



Suffolk County Police Conference

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"Proud of Our Police"

Spring 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THOMAS TATARIAN



I thought by now we would have definitive answers to the Governors proposed changes to Binding Arbitration, along with the amendments to the very flawed NY Safe Act law as it applies to both active and retired law enforcement. Unfortunately, if you haven't figured it out yet,

we live in a somewhat politically dysfunctional state and have no finality on either issue. We delayed the printing of the SCPC newsletter as long as we possibly could in the hopes of providing that information to you in this edition, but as some of the newsletter content is time sensitive we had to go to print now.

On the Binding Arbitration changes I quote PCNY President Richie Wells *"As you are aware, the governor put a change in the budget as regards the current statute of binding arbitration. (Binding Arbitration has never been part of the NYS budget in the past). His proposal would have rendered the law meaningless. During the budget negotiations we were able to convince both houses of the legislature to resist his efforts to change current language. When the governor became convinced that neither house was willing to adopt his changes he pulled the bill from the budget. This means that we now have to deal with the extension of the bill in the normal way. We must get it passed by both houses and then have it sent to him. He has stated that he will not renew it unless there are changes. Our goal is to have the bill renewed without any alteration. We will continue our efforts to convince him that binding arbitration is not an unfunded mandate; it is a proven method to resolve*

impasses in police/fire labor disputes. We have until the end of the legislative session to resolve this issue and it will be our number one priority." The 2013 legislative session ends the third week of June. I will keep everyone updated!

As far as the NY Safe Act, I would personally like to see it repealed in it's entirety. It is such a flawed and poorly written law. At no time was any law enforcement representative consulted as to how this would affect active Police Officer, no less our retirees. So why would our Governor be in such a rush to pass a new gun law? The State of Connecticut, the scene of the Newtown massacre, has not made any rush decisions on changing their current gun laws. Connecticut has in fact, formed an advisory committee (Sandy Hook Advisory Commission) comprised of Law Enforcement representatives, Elected officials, Board of Education officials, and Medical Professionals to review existing laws and make recommended changes to the State government. Stricter penalties and stricter enforcement of current laws is the solution, in my opinion. None of the horrific crimes we have read about in the news, which have led to the call for new gun laws, were committed by licensed gun permit holders. I don't believe the NY Safe act will keep anyone safe; it will just make it harder for law abiding citizens to protect themselves. I will keep all of you updated as information becomes available.

Fraternally Yours,

Thomas Tatarian
President, SCPC

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