

# Corruption at its best

## Rodney Harrison's Nomination for Suffolk Police Commissioner Advances, recommended by SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE STEVE BELLONE.

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone nominated Harrison, from Baldwin who grew up in Queens, following a nationwide search.

"I have always worked my tail off and if you give me the opportunity, I can guarantee you those same efforts here," Harrison told the committee, emphasizing that his top four priorities are the reforms, transparency, accountability, and accessibility. In his 30-year NYPD career, he became the only member of the nation's largest police department's to rise from cadet to the top of the chain of command.

Harrison said he will send additional police resources to the precincts in which most shootings occur, deploy anti-crime units, determine if there's a motive that's a common denominator such as gangs or drugs, and partner with federal agencies to keep [illegal guns](#) out of the county.

As for his role in enacting the county's police reform plan that lawmakers passed earlier this year in the wake of nationwide protests against police brutality, Harrison said he's reviewed the reforms and especially supports officers wearing body cameras, which all public-facing officers in the department will be required to wear starting next year.

"I'm a big fan of body-worn cameras," he said. "I know not every officer may be. But we have to implement them."

How he'll combat corruption in Suffolk was a question asked repeatedly during the hearing, which came days after former Suffolk County District

Attorney [Tom Spota](#) and Christopher McPartland, Spota's ex-chief deputy and public corruption bureau chief, began serving five years in federal prison for being convicted of covering up civil rights violations. They had sought to thwart the investigation into [James Burke](#), the former Suffolk police chief, who also served federal prison time after being convicted of beating a handcuffed suspect arrested for stealing the then-chief's bag of porn and sex toys, authorities have said.

Harrison, noting that the internal affairs unit will report directly to him to avoid interference, replied: **"I'm going to do what needs to be done to make this a clean department."**

## DA investigating allegations of irregularities in timesheets submitted by Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison

December 8, 2023 5:59 am

A review of Harrison's attendance record, obtained by Trotta and provided to Newsday, shows that Harrison was absent every weekday in November since announcing his resignation.

Trotta also alleged that Harrison took sick days in January, February and March when he was traveling to attend his daughter's college basketball games. Harrison's daughter, Baldwin High School standout Kaia Harrison, is a guard on the Wake Forest University women's team.

Newsday has submitted a Freedom of Information request seeking Harrison's time records and history of all changes made this year.

Trotta said he was told the changes were made in September, October and November. He said he was told of the issue about a week ago and estimates it applies to anywhere between 10 and 30 days. **He estimates that the changes could equal about \$10,000 paid in unused time.**