator Palumbo: Protect Those Who Protect Us

ANTHONY H. PALUMBO May 11, 2021

| ISSUE: **PROTECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT**



Senate Republican's Introduce Package of Bills to Honor and Safeguard Law Enforcement as First Step Toward Restoring Common-Sense and Public Safety in NY

Senator Anthony Palumbo (R,C-New Suffolk) today joined his Senate Republican Colleagues in unveiling a package to protect and honor the brave members of law enforcement all across New York, and safeguard law-abiding New Yorkers against the disastrous results of One-Party Rule's criminal justice "reforms."

“New Yorkers emerging from the COVID pandemic are now faced with a new challenge—that of soaring crime rates and a state that is less safe than when the pandemic began. Albany’s pro-crime agenda has weakened public safety and made the job of law enforcement more difficult and dangerous. Enough is enough. We must end reckless policies like cashless bail and adopt new measures to protect and support the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe,” said Senator Anthony Palumbo.

Keynotes of the legislative package to “Protect Those Who Protect Us” in New York include:

- S2561, which would strengthen the penalties for assaulting a police officer.
- S3208, which would strengthen penalties for causing a police officer to come into contact with foreign substances or objects, such as bottles, flammable liquids, etc.
- S3463, which would make it a crime to dox a police or peace officer simply because of their profession and with the intent to threaten or intimidate that police or peace officer.
- S3465, which would make it a crime to falsely accuse a police or peace officer of wrongdoing in the performance of their duties. This is necessary because of the repeal of Section 50-A, and would protect law enforcement against unfounded or unsubstantiated claims.
- A proposal to Defund Municipalities that Defund the Police Act. The Director of the Division of Budget would withhold state funding to a municipality that abolishes, disbands or significantly reduces its police department. The amount of state money withheld would correspond with the percentage reduction in a police department’s budget by the municipality.

In New York City, violent crime has risen at an alarming rate over the past year, with the [most recent report](#) by the NYPD showing that overall index crime rose by 30.4 percent compared to April 2020. This rapid increase in crime was driven in part by a 35.6 percent increase in felony assault, a 28.6 percent increase in robbery, and a 166.1 percent increase in shooting incidents.

According to a recent [State of Safety in America report](#) by Safewise, New York is the “most worried about safety” state in the nation, with 70 percent of New Yorkers reporting that they are “concerned daily” about their safety. In addition, only 40 percent of New Yorkers feel safe in their everyday lives, while 78 percent think crime is increasing.

These alarming statistics follow the implementation of Democrat bail reform and discovery reform since 2019, as well as the disbanding of the NYPD’s “anti-crime” unit and \$1 billion cut to New York City police funding.

Today’s legislative package also includes:

- S1917 – Hate Crime against a Police Officer – Makes a crime committed against a police officer because of their status as a police officer, a hate crime.
- S2034 – Disability and Death Benefit – Provides a \$500,000 benefit for police officers who are seriously disabled or die from injuries incurred in the line of duty.
- S2226 – Stalking a Police/Peace Officer – Makes it a class E Felony to stalk a police or peace officer, and makes the crime of stalking a police or peace officer eligible for bail.

- S3464 – Failure to Retreat – Makes it a class D Felony for any person to approach or remain within 25 feet of a police officer engaged in the performance of their duties when they are ordered by an officer and they fail to do so.
- S6231 – Resisting Arrest - Enhances the penalty resisting arrest from a class A misdemeanor to a class E Felony. Adds resisting arrest to the list of E Felonies where a police officer may arrest someone, instead of being required to issue an appearance ticket.
- S6285 – Police Memorial Day - Establishes May 15th as Police Memorial Day in New York State. Requires the Governor to appear in person at the fitting ceremony at the Police Memorial Wall and to read, out loud, the names of the police officers who died during the previous year from injuries incurred in the line of duty.
- S6286 – Unfounded and unsubstantiated complaints against first responders; This is necessary because of the repeal of Section 50-A, and would prohibit the disclosure of personnel records with regard to unsubstantiated or unfounded complaints made against first responders.

“I am the proud son of a Suffolk County detective and I have worked with countless police officers throughout my career in the District Attorney’s Office. The men and women who protect our communities are good people and want nothing more than to finish their shifts and go home to their families. As lawmakers, our job is to enact policies to help them in their difficult and demanding jobs, while providing them with the resources and support they need to keep New Yorkers safe,” concluded Palumbo.