



Reserve Police Officers Association

The leading association for auxiliary, reserve and special police officers.

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April 10, 2009

Senator Joseph P. Addabbo
815 Legislative Ofc Bldg
Albany, NY 12247

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

An act relating to creating a volunteer peace officer benefit law and to amend the Executive Law and General Municipal Law, in relation to volunteer peace officer programs.

S03701-Introduced by Senator Joseph P. Addabbo

The Reserve Police Officers Association, a fraternal organization representing reserve law enforcement officers across the United States and several countries, strongly supports the legislation to create the "Volunteer Peace Officer" benefit law. As a national organization, we work with law enforcement agencies in many states and can state that few still have the outmoded legislative structure for volunteer law enforcement programs that New York State has.

This bill will standardize benefits with Volunteer Firefighters, standardize qualification and training for Volunteer Peace Officers, allow Village and Town police departments to establish Volunteer Peace Officer programs (which currently is not allowed under the New York State Emergency Defense Act-NYSEDA of 1951) and allow auxiliary police to be the "eyes and ears" of the police department, which is currently not allowed under the NYSEDA 1951. The bill will also require completion of training and testing, when completed, will confer peace officer status while the officer performing authorized duties in a municipality.

Approval of the bill will provide several benefits to the municipality; It will transfer control of the of the volunteer peace officer from the civil defense director to the municipality which will give the local municipality more control and accountability of the volunteer peace officer, the volunteer peace officer duties will be established by the municipality they service, the bill will not change how the volunteer peace officers will be utilized by the municipality, standards will be set by the Department of Criminal Justice and training will be greatly improved and standardized across the state. Thank you for your support of S03701.

Sincerely,

Brooke Webster
President