

RESOLUTION NO. _____, May 16, 2023

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CURTAILING POLICE USE OF NO-KNOCK WARRANTS (S.4820/ A.4369)

WHEREAS no-knock warrants are routinely among the most deadly police interactions for civilians and law enforcement alike.

WHEREAS no-knock warrants are currently banned under Mayor Kamal Johnson's Executive Order No. 21-20, issued June 15th, 2020.

WHEREAS despite the executive order ban for the Hudson Police Department, Hudson citizens may still be subject to No-Knock and other dynamic entries by other law enforcement agencies under the current shared services agreement.

WHEREAS due to lack of requirement to the contrary, even warrants that require a policy of "knock and announce" often evolve into "quick-knock" or "dynamic entry" situations, where officers can enter homes before residents have time to respond. Quick knock and dynamic entry situations are also routinely among the most deadly police interactions for civilians and law enforcement alike.

WHEREAS Senate Bill 4820, introduced by Senator James Sanders Jr., and Assembly Bill 4369, introduced by Assembly Member Daniel J. O'Donnell, would end the use of no-knock warrants in investigating controlled substance offenses, and would limit the use of no-knock warrants to only the most extreme and clearly defined circumstances where there is imminent danger to life. Additionally, the legislation would prevent the use of flash-bang grenades or similar weapons except in verifiable exigent circumstances and require that officers are in uniform and clearly identifiable as law enforcement. Finally, it would close the no-knock to "quick knock" loophole by requiring that officers wait at least 30 seconds after announcing their presence prior to entering.

WHEREAS the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), Local Progress, Campaign Zero, and many other prominent organizations have come out in strong support of S.4820/A.4369.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Hudson supports S.4820/A.4369 and will be sending this resolution of support to the offices of Governor Kathy Hochul, Attorney General Letitia James, Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assemblymember Didi Barrett, Senator James Sanders and Assembly Member Daniel J. O'Donnell.

Introduced by: _____

Approved _____

Seconded by: _____

By _____

Kamal Johnson, Mayor

STATE OF NEW YORK

4820

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 15, 2023

Introduced by Sens. SANDERS, BRISPORT, GIANARIS, HOYLMAN-SIGAL, JACKSON, KRUEGER, MYRIE, RIVERA, SALAZAR, SEPULVEDA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to the execution of a warrant of arrest; to amend the executive law, in relation to authorizing the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services to establish a system to record and monitor the issuance and execution of search warrants; and to amend the judiciary law, in relation to authorizing the chief administrator to establish educational programs for judicial personnel on the law of searches, arrests and seizures

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The opening paragraph of section 690.10 of the criminal
2 procedure law is amended to read as follows:

3 Personal property is subject to seizure pursuant to a search warrant
4 if such seizure is made in connection with a lawful arrest and there is
5 reasonable cause to believe that it:

6 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 690.30 of the criminal procedure law is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 2. A search warrant may be executed on any day of the week. [~~It~~]
9 Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a search warrant may
10 be executed only between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., unless
11 the warrant expressly authorizes execution thereof at any time of the
12 day or night, as provided in subdivision [~~five~~] six of section 690.45 of
13 this article. Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of subdivision four of
14 section 690.35 of this article, a search warrant based in whole or in
15 part on the grounds set forth in paragraph (b) of subdivision four of
16 section 690.35 of this article may be executed only between the hours of
17 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. unless there is reasonable cause to believe that
18 it cannot be executed between those hours because, in the case of an

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD02461-01-3

1 application for a search warrant as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivi-
2 sion two of section 690.05 of this article, the person sought is immi-
3 mently likely to flee or commit another violent felony, or is likely to
4 create an imminent danger to the safety of the executing police officers
5 or another person if not seized forthwith or between the hours of 6:00
6 P.M. and 8:00 A.M., in which event the request must contain facts to
7 support such application, and the court must make a finding in writing
8 or orally on the record or in writing upon the application itself
9 setting forth the factual basis for the issuance of the warrant pursuant
10 to this subdivision.

11 § 3. Subdivision 1 and paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of section
12 690.35 of the criminal procedure law, subdivision 1 as amended by chap-
13 ter 679 of the laws of 1982, and paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 as
14 amended by chapter 424 of the laws of 1998, are amended to read as
15 follows:

16 1. An application for a search warrant may be in writing or oral. If
17 in writing, it must be made, subscribed and sworn to by a public servant
18 specified in subdivision one of section 690.05 of this article. If
19 oral, it must be made by such a public servant and sworn to and recorded
20 in the manner provided in section 690.36 of this article. In all cities
21 with a population of less than one million, an application for a search
22 warrant based either in whole or in part on paragraph (b) of subdivision
23 four of this section, must be made to a court between the hours of 6:00
24 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. unless circumstances reasonably require that such
25 application be made at another time, in which event such circumstances
26 shall be stated in the application for the warrant.

27 (b) A request that the search warrant authorize the executing police
28 officer to enter premises to be searched without giving notice of [~~his~~]
29 ~~their~~ authority and purpose, upon the ground that there is reasonable
30 cause to believe that (i) [~~the property sought may be easily and quickly~~
31 ~~destroyed or disposed of, or (ii)~~] the giving of such notice [~~may endan-~~
32 ~~ger~~] is likely to create an imminent danger to the life or safety of the
33 executing officer or another person, or [~~(iii)~~] (ii) in the case of an
34 application for a search warrant as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivi-
35 sion two of section 690.05 for the purpose of searching for and arrest-
36 ing a person who is the subject of a warrant for a felony, the person
37 sought is imminently likely to commit another violent felony, or [~~may~~
38 ~~endanger~~] is likely to create an imminent danger to the life or safety
39 of the executing officer or another person. In order for a request that
40 a search warrant authorizes the executing police officer to enter prem-
41 ises to be searched without giving notice of their authority and purpose
42 be granted, such request shall show that extreme circumstances are
43 involved, which for purposes of this article are when the giving of such
44 notice is likely to create an imminent danger to the life of the execut-
45 ing officer or another person, only where the application pursuant to
46 this paragraph lists specific facts that giving such notice is likely to
47 create such imminent danger to the life of the executing officer or
48 another person. No warrant issued under this paragraph can be used to
49 search a residence for a controlled substance, as defined by section
50 220.00 of the penal law. Any controlled substance, as defined by
51 section 220.00 of the penal law, found in a residence during a search
52 based on a warrant issued under this paragraph can be subject to
53 seizure.

54 § 4. Section 690.35 of the criminal procedure law is amended by
55 adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

1 5. When making an application based either in whole or in part on
2 paragraph (b) of subdivision four of this section, in addition to the
3 other requirements for an application for a search warrant, the appli-
4 cant must ascertain, to the extent reasonably possible, whether any
5 parties other than any subject of the search warrant shall be present
6 when the warrant is executed, and if so, the application shall include a
7 list containing the estimated age, gender, and physical condition of
8 each additional occupant, any known individuals with cognitive and/or
9 physical disabilities, and any pets known or likely to be present at the
10 premises to be searched, and reasonable alternatives to executing such
11 warrant in the presence of such individuals. The results of such inves-
12 tigation shall be included in the application and conform with the
13 requirements of paragraph (c) of subdivision three of this section. For
14 all applications based either in whole or in part on paragraph (b) of
15 subdivision four of this section, the applicant shall be a district
16 attorney or the attorney general, or if a district attorney or the
17 attorney general is absent or disabled, the person designated to act on
18 their behalf and perform their official function in and during such
19 absence or disability.

20 § 5. Subdivision 1 of section 690.40 of the criminal procedure law is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 1. (a) In determining an application for a search warrant the court
23 may examine, under oath, any person whom it believes may possess perti-
24 nent information. Any such examination must be either recorded or
25 summarized on the record by the court.

26 (b) In determining an application for a search warrant based, either
27 in whole or in part, upon the grounds described in paragraph (b) of
28 subdivision four of section 690.35 of this article, the court shall
29 state, with specificity, in writing or orally on the record or in writ-
30 ing upon the application for the warrant itself, the factual basis for
31 the issuance of the warrant pursuant to such paragraph. Such determi-
32 nation shall include evidence stating why a warrant that requires an
33 officer to knock and announce their presence shall not be issued.

34 § 6. Subdivision 6 of section 690.45 of the criminal procedure law, as
35 renumbered by chapter 679 of the laws of 1982, is amended and a new
36 subdivision 8-a is added to read as follows:

37 6. A direction that the warrant be executed between the hours of 6:00
38 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., or, where the court has specially so determined, an
39 authorization for execution thereof at any time of the day or night
40 unless the warrant has been obtained based on an application based in
41 whole or in part on paragraph (b) of subdivision four of section 690.35
42 of this article, in which event the provisions of subdivision two of
43 section 690.30 of this article relating to the time for executing such
44 warrants shall apply; and

45 8-a. An intended course of action if no response is received from the
46 intended suspect of the warrant at the time of execution within thirty
47 seconds; and

48 § 7. Section 690.50 of the criminal procedure law is amended by adding
49 five new subdivisions 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 to read as follows:

50 7. Upon seizing property or arresting a person pursuant to a search
51 warrant issued under this article, in addition to the requirements of
52 subdivisions five and six of this section, the police officer shall file
53 a report with the court that issued such warrant in a form prescribed by
54 the division of criminal justice services pursuant to section eight
55 hundred thirty-seven-x of the executive law, specifying the following
56 information:

1 (a) if applicable, the subparagraph of paragraph (b) of subdivision
2 four of section 690.35 of this article upon which such warrant was
3 based;

4 (b) the officer and agency which obtained the warrant;

5 (c) the prosecutor and prosecuting office which drafted the warrant;

6 (d) whether the facts contained in the supporting affidavit were based
7 upon a confidential informant, or an identified citizen informant or a
8 police officer, none of whom must be named;

9 (e) the date and time the search warrant was applied for and the date
10 and time the search warrant was signed;

11 (f) the date and time the search warrant was executed;

12 (g) the judge who signed and the court that issued the warrant;

13 (h) whether the application for the warrant issued had been submitted
14 to another judge other than the judge who issued the warrant for which
15 the report is submitted and if so, when such application or applications
16 were made and the result of each such application;

17 (i) the age, sex and race of the individual to whom such warrant was
18 directed;

19 (j) whether physical force or deadly force was used in executing such
20 warrant;

21 (k) (i) whether any individual was injured or killed and if so, the
22 age, sex and race of each such person; and

23 (ii) the status of each such person, specifying whether each was the
24 subject of the search warrant, a police officer, or a third party;

25 (l) the address where the warrant was executed including the street
26 address, city or town, county and zip code;

27 (m) the result of executing the warrant, specifying whether:

28 (i) evidence was seized; and

29 (ii) any individuals were arrested, and if so, whether the subject of
30 the warrant was arrested or other individuals not named in the warrant
31 were arrested; and

32 (n) whether any property was damaged during the course of executing
33 the warrant and a description thereof.

34 8. Search warrants not executed within seven days of issuance shall be
35 considered null and void.

36 9. An officer shall be required to present evidence and/or surveil-
37 lance gathered within twenty-four hours or less before a warrant is
38 executed which verifies that the subject of such warrant is present at
39 the residence intended to be searched. Where the information about the
40 location of the subject of any warrant comes from an informant or other
41 third-party testimony, the officer applying for the warrant shall verify
42 that an officer or agent of the police department has independently
43 verified that there is probable cause to believe the subject of the
44 warrant will be present at a particular location.

45 10. Any officer or officers who are executing a search warrant shall
46 be required to be in official uniform and be clearly recognizable and
47 identifiable as a police officer. All officers involved in the execution
48 of a search warrant shall wear visible badges containing names and iden-
49 tification numbers.

50 11. (a) Any officer or officers who are executing a search warrant
51 shall allow a minimum of thirty seconds for the occupants of the proper-
52 ty being searched to respond and open the door before such officer or
53 officers attempt to enter the property, except for situations where
54 verifiable, exigent circumstances exist. For purposes of this section,
55 "verifiable, exigent circumstances" means any event occurring in real-
56 time that is life-threatening to the officer or officers executing a

1 search warrant or to the occupants of the property which is being
2 searched.

3 (b) No officer involved in the execution of a search warrant shall at
4 any point during such execution use any flash bang, stun, distraction or
5 other similar device unless verifiable, exigent circumstances exist.

6 (c) No officer involved in the execution of a search warrant shall
7 execute a warrant outside of when such warrant is allowed to be executed
8 under this article unless verifiable, exigent circumstances exist.

9 § 8. Section 690.55 of the criminal procedure law, paragraph (b) of
10 subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 424 of the laws of 1998, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 § 690.55 Search warrants; disposition of seized property.

13 1. Upon receiving property seized pursuant to a search warrant, the
14 court [~~must~~] shall either:

15 (a) Retain it in the custody of the court pending further disposition
16 thereof pursuant to subdivision two or some other provision of law; or

17 (b) Direct that it be held in the custody of the person who applied
18 for the warrant, or of the police officer who executed it, or of the
19 governmental or official agency or department by which either such
20 public servant is employed, upon condition that upon order of such court
21 such property be returned thereto or delivered to another court.

22 2. A local criminal court which retains custody of such property
23 [~~must~~] shall, upon request of another criminal court in which a criminal
24 action involving or relating to such property is pending, cause it to be
25 delivered thereto.

26 3. A person aggrieved by an unlawful search and seizure of property or
27 by the deprivation of property may move for the property's return five
28 days after the property has been seized, or at any time thereafter. The
29 motion may be made before any court with jurisdiction over the criminal
30 case or, if no case has been filed, in the county in which the property
31 was seized. The court must receive evidence on any factual issue neces-
32 sary to decide such motion. After an aggrieved person has moved for the
33 property's return, the prosecutor must establish by clear and convincing
34 evidence, that the seized property was the proceeds of a crime, or
35 evidence of a crime. If the court grants such motion, it must return the
36 property to the movant, but may impose reasonable conditions to protect
37 access to the property and its use in later proceedings.

38 § 9. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding two new sections
39 690.60 and 690.65 to read as follows:

40 § 690.60 Search warrants; monetary restitution.

41 1. Following the execution of a search warrant issued pursuant to
42 paragraph (b) of subdivision four of section 690.35 of this article, the
43 owner of the place or premises at which such warrant was executed and
44 the owner of any property located at such premises shall be entitled to
45 monetary restitution, paid promptly by the state or municipality employ-
46 ing the officials who executed the warrant, for a premises, or any part
47 thereof, and any items of property at such premises that were damaged or
48 destroyed as a part of the execution of such warrant upon such premises,
49 unless such owner of such premises or property is:

50 (a) convicted of a crime involving or relating to property seized
51 pursuant to such warrant; or

52 (b) convicted of a crime involving or relating to the search warrant
53 for such premises issued pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision two of
54 section 690.05 of this article.

55 2. Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting any other
56 right, duty or cause of action that may exist with respect to any prem-

1 ises, or part thereof, or any property that may be damaged or destroyed
2 as a result of any such arrest or search.

3 § 690.65 Search warrants; violations.

4 Where a search warrant is executed in violation of this article:

5 1. any evidence obtained in connection with the search warrant shall
6 be inadmissible in evidence by the prosecution; and

7 2. any officer involved in the execution of such search warrant shall
8 be subject to disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, fines,
9 suspension or termination.

10 § 10. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 837-x to
11 read as follows:

12 § 837-x. Establish a form and system to record and monitor the issu-
13 ance and execution of search warrants. 1. The commissioner shall
14 prescribe the form of document to be used by every law enforcement agen-
15 cy of the state and of each municipality, city, town and village to
16 accompany a report to be prepared in accordance with subdivision seven
17 of section 690.50 of the criminal procedure law.

18 2. The commissioner shall establish a system to record and monitor the
19 issuance and execution of search warrants by every law enforcement agen-
20 cy in the state of New York. Every court that issues search warrants
21 shall file on or before the thirty-first day of December of each year
22 with the commissioner, a copy of each form filed with such court and
23 prescribed in subdivision one of this section, retaining the original
24 copy of such form with the court. The commissioner shall collect, proc-
25 ess and analyze such information contained in such reports, and issue a
26 report by the thirtieth day of June of each year which shall be made
27 public and a copy of which shall be sent to the office of court adminis-
28 tration, each law enforcement agency, each civil complaint review board
29 with jurisdiction over a police or law enforcement agency, and to the
30 attorney general of the state of New York.

31 § 11. Section 212 of the judiciary law is amended by adding a new
32 subdivision 3 to read as follows:

33 3. The chief administrator shall also formulate, establish and main-
34 tain educational programs, seminars and institutes for the judicial
35 personnel of the unified court system, to be scheduled on an annual
36 basis, or if the circumstances warrant, more frequently, on the law of
37 searches, arrests and seizures under the laws of the state of New York,
38 with emphasis on the appropriate standards for the issuance of all
39 warrants authorized under the criminal procedure law.

40 § 12. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day
41 after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition,
42 amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the
43 implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be
44 made and completed on or before such effective date.

STATE OF NEW YORK

4369

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. O'DONNELL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to the execution of a warrant of arrest; to amend the executive law, in relation to authorizing the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services to establish a system to record and monitor the issuance and execution of search warrants; and to amend the judiciary law, in relation to authorizing the chief administrator to establish educational programs for judicial personnel on the law of searches, arrests and seizures

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The opening paragraph of section 690.10 of the criminal
2 procedure law is amended to read as follows:

3 Personal property is subject to seizure pursuant to a search warrant
4 if such seizure is made in connection with a lawful arrest and there is
5 reasonable cause to believe that it:

6 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 690.30 of the criminal procedure law is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 2. A search warrant may be executed on any day of the week. [~~It~~]

9 Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a search warrant may
10 be executed only between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., unless
11 the warrant expressly authorizes execution thereof at any time of the
12 day or night, as provided in subdivision [~~five~~] six of section 690.45 of
13 this article. Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of subdivision four of
14 section 690.35 of this article, a search warrant based in whole or in
15 part on the grounds set forth in paragraph (b) of subdivision four of
16 section 690.35 of this article may be executed only between the hours of
17 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. unless there is reasonable cause to believe that
18 it cannot be executed between those hours because, in the case of an
19 application for a search warrant as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivi-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD02461-01-3

1 sion two of section 690.05 of this article, the person sought is immi-
2 2 nently likely to flee or commit another violent felony, or is likely to
3 3 create an imminent danger to the safety of the executing police officers
4 4 or another person if not seized forthwith or between the hours of 6:00
5 5 P.M. and 8:00 A.M., in which event the request must contain facts to
6 6 support such application, and the court must make a finding in writing
7 7 or orally on the record or in writing upon the application itself
8 8 setting forth the factual basis for the issuance of the warrant pursuant
9 9 to this subdivision.

10 § 3. Subdivision 1 and paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of section
11 690.35 of the criminal procedure law, subdivision 1 as amended by chap-
12 ter 679 of the laws of 1982, and paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 as
13 amended by chapter 424 of the laws of 1998, are amended to read as
14 follows:

15 1. An application for a search warrant may be in writing or oral. If
16 in writing, it must be made, subscribed and sworn to by a public servant
17 specified in subdivision one of section 690.05 of this article. If
18 oral, it must be made by such a public servant and sworn to and recorded
19 in the manner provided in section 690.36 of this article. In all cities
20 with a population of less than one million, an application for a search
21 warrant based either in whole or in part on paragraph (b) of subdivision
22 four of this section, must be made to a court between the hours of 6:00
23 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. unless circumstances reasonably require that such
24 application be made at another time, in which event such circumstances
25 shall be stated in the application for the warrant.

26 (b) A request that the search warrant authorize the executing police
27 officer to enter premises to be searched without giving notice of [~~his~~]
28 their authority and purpose, upon the ground that there is reasonable
29 cause to believe that (i) [~~the property sought may be easily and quickly~~
30 ~~destroyed or disposed of, or (ii)~~] the giving of such notice [~~may endan-~~
31 ~~ger~~] is likely to create an imminent danger to the life or safety of the
32 executing officer or another person, or [~~(iii)~~] (ii) in the case of an
33 application for a search warrant as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivi-
34 sion two of section 690.05 for the purpose of searching for and arrest-
35 ing a person who is the subject of a warrant for a felony, the person
36 sought is imminently likely to commit another violent felony, or [~~may~~
37 endanger] is likely to create an imminent danger to the life or safety
38 of the executing officer or another person. In order for a request that
39 a search warrant authorizes the executing police officer to enter prem-
40 ises to be searched without giving notice of their authority and purpose
41 be granted, such request shall show that extreme circumstances are
42 involved, which for purposes of this article are when the giving of such
43 notice is likely to create an imminent danger to the life of the execut-
44 ing officer or another person, only where the application pursuant to
45 this paragraph lists specific facts that giving such notice is likely to
46 create such imminent danger to the life of the executing officer or
47 another person. No warrant issued under this paragraph can be used to
48 search a residence for a controlled substance, as defined by section
49 220.00 of the penal law. Any controlled substance, as defined by
50 section 220.00 of the penal law, found in a residence during a search
51 based on a warrant issued under this paragraph can be subject to
52 seizure.

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3 parties other than any subject of the search warrant shall be present
4 when the warrant is executed, and if so, the application shall include a
5 list containing the estimated age, gender, and physical condition of
6 each additional occupant, any known individuals with cognitive and/or
7 physical disabilities, and any pets known or likely to be present at the
8 premises to be searched, and reasonable alternatives to executing such
9 warrant in the presence of such individuals. The results of such inves-
10 tigation shall be included in the application and conform with the
11 requirements of paragraph (c) of subdivision three of this section. For
12 all applications based either in whole or in part on paragraph (b) of
13 subdivision four of this section, the applicant shall be a district
14 attorney or the attorney general, or if a district attorney or the
15 attorney general is absent or disabled, the person designated to act on
16 their behalf and perform their official function in and during such
17 absence or disability.

18 § 5. Subdivision 1 of section 690.40 of the criminal procedure law is
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20 1. (a) In determining an application for a search warrant the court
21 may examine, under oath, any person whom it believes may possess perti-
22 nent information. Any such examination must be either recorded or
23 summarized on the record by the court.

24 (b) In determining an application for a search warrant based, either
25 in whole or in part, upon the grounds described in paragraph (b) of
26 subdivision four of section 690.35 of this article, the court shall
27 state, with specificity, in writing or orally on the record or in writ-
28 ing upon the application for the warrant itself, the factual basis for
29 the issuance of the warrant pursuant to such paragraph. Such determi-
30 nation shall include evidence stating why a warrant that requires an
31 officer to knock and announce their presence shall not be issued.

32 § 6. Subdivision 6 of section 690.45 of the criminal procedure law, as
33 renumbered by chapter 679 of the laws of 1982, is amended and a new
34 subdivision 8-a is added to read as follows:

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36 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., or, where the court has specially so determined, an
37 authorization for execution thereof at any time of the day or night
38 unless the warrant has been obtained based on an application based in
39 whole or in part on paragraph (b) of subdivision four of section 690.35
40 of this article, in which event the provisions of subdivision two of
41 section 690.30 of this article relating to the time for executing such
42 warrants shall apply; and

43 8-a. An intended course of action if no response is received from the
44 intended suspect of the warrant at the time of execution within thirty
45 seconds; and

46 § 7. Section 690.50 of the criminal procedure law is amended by adding
47 five new subdivisions 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 to read as follows:

48 7. Upon seizing property or arresting a person pursuant to a search
49 warrant issued under this article, in addition to the requirements of
50 subdivisions five and six of this section, the police officer shall file
51 a report with the court that issued such warrant in a form prescribed by
52 the division of criminal justice services pursuant to section eight
53 hundred thirty-seven-x of the executive law, specifying the following
54 information:

1 (a) if applicable, the subparagraph of paragraph (b) of subdivision
2 four of section 690.35 of this article upon which such warrant was
3 based;

4 (b) the officer and agency which obtained the warrant;

5 (c) the prosecutor and prosecuting office which drafted the warrant;

6 (d) whether the facts contained in the supporting affidavit were based
7 upon a confidential informant, or an identified citizen informant or a
8 police officer, none of whom must be named;

9 (e) the date and time the search warrant was applied for and the date
10 and time the search warrant was signed;

11 (f) the date and time the search warrant was executed;

12 (g) the judge who signed and the court that issued the warrant;

13 (h) whether the application for the warrant issued had been submitted
14 to another judge other than the judge who issued the warrant for which
15 the report is submitted and if so, when such application or applications
16 were made and the result of each such application;

17 (i) the age, sex and race of the individual to whom such warrant was
18 directed;

19 (j) whether physical force or deadly force was used in executing such
20 warrant;

21 (k) (i) whether any individual was injured or killed and if so, the
22 age, sex and race of each such person; and

23 (ii) the status of each such person, specifying whether each was the
24 subject of the search warrant, a police officer, or a third party;

25 (l) the address where the warrant was executed including the street
26 address, city or town, county and zip code;

27 (m) the result of executing the warrant, specifying whether:

28 (i) evidence was seized; and

29 (ii) any individuals were arrested, and if so, whether the subject of
30 the warrant was arrested or other individuals not named in the warrant
31 were arrested; and

32 (n) whether any property was damaged during the course of executing
33 the warrant and a description thereof.

34 8. Search warrants not executed within seven days of issuance shall be
35 considered null and void.

36 9. An officer shall be required to present evidence and/or surveil-
37 lance gathered within twenty-four hours or less before a warrant is
38 executed which verifies that the subject of such warrant is present at
39 the residence intended to be searched. Where the information about the
40 location of the subject of any warrant comes from an informant or other
41 third-party testimony, the officer applying for the warrant shall verify
42 that an officer or agent of the police department has independently
43 verified that there is probable cause to believe the subject of the
44 warrant will be present at a particular location.

45 10. Any officer or officers who are executing a search warrant shall
46 be required to be in official uniform and be clearly recognizable and
47 identifiable as a police officer. All officers involved in the execution
48 of a search warrant shall wear visible badges containing names and iden-
49 tification numbers.

50 11. (a) Any officer or officers who are executing a search warrant
51 shall allow a minimum of thirty seconds for the occupants of the proper-
52 ty being searched to respond and open the door before such officer or
53 officers attempt to enter the property, except for situations where
54 verifiable, exigent circumstances exist. For purposes of this section,
55 "verifiable, exigent circumstances" means any event occurring in real-
56 time that is life-threatening to the officer or officers executing a

1 search warrant or to the occupants of the property which is being
2 searched.

3 (b) No officer involved in the execution of a search warrant shall at
4 any point during such execution use any flash bang, stun, distraction or
5 other similar device unless verifiable, exigent circumstances exist.

6 (c) No officer involved in the execution of a search warrant shall
7 execute a warrant outside of when such warrant is allowed to be executed
8 under this article unless verifiable, exigent circumstances exist.

9 § 8. Section 690.55 of the criminal procedure law, paragraph (b) of
10 subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 424 of the laws of 1998, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 § 690.55 Search warrants; disposition of seized property.

13 1. Upon receiving property seized pursuant to a search warrant, the
14 court [~~must~~] shall either:

15 (a) Retain it in the custody of the court pending further disposition
16 thereof pursuant to subdivision two or some other provision of law; or

17 (b) Direct that it be held in the custody of the person who applied
18 for the warrant, or of the police officer who executed it, or of the
19 governmental or official agency or department by which either such
20 public servant is employed, upon condition that upon order of such court
21 such property be returned thereto or delivered to another court.

22 2. A local criminal court which retains custody of such property
23 [~~must~~] shall, upon request of another criminal court in which a criminal
24 action involving or relating to such property is pending, cause it to be
25 delivered thereto.

26 3. A person aggrieved by an unlawful search and seizure of property or
27 by the deprivation of property may move for the property's return five
28 days after the property has been seized, or at any time thereafter. The
29 motion may be made before any court with jurisdiction over the criminal
30 case or, if no case has been filed, in the county in which the property
31 was seized. The court must receive evidence on any factual issue neces-
32 sary to decide such motion. After an aggrieved person has moved for the
33 property's return, the prosecutor must establish by clear and convincing
34 evidence, that the seized property was the proceeds of a crime, or
35 evidence of a crime. If the court grants such motion, it must return the
36 property to the movant, but may impose reasonable conditions to protect
37 access to the property and its use in later proceedings.

38 § 9. The criminal procedure law is amended by adding two new sections
39 690.60 and 690.65 to read as follows:

40 § 690.60 Search warrants; monetary restitution.

41 1. Following the execution of a search warrant issued pursuant to
42 paragraph (b) of subdivision four of section 690.35 of this article, the
43 owner of the place or premises at which such warrant was executed and
44 the owner of any property located at such premises shall be entitled to
45 monetary restitution, paid promptly by the state or municipality employ-
46 ing the officials who executed the warrant, for a premises, or any part
47 thereof, and any items of property at such premises that were damaged or
48 destroyed as a part of the execution of such warrant upon such premises,
49 unless such owner of such premises or property is:

50 (a) convicted of a crime involving or relating to property seized
51 pursuant to such warrant; or

52 (b) convicted of a crime involving or relating to the search warrant
53 for such premises issued pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision two of
54 section 690.05 of this article.

55 2. Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting any other
56 right, duty or cause of action that may exist with respect to any prem-

1 ises, or part thereof, or any property that may be damaged or destroyed
2 as a result of any such arrest or search.

3 § 690.65 Search warrants; violations.

4 Where a search warrant is executed in violation of this article:

5 1. any evidence obtained in connection with the search warrant shall
6 be inadmissible in evidence by the prosecution; and

7 2. any officer involved in the execution of such search warrant shall
8 be subject to disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, fines,
9 suspension or termination.

10 § 10. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 837-x to
11 read as follows:

12 § 837-x. Establish a form and system to record and monitor the issu-
13 ance and execution of search warrants. 1. The commissioner shall
14 prescribe the form of document to be used by every law enforcement agen-
15 cy of the state and of each municipality, city, town and village to
16 accompany a report to be prepared in accordance with subdivision seven
17 of section 690.50 of the criminal procedure law.

18 2. The commissioner shall establish a system to record and monitor the
19 issuance and execution of search warrants by every law enforcement agen-
20 cy in the state of New York. Every court that issues search warrants
21 shall file on or before the thirty-first day of December of each year
22 with the commissioner, a copy of each form filed with such court and
23 prescribed in subdivision one of this section, retaining the original
24 copy of such form with the court. The commissioner shall collect, proc-
25 ess and analyze such information contained in such reports, and issue a
26 report by the thirtieth day of June of each year which shall be made
27 public and a copy of which shall be sent to the office of court adminis-
28 tration, each law enforcement agency, each civil complaint review board
29 with jurisdiction over a police or law enforcement agency, and to the
30 attorney general of the state of New York.

31 § 11. Section 212 of the judiciary law is amended by adding a new
32 subdivision 3 to read as follows:

33 3. The chief administrator shall also formulate, establish and main-
34 tain educational programs, seminars and institutes for the judicial
35 personnel of the unified court system, to be scheduled on an annual
36 basis, or if the circumstances warrant, more frequently, on the law of
37 searches, arrests and seizures under the laws of the state of New York,
38 with emphasis on the appropriate standards for the issuance of all
39 warrants authorized under the criminal procedure law.

40 § 12. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day
41 after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition,
42 amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the
43 implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be
44 made and completed on or before such effective date.



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2023–2024 Legislative Memorandum

Subject: S.4820 (Sanders) / A.4369 (O’Donnell) – Curtailing Police Use of No-Knock Warrants

Position: SUPPORT

No-knock and quick-knock warrants and raids have severe and deadly consequences for communities targeted by aggressive over-policing. Under a no-knock warrant, police can barge into a person’s home in the dead of night without any notice and without clearly identifying themselves as law enforcement. As law enforcement has become more and more militarized, police departments have used battering rams to force entry into homes and thrown flash-bang grenades that – beyond contributing to panic and confusion – can cause severe burns and even death.¹

The use of no-knock warrants and raids is a direct and deadly consequence of the racist war on drugs.² On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor was killed by police in a no-knock raid on her residence, ostensibly as part of a drug investigation, even though she was not suspected or accused of any crime. In New York City, the NYPD has come under scrutiny for botched no-knock drug raids that have subjected families to being awakened at gunpoint in a case where officers had the wrong address and another in which the only evidence found was a small amount of marijuana.³

Even warrants that do require officers to knock and announce their presence prior to entering can easily devolve into these hypermilitarized raids. Without a clear requirement to the contrary, officers turn knock-and-announce warrants into quick-knock raids, in which officers announce their presence and then immediately force

¹ Kevin Sack, *Door-Busting Drug Raids Leave a Trail of Blood*, N.Y. Times, Mar. 18, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/03/18/us/forced-entry-warrant-drug-raid.html>; *Investigation Reveals Rampant Use of Flashbang Grenades by Police*, NPR, Jan. 18, 2015, <https://www.npr.org/2015/01/18/378200407/investigation-reveals-rampant-use-of-flashbang-grenades-by-police>.

² Candice Norwood, *The War on Drugs Gave Rise to “No-Knock” Warrants. Breonna Taylor’s Death Could End Them*, PBS, June 12, 2020, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/the-war-on-drugs-gave-rise-to-no-knock-warrants-breonna-taylors-death-could-end-them>.

³ Rocco Parascandola, *Queens Cops Bust Down Wrong Door in No-Knock Raid and Traumatize Family: Lawsuit*, N.Y. Daily News, Apr. 10, 2021, <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-wrong-door-raid-nypd-20210410-i4hrrg6eyzh7th2i5jwzuf2adu-story.html>; Clodagh McGowan, *Queens Woman Says NYPD No-Knock Warrant Left Her Family Disturbed*, Spectrum NY1, Apr. 6, 2021, <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2021/04/06/queens-woman-says-nypd-no-knock-warrant-left-her-family-disturbed>.

entry into the premises without waiting for any kind of response.⁴ And so long as New York law continues to allow police departments and municipalities to benefit from an asset forfeiture regime that allows them to profit off of property seized during these raids, there is little incentive for police departments to voluntarily end or alter their current approaches.

The legislature can close this particularly devastating chapter in the racist war on drugs by passing **S.4820 (Sanders) / A.4369 (O'Donnell)** to sharply limit the use of no-knock warrants and end the hypermilitarized raids that have far too often led to deadly consequences, particularly in communities of color which have been the main target in the drug war.

S.4820/A.4369 would put an end to the use of no-knock warrants in investigating alleged controlled substance offenses, and it would allow for no-knock warrants to be issued only in the most extreme circumstances, where officers can show that the giving of notice would create an imminent danger to a person's life. The legislation would prevent police from using flash-bang grenades or similar devices absent verifiable exigent circumstances, and it would require that officers be in uniform and clearly identifiable as law enforcement. And it would ensure that knock-and-announce warrants do not turn into quick-knock raids by requiring that officers wait at least 30 seconds after announcing their presence prior to entering.

The bill also includes provisions to ensure that officers are acting upon reliable intelligence, including by confirming the warrant subject's presence at the location within 24 hours prior to executing any search warrant and mandating that police independently verify any evidence obtained via third parties or informants. And it would provide a clear pathway for people to obtain restitution for property damage caused by police during a search and to recover any property seized by police that could have otherwise been subject to forfeiture.

S.4820/A.4369 is among the most comprehensive legislative proposals in the nation in response to the recent – and overdue – scrutiny applied to no-knock warrants. The limitations it would impose on no-knock warrants going forward and the comprehensive approach to addressing flaws in the broader warrant regime will go a long way to reducing the harms caused by police militarization and the drug war.

The NYCLU strongly supports S.4820/A.4369 and calls for its swift passage.

⁴ Alice Speri, *A New Bill Aims to End Police Raids like the One that Killed Breonna Taylor*, The Intercept, Dec. 17, 2020, <https://theintercept.com/2020/12/17/no-knock-raid-new-york-breonna-taylor/>.