



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Dr. Dora B. Schriro, Commissioner

March 25, 2014

Sen. Beth Bye, Co-Chair
Rep. Toni E. Walker, Co-Chair
Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Good morning Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. My name is RoseMarie Peshka, I am the Chief Financial Officer for the Department and with me today is the Department's Legislative Liaison and Public Information Officer, Scott DeVico.

Commissioner Schriro sends her apologies for not being able to appear before you today. She had a previous commitment that could not be rescheduled.

The Office of Policy and Management has recognized a \$ 4.4 million deficiency for the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to cover Personal Services and Operating Expenses.

\$3 million of the \$3.9 million deficiency in Personal Services is due to a reduction in casino reimbursements that were negotiated with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribal governments. The enactment of Public Act 13-170 provides a procedure for Tribal Police to take responsibility for patrol duties at the Casinos and Reservations. This has resulted in the reduction of the Tribal assessments for Fiscal Year 2014 to a total of \$1.2 million, a decrease of approximately \$3 million from the Fiscal Year 2013 assessments of \$ 4.2 million. Increased overtime costs attribute to the additional \$900 thousand of the deficiency in Personal Services.

The \$500,000 deficiency in Other Expenses is a result of rising utility and gas costs and payment for assistance from the Pennsylvania and Rhode Island National Guard which provided snow removal support to Connecticut municipalities during the February 2013 Blizzard.

As always, the Department, working with the Office of Policy and Management, continues to explore any and all ideas that could result in efficiencies without compromising the safety of the citizens of Connecticut.

We are prepared to answer any questions that you may have.

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