



New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

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Executive Director: Chief (Ret.) Patrick D. Phelan

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Oleg Chernyavsky

Dear member of the New York State Assembly,

The New York State Association of Chiefs of Police annually establishes legislative priorities that we ask legislators to consider during the legislative session. We feel that these are priorities for our members and for law enforcement in general. We also feel that embracing the concepts outlined in our legislative priorities is in the best interest of public safety and the well-being of our citizens. We ask that you consider these ideas and consider sponsoring legislation that will push these concepts forward. I am available at any time to discuss these priorities with you and answer any questions.

Civil Service Reform

Every police department in New York is working very hard to hire a more diverse workforce and create an inclusive police department that is more representative of the communities we serve. The civil service system creates hurdles and roadblocks in that process. The testing process, rule of 3, physical agility and other rules make for a very rigid hiring process. The lack of flexibility can make hiring diverse candidates impossible. We ask that the legislature reform civil service to a more flexible, agile system allowing law enforcement executives the latitude to hire the best qualified and most appropriate candidates.

Funding for Training

The legislature has placed many demands on local law enforcement as has the governor through executive order. There are pressing training needs for New York's law enforcement officers. De-escalation, fair and impartial policing, new and safer defensive tactics are just some of the training needs. We can probably all agree that there can never be too much training for law enforcement and we can always be better trained. But training police officers is very expensive. Now municipalities are facing massive revenue decreases and police departments are facing dwindling budgets and manpower. If we truly want to improve the quality of law enforcement and reimagine our police departments, we must make an investment in police training.



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Remand for those arrested for possessing illegal guns

Violent crime, shootings, and murder are up significantly across New York State. New York has become a very dangerous place for our citizens. We would simply ask that the bail reform agenda be revised to make remand an option in the case of an arrest for the possession of an illegal gun. New York's police officers are making record numbers of illegal gun arrests only for these defendants to be immediately released only to have the opportunity to obtain another illegal gun. Steps must be taken to curb the violence that plagues our communities. This small step would give law enforcement an opportunity to provide a small amount of safety for our citizens.

Allow youth part judges access to juvenile records

The lack of access to juvenile records creates a perpetual first offender status for defendants coming before the youth part of criminal courts. Allowing judges access to juvenile records will give them the information they need to make intelligent appropriate decisions. Amend the family court act 381.3 to permit sharing of records relating to a juvenile's arrest and disposition to court personnel when considering removal of a defendant from youth part to family court. This would apply only to felony cases.

Thank you again for your consideration and feel free to contact me at any time to discuss these issues. I can be reached by phone at 585-880-2144 and by email at pphelan@nychiefs.org

Sincerely,

Chief (Ret.) Patrick D. Phelan

Executive Director