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5	NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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LO	FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
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L 4	NODMA CONCATAEC Chairman
L 5	NORMA GONSALVES, Chairwoman
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L 9	1550 Franklin Avenue Mineola, New York
20	MINCOIA, NEW TOLK
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23	Monday, February 22, 2016 1:24 P.M
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1 2 A P P E A R A N C E S: 3 NORMA GONSALVES, Chairwoman 4 RICHARD NICOLELLO, 5 Deputy Presiding Officer 6 HOWARD KOPEL, Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer 7 STEVEN RHOADS 8 DENISE FORD 9 LAURA CURRAN 10 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III 11 VINCENT MUSCARELLA 12 ELLEN BIRNBAUM 13 LAURA SCHAEFER 14 DONALD MACKENZIE 15 KEVAN ABRAHAMS, Minority Leader 16 17 ROSE MARIE WALKER 18 DENNIS DUNNE 19 JUDITH JACOBS 20 JAMES KENNEDY 21 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

23 SIELA BYNOE

24 FRANK MORONEY,
Clerk Pro Tempore of the Legislature

CARRIE SOLAGES

22

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1	
2	LIST OF SPEAKERS
3	PETER PATERSON8
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1	Full Committee/2-22-16
2	CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Will my
3	colleagues please join me in the chamber.
4	Legislator Dunne, please lead us in the
5	Pledge of Allegiance.
6	(The Pledge of Allegiance was
7	recited.)
8	CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.
9	Before we begin the proceedings for today's
10	calendar, I need to present a resolution to
11	appoint a clerk of the Nassau County
12	Legislature Pro Temp pursuant to the County
13	Government Law of Nassau County.
14	At this point in time, I'm going
15	to put the name of Frank Moroney to be
16	designated as an appointed Clerk Pro Temp of
17	the Nassau County Legislature to act until
18	such time as said Legislature, by
19	resolution, designates and appoints the

- 20 Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature,
- 21 pursuant, again, to the provisions of a
- 22 County Government Law of Nassau County.
- Motion, please.
- LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.
- LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

1	Full Committee/2-22-16
2	CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
3	Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
4	Nicolello. Are there any questions,
5	comments regarding the resolution?
6	(No verbal response.)
7	Is there any public comment?
8	(No verbal response.)
9	There being none, all those in
10	favor of appointing Frank Moroney as Clerk
11	Pro Temp of the Nassau County Legislature
12	signify by saying aye.
13	(Aye.)
14	Any opposed?
15	(No verbal response.)
16	The resolution passes
17	unanimously.
18	Now, Frank, your first order of
19	business would be to call the roll. Thank
20	you very much.
21	CLERK MORONEY: Thank you.
22	Deputy Presiding Officer Nicolello?
23	LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.
24	CLERK MORONEY: Alternate

Presiding Officer Kopel?

25

1		Full	Commi	ttee/	2 - 2	2 - 1 6		
2		LEGISI	LATOR	KOPEL	:	Here	•	
3		CLERK	MORON	EY:	Leg	isla	tor	Bynoe?
4		LEGISI	LATOR	BYNOE	:	Here	•	
5		CLERK	MORON	EY:	Leg	isla	tor	
6	Solages?							
7		LEGISI	LATOR	SOLAG	ES:	Не	re.	
8		CLERK	MORON	EY:	Leg	isla	tor	Ford?
9		LEGISI	LATOR	FORD:	Н	ere.		
10		CLERK	MORON	EY:	Leg	isla	tor	
11	Curran?							
12		LEGISI	LATOR	Curra	n:	Her	е.	
13		CLERK	MORON	EY:	Leg	isla	tor	
14	Gaylor?							
15		LEGISI	LATOR	GAYLO	R:	Her	е.	
16		CLERK	MORON	EY:	Leg	isla	tor	
17	Muscarella?	1						
18		LEGISI	LATOR	MUSCA	REL	LA:	Нет	`e.
19		CLERK	MORON	EY:	Leg	isla	tor	
20	Birnbaum?							
21		LEGISI	LATOR	BIRNB	AUM	: н	ere.	
22		CLERK	MORON	EY:	Leg	isla	tor	
23	DeRiggi-Whi	tton?						
24		LEGISI	LATOR	DERIG	GI-	WHIT	TON:	

Here.

1		Full Committee/2-22-16
2		CLERK MORONEY: Legislator
3	Kennedy?	
4		LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
5		CLERK MORONEY: Legislator
6	Schaefer?	
7		LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.
8		CLERK MORONEY: Legislator Dunne?
9		LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.
10		CLERK MORONEY: Legislator
11	Jacobs?	
12		LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.
13		CLERK MORONEY: Legislator
14	Walker?	
15		LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.
16		CLERK MORONEY: Legislator
17	MacKenzie?	
18		LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.
19		CLERK MORONEY: Legislator
20	Rhoads?	
21		LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Here.
22		CLERK MORONEY: Minority Leader
23	Abrahams?	
24		LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.
25		CLERK MORONEY: Presiding Officer

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 Gonsalves?
- 3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.
- 4 Thank you very much, Mr. Moroney. Before we
- 5 begin, as is customary each legislature day,
- 6 we do recognize our top cops and today is no
- 7 exception.
- 8 At this point in time I'm going
- 9 to ask, and let me know who's here, to
- 10 present the top cops to us today. Who is
- 11 going to do it? I'll begin by putting the
- 12 name of Police Officer Kyle Klein of the
- 13 Second Precinct and, of course, Police
- 14 Officer Christopher D'Gregorias of, I
- 15 believe he is also, I'm not sure, I don't
- 16 believe he is of the same precinct. I don't
- 17 know who is here.
- 18 POLICE OFFICER PATERSON: I am.
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay,
- 20 Peter. Would you like to talk about the
- 21 individuals who are being honored today? I
- 22 think one of them is of a different category
- 23 that we have had in the past, so, let's go.
- 24 Go ahead, Peter.
- 25 MR. PATERSON: Thank you,

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 Legislator Gonsalves. Before I start, I
- 3 want to say something. I used to represent
- 4 the PBA at the legislature years ago, many
- 5 of you remember that.
- 6 This is truly a good thing that
- 7 you do. I mean, not only do you give us the
- 8 ability to bring the stories to you, so you
- 9 can understand what our guys go through
- 10 day-to-day, and see the great work that they
- 11 do but, when we do something like this, the
- 12 public and the media gets a chance to see
- 13 these truly heroic actions.
- 14 I would like to first call up
- 15 Kyle Klein from the Second Precinct.
- On February 6th, 2016, after
- 17 assisting with an aided call for a man who
- 18 went into cardiac arrest from shoveling
- 19 snow, Police Officer Kyle Klein resumed his
- 20 patrol. He spotted an 82 year old man
- 21 shoveling his sidewalks and driveway.
- 22 Remembering his previous call and what he
- 23 had to see and go through, Kyle exited the
- vehicle and, on his own, helped this man
- 25 with his family clear the snow which, at the

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 time, during the blizzard, was very
- 3 dangerous and particular to this subject.
- I'll tell you, 20 years on
- 5 patrol, this guy made us all look extra
- 6 special that day and I think you can all
- 7 agree with me on this. It gave the public
- 8 and the media a different perspective on
- 9 what the police officers are all about.
- The commissioner I'm sure will
- 11 back me on this. We like to say, not only
- 12 are we out there to protect you but we are
- 13 very service oriented and this was a
- 14 beautiful example of what we do.
- Once again, I would like to
- 16 congratulate you on your award.
- 17 COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: I will
- 18 start off with what Police Officer Patterson
- 19 said, the fact that you take some time every
- 20 month to recognize the great police work is
- 21 appreciated and is truly deserving. The men
- 22 and women of the Nassau County Police
- 23 Department are out there doing a great job.
- 24 Today, Police Officer Klein and
- 25 the other two officers we will talk about

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 momentarily, Police Officer Budt and Police
- 3 Officer D'Gregorias is truly representative
- 4 of what this department is all about.
- 5 Today we had a police officer
- 6 that went out and did the right thing, did
- 7 above and beyond what is expected of our
- 8 police officers to get out and shovel snow
- 9 for an 82 year old man whose life really --
- 10 could have easily had another person with a
- 11 cardiac incident that he had responded to
- 12 earlier.
- 13 This is truly represented of the
- 14 community policing and the great police work
- 15 that we do day in and day out. Our cops are
- 16 out there. We always talk about how safe
- 17 this community is but sometimes it gets
- 18 lost, all the good deeds of the police
- 19 officers going above and beyond, and this is
- 20 one of those examples.
- So, again, thank you for
- 22 recognizing the police officers. Police
- 23 Officer Klein was one of our PTDI
- 24 instructors in our academy. It was a great
- 25 loss for the academy but it paid huge

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 dividends.
- Just on a little side note, I
- 4 would imagine everyone in this room saw the
- 5 Facebook posting because it truly went
- 6 viral. There were over a million and a half
- 7 people that saw that Facebook posting
- 8 throughout the country. It was published in
- 9 papers throughout the country because people
- 10 recognize just how great a deed that is.
- So, thank you Police Officer
- 12 Klein and thank you for the good work and
- 13 keep it up.
- 14 POLICE OFFICER PATERSON: Our
- 15 next top cop we have is Christopher
- 16 D'Gregorias and Gary Budt from the First
- 17 Precinct.
- On January -- when I used to
- 19 represent you guys years ago I didn't have
- 20 glasses. On January 25th, 2016 at
- 21 approximately 2144 hours, Officers Budt and
- 22 D'Gregarias did respond to a 911 call for
- 23 shots fired. This also coming from the shot
- 24 spotter and from 911 calls.
- 25 They respond to Urban Place and

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 Malcolm Place in Uniondale. A notification
- 3 of the possible suspect's vehicle was
- 4 broadcast.
- 5 On the way to the call, these
- 6 officers had the wherewithal to look around,
- 7 check out the surroundings, and did spot the
- 8 vehicle that matched the subject's vehicle
- 9 that was put out on the notification.
- 10 The two officers, knowing that
- 11 the shots were fired, and it was a dangerous
- 12 situation, immediately turned around and
- 13 followed the subject's car and subsequently
- 14 pulled it over.
- Upon investigation, they ended up
- 16 placing the subject under arrest. The car
- 17 contained three firearms. While they had
- 18 the subject under arrest, a subsequent
- 19 investigation took place, and it was later
- 20 determined that this subject was not only
- 21 shots fired, he was involved in a homicide,
- 22 and the subject was later charged with
- 23 murder, and the weapon possession.
- Like I said before, being a cop
- 25 20 years on the street, what I said before

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 made us look good, and this makes us all
- 3 look good.
- But, I tell you, as a resident of
- 5 Nassau County, these officers took not one
- 6 but three guns off the street and a
- 7 dangerous scenario, and they took a violent
- 8 felon, and all because they were on their
- 9 way, they were sharp enough and keen enough
- 10 to realize what they had to do. They didn't
- 11 just respond to the call and write down what
- 12 they had to do. They were truly
- 13 professional police officers and I want to
- 14 thank you for honoring these two fine
- 15 officers.
- 16 COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: Today
- 17 it's an interesting day. We have a police
- 18 officer with 20 years on the job, and then
- 19 we have two of our newer police officers and
- 20 they truly are the future.
- One of the great things about
- 22 these two police officers are, they are out
- 23 there doing a great job each and every day.
- 24 I had the opportunity to talk to them the
- 25 day of the arrest of the subject, and I had

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 also the opportunity to talk to a number of
- 3 the people that they work with and their
- 4 bosses. They are truly shining stars. They
- 5 went on patrol about two years ago. They
- 6 have about two and a half years on the job,
- 7 and they are the future of this department.
- 8 So it is a great day and they could have
- 9 been recognized for a number of other great
- 10 arrests that they made since being on
- 11 patrol. They are out there doing a great
- 12 job in the First Precinct.
- We talk about the shot spotter
- 14 system. We talk about technology. But,
- 15 without the great police work that was done
- 16 by these two officers, shot spotter would
- 17 only have notified us that there was
- 18 actually a shooting. This is what it's all
- 19 about.
- 20 Shot spotter is a tool, but it's
- 21 about the great work of the men and women of
- 22 the Nassau County Police Department as they
- 23 exemplified today.
- So, again, thank you very much
- 25 for honoring the cops. It is greatly

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 appreciated. It's -- I will tell you that
- 3 every month it gets more and more difficult
- 4 with all the great work being done. Because
- 5 every month we have a lot of different
- 6 incidents where the police officers are
- 7 doing a great job. It's, you know, in the
- 8 last quarter we are looking at, recognizing
- 9 and profiling cops and it was over a hundred
- 10 different cases where we could have
- 11 recognized either great community policing,
- 12 great arrests, great investigations in the
- 13 quarter.
- 14 It is -- cops are engaged. They
- 15 are doing a great job and the residents have
- 16 a lot to be proud about. Thank you.
- 17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: First of
- 18 all, let me congratulate each and every one
- 19 of the top cops today. Top cop Klein, Budt,
- 20 I believe, and D'Gregorias. Is that
- 21 correct? Is that the three of you?
- We certainly understand the
- 23 importance of recognizing the police
- 24 officers in Nassau County to set the stage
- 25 for the public to know that our police

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 officers are not only well trained but they
- 3 are compassionate and know exactly what they
- 4 need to do when trouble arises.
- 5 So, without further ado, I would
- 6 like to present each of the officers on
- 7 behalf of the Nassau County Legislature with
- 8 a small token of our appreciation and say to
- 9 you "stay safe and thank you for doing a
- 10 humongous job."
- 11 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)
- 12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Will the
- 13 legislators please take their seats. We
- 14 have a point of personal privilege. In all
- 15 due respect, I think we need all of your
- 16 attention. Please take your seats.
- 17 I will ask Kevan Abrahams to
- 18 present the honoree for today's point of
- 19 personal privilege.
- LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. Thank
- 21 you, Madam Presiding Officer. It gives me
- 22 great pleasure and honor to be able to
- 23 bestow this citation to Heeling Soles.
- Some of you may or may not know
- 25 what Heeling Soles does but it's global in

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 some of their efforts throughout major
- 3 cities, throughout the entire world.
- 4 What they provide -- I'm going to
- 5 talk about the bigger picture and then a
- 6 little bit about the smaller picture here in
- 7 Nassau, but, what they provide is on a
- 8 global level. Obviously it's exactly what
- 9 it sounds like, it's heeling, spelled
- 10 H-E-E-L-I-N-G, and Soles, and soles like
- 11 your shoe soles. So, it's inspirational.
- 12 What they provide is, obviously
- 13 we try to combat the poverty throughout all
- 14 our communities. They provide used as well
- 15 as new footwear to people in need.
- I came across the gentleman that
- 17 I'm going to honor, Steve Muir, who I have
- 18 always known him as Steve Austin, so it's
- 19 kind of been weird to present it to Steve
- 20 today, but I have come across and met Steve
- 21 for a couple of years now. He's supported
- 22 so many of our community events that we've
- 23 had. We've had back to school drives, and
- 24 family fun days and all kinds of events, and
- 25 he's recently come out to our holiday giving

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 where we were able to provide over a
- 3 thousand gifts to kids in need.
- 4 He is always there whenever we
- 5 need an extension of being able to provide
- 6 services from government to those that are
- 7 in need. He has provided a tremendous job
- 8 in his endeavors in Heeling Soles and they
- 9 have been able to secure hundreds and
- 10 thousands over the last few years of
- 11 footwear to be able to get it to people in
- 12 poverty.
- So, this citation that I'm
- 14 providing, obviously it being Black History
- 15 Month as well, and I want to recognize the
- 16 good work of the Presiding Officer for
- 17 holding an event later on today, I would
- 18 like this citation to be not just on behalf
- 19 of me but obviously on behalf of all of us
- 20 for recognizing the good work.
- 21 Many of you are probably being
- 22 introduced to Steve for the first time, but
- 23 I can tell you you are in very good hands in
- 24 regards to his efforts.
- 25 As I said before, he has given

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 out hundreds of thousands of footwear to
- 3 those in poverty and those in need. But
- 4 just at our Holiday At Giving Event, he was
- 5 able to give over a hundred sneakers to
- 6 people in need as well.
- 7 So, if I could, I would like to
- 8 bring Steve up to the podium and, if he has
- 9 some words, he does this with his family
- 10 every event I see him at. He's with his
- 11 wife, he's with his children. He's a great
- 12 asset to Nassau County and quite frankly to
- 13 our state.
- 14 If you would, Steve, you probably
- 15 could do much better justice in talking
- 16 about what you do on a daily basis, but I
- 17 would love to be able to give you some
- 18 moments to talk a little about now, and then
- 19 whoever would like, join us up here or we'll
- 20 join you down there for a photo.
- 21 MR. MUIR: Thank you very much.
- 22 Welcome everyone here. My name is Steve
- 23 Muir. I want to thank Legislator Abrahams
- 24 for noticing and recognizing the work that
- 25 we put in within the community.

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 Heeling Soles is a
- 3 Uniondale/London based organization. We are
- 4 deeply entrenched in the sneaker culture. I
- 5 don't know if a lot of you have children,
- 6 you go out and you buy those Jordans, Air
- 7 Force Ones for 180, 190, \$200. When those
- 8 shoes are finished being worn, a lot of kids
- 9 just toss them. What we do is, we collect
- 10 them if they're in good condition and
- 11 distribute them to the less fortunate, not
- 12 only here in New York, but in London, Haiti,
- 13 Jamaica, North Africa, and we've also
- 14 shipped some to Uganda.
- We are a small organization, only
- 16 five people, but we are very efficient in
- 17 what we do. Without the donors, we couldn't
- 18 be who we are. We also partake in community
- 19 events like Legislator Abrahams has said.
- 20 Com-unity is one of our annual events that
- 21 we have done alongside Legislator Abrahams
- 22 and some local organizations that's meant to
- 23 uplift our local communities that are
- 24 underserved. It's a family fun day. We
- 25 provide food, entertainment, music, bounce

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 houses, county services, and some
- 3 educational things. Our fire department
- 4 comes out and supports the event as well.
- 5 So we have a lot of support
- 6 within our local community and we also have
- 7 a lot of support around the world.
- 8 Thank you again. We definitely
- 9 appreciate the recognition and we definitely
- 10 hope that everyone takes some time to look
- 11 us up at Heeling Soles.org.
- 12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
- 13 again, Steve. Why don't you come on up, if
- 14 that's okay. I don't want to take away from
- 15 anyone else who has a point of personal
- 16 privilege. Steve, do you have members of
- 17 your family here? They're in school as are
- 18 mine. Everyone should be back.
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now, as
- 20 customary, with each Full Leg meeting, we
- 21 have public participation, and we will begin
- 22 with 30 minutes. It is now ten minutes to
- 23 2:00. Each speaker will have three minutes
- 24 and I ask that you ask your questions and
- 25 you make your comments. And if there are

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 any questions that need to be answered, I
- 3 will have the legislator speak with you
- 4 directly down in the chamber.
- 5 But, to expedite the number of
- 6 slips that I have here, I will tell you, if
- 7 we run out of time, which is ten minutes to
- 8 2:00, we go to 2:20, if we still have
- 9 speakers, the Legislature meeting is very
- 10 brief. You don't have to hang out too long
- 11 to go back to those speakers who cannot
- 12 speak within the first 30 minutes of the
- 13 public participation segment.
- 14 Without further ado, I'm going to
- 15 call the first speaker, I believe it's
- 16 Robert Kugelmass. Please say your last
- 17 name.
- MR. KUGELMASS: Thank you. Two
- 19 months ago, I advised you how horrible the
- 20 Liro Engineering was regarding Baldwin's
- 21 Grand Avenue project.
- Their design is being reviewed by
- 23 Nassau County engineers. I've tipped the
- 24 engineers to the problems. Liro's design is
- 25 counterproductive and a wasted opportunity.

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-162 The arithmetic of Liro's 3 engineers is faulty. They take four lanes and subtract one and end up with two traffic 4 lanes. That's Liro math. Our designs track 5 6 one lane and give you three full lanes of 7 traffic that improves flow and circulation, are much more safer than Liro's design and 8 9 doubles the street parking on the east curb. It doubles parking at no additional cost. 10 11 Liro's engineers also flunked 12 topography. Baldwin is blessed with Milburn 13 Avenue which parallels Grand Avenue. But 14 Liro ignored Milburn as a Grand Avenue
- 16 Two months ago you heard from Vision Long Island's Eric Alexander. You 17 heard him say, oh, we don't need those 18 19 lanes. We are going to have east side 20 access and flex time and home offices and presumably less traffic. Less traffic is 21 22 not what I have seen or envisioned. 23 The gal from Syosset chimed in about the success with the Jackson Avenue 24

15

25

adjunct.

turning lane. That's a false analogy. I'm

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 looking for the gal from Syosset and she's
- 3 not here. Jackson Avenue is basically a
- 4 residential street. Try a drastic shrinking
- 5 of Jericho Turnpike and see how it works for
- 6 Syosset.
- 7 And, Mr. Alexander had the gall
- 8 to cite Great Neck Plaza. That's where the
- 9 four lanes of south Middle Neck Road become
- 10 just two lanes of Middle Neck Road. That's
- 11 the type of congestion that Liro has
- 12 engineered for Baldwin, Ms. Birnbaum.
- We don't want Great Neck Plaza
- 14 problems in Baldwin. Great Neck at least
- 15 has East Shore Road and West Shore Roads so
- 16 that the residents of Great Neck can avoid
- 17 traveling through Great Neck Plaza.
- It doesn't cost any more to do a
- 19 good design as a bad design. We need a
- 20 better blueprint for Grand Avenue, a design
- 21 that improves and a design with vision.
- 22 This is important. Perhaps a vision you
- 23 can't currently afford to implement, but we
- 24 can currently afford the blueprint and we
- 25 can currently afford the master plan vision.

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- Now, Robert Moses had vision.
- 3 100 years ago, his landscaping turned roads
- 4 into parkways. We can easily design one and
- 5 a half miles of landscaping along the three
- 6 quarter mile road diet. Grand Avenue can be
- 7 a wonderful boulevard with a linear forest
- 8 of Red Buzz, Bradford Pears, and waving
- 9 clumps or ornamental grasses. Grand Avenue
- 10 can become a community garden.
- 11 CLERK MORONEY: Your three
- 12 minutes have expired.
- MR. KUGELMASS: Thank you. Liro
- 14 has forgotten Robert Moses.
- 15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: John
- 16 Tweedy.
- 17 MR. TWEEDY: Good afternoon
- 18 members of the Nassau County Legislature.
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Good
- 20 afternoon.
- MR. TWEEDY: I am John Tweedy, a
- 22 trustee of the Village of Bellerose. Last
- 23 month I presented the village board's
- 24 resolution opposing a VLT casino in Belmont
- 25 Park.

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- I am here again today to
- 3 reiterate and emphasize a continuing
- 4 opposition of the Village of Bellerose to
- 5 the proposed VLT casino.
- There are many many reasons for
- 7 rejecting a VLT casino, not the least of
- 8 which is a likely potential for severe
- 9 addicted behaviors and associated crime that
- 10 comes with those behaviors including illegal
- 11 drugs and alcohol abuse.
- 12 It is unconscionable to foist
- 13 these kinds of problems into the
- 14 neighborhoods of the villages of Bellerose,
- 15 Floral Park, South Floral Park and the
- 16 community of Elmont.
- 17 Today, however, I would like to
- 18 focus on two important economic issues.
- 19 Number one, the money that clients spend in
- 20 a VLT casino will be money that is not spent
- 21 in the local communities.
- 22 Studies have shown that racetrack
- 23 casinos draw most customers not from far
- 24 away, but from a 30 minute radius. Rather
- 25 than bringing new money to the area, they

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 divert local dollars to gambling. Money
- 3 that is normally spent in our local
- 4 communities would be spent in the casino and
- 5 thereby reduce the beneficial impact of
- 6 normal economic activity in our areas.
- 7 Number two, studies have also
- 8 shown that housing in the vicinity of a
- 9 casino typically sees an impairment of its
- 10 value estimated to be about five percent.
- 11 Applying even a very conservative three
- 12 percent reduction in value to the well over
- 4,000 Nassau homes in the immediate area of
- 14 Belmont and assuming an average pre-casino
- value of \$400,000 per home, implies that the
- 16 average home will be hit with at least a
- 17 \$12,000 reduction in value. That's at least
- 18 \$50 million less in residential value for
- 19 the community as a whole.
- Thus, we can clearly see that a
- 21 VLT casino is not an innocent way to raise
- 22 revenues, but rather an inherently unfair
- 23 burden on the residents of nearby
- 24 communities. Nothing comes for free, but a
- 25 VLT casino would come at a substantial cost

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 to local communities.
- 3 I call upon all our legislators
- 4 to do everything in their power to assure us
- 5 that there will be no VLT casino at Belmont.
- 6 I say it again, no Belmont casino. Thank
- 7 you.
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
- 9 Mr. Tweedy.
- 10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding
- 11 Officer, if I may. I just want to make a
- 12 point of information, that's all.
- I just want to reflect that there
- 14 are at least 50 persons here holding Stop,
- 15 No Belmont Casino Signs. And there are
- 16 several officials from the Village of Floral
- 17 Park and School District representatives as
- 18 well. That's all.
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
- 20 Mr. Solages. Jack McCloy.
- MR. MCCLOY: Good afternoon,
- 22 members of the Legislature.
- I have been here for the last few
- 24 months at your meetings and I would like to
- 25 remind you again that there are many many

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 residents of the Baldwin and surrounding
- 3 communities that are opposed to
- 4 reconfiguring Grand Avenue from the existing
- 5 two lanes in each direction to one lane in
- 6 each direction.
- 7 I had the opportunity last month
- 8 to give you copies of a printed piece that I
- 9 gave to each of you that shows one of the
- 10 signs that appears right on Grand Avenue
- 11 that touts the fact that Grand Avenue has
- 12 been restored. Ed Mangano's name is
- 13 prominently displayed on the sign along with
- 14 Laura Curran.
- 15 It makes no sense to spend a
- 16 considerable amount of money to restore a
- 17 road and then completely revamp it in less
- 18 than two years. There are much better ways
- 19 to spend tax dollars.
- This issue has been covered in
- 21 Newsday, Baldwin Herald, News 12, Fios One
- 22 News, and there is a significant amount of
- 23 local people, over 300, that have voiced
- 24 their opposition to this reconfiguration.
- 25 It's right in the main stretch of our only

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- 2 north south corridor that has two lanes in
- 3 each direction. The only other two roadways
- 4 in Baldwin are one lane in each direction,
- 5 that would be Milburn and Brookside.
- The two lanes in each direction,
- 7 Grand Avenue, is right where our main fire
- 8 department is located. I wanted to remind
- 9 you of that because it would impede fire
- 10 department response to local emergencies
- 11 also.
- 12 The First Precinct is located
- 13 right near that main stretch. They use
- 14 Grand Avenue to respond to any emergencies
- in North Baldwin and, anyone who has a
- 16 medical emergency in North Baldwin that
- 17 needs to get to our closest hospital, which
- is south Nassau County Community Hospital,
- 19 would travel that route, and if it's
- 20 restricted from two lanes to one lane, it
- 21 could be a life or death situation.
- 22 Without making it over my three
- 23 minute allocation, I would finally like to
- 24 remind you that although the budget is
- 25 likely to be approved to capital

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 improvements, that doesn't necessarily mean
- 3 that you should assign tax dollars to a
- 4 project like this, even if some of the money
- 5 is coming from the state or from federal
- 6 coffers. It doesn't change a bad program
- 7 into a good program. Thank you for your
- 8 time.
- 9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
- 10 Mr. McCloy. Karen Montalbano.
- 11 MS. MONTALBANO: Good afternoon.
- 12 My name is Karen Montalbano and I'm
- 13 president of the Baldwin Civic Association.
- 14 I've returned today to speak
- 15 about the Grand Avenue Traffic Study in
- 16 Baldwin just as others have. Often people
- 17 come to these chambers with negative
- 18 remarks. But I'm here to focus on the
- 19 positive. Everyone agrees that Grand Avenue
- 20 is a road that is not functioning
- 21 efficiently or well and needs help. It will
- 22 not change unless changes are made.
- The current draft includes needed
- 24 turn lanes at Seaman Avenue and Saint Lukes
- 25 Place. The plan is proposing ways to make

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- 2 it safer for our high school students.
- 3 Some points are controversial,
- 4 such as the road diet which has both
- 5 opponents and proponents. This has been
- 6 called a traffic study for a reason.
- 7 Educated people with expertise have gathered
- 8 data, evaluated it, and using examples from
- 9 other communities have suggested a plan for
- 10 the roadway. They are aware of the latest
- 11 developments. They are familiar with best
- 12 practices.
- The BCA helped host meetings for
- 14 the community so Baldwin residents could
- 15 have input on what is needed along this
- 16 road. Our first responders have been
- 17 consulted.
- 18 These recommendations are based
- 19 on input, research and expertise, not gut
- 20 feelings. A plan like this is needed to
- 21 make the roadways safer for all those who
- 22 travel it, whether on four wheels, two
- 23 wheels, or two feet.
- 24 At minimum, the community needs
- 25 to see what the plan looks like before

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- 2 anyone can judge it. We will not know the
- 3 possibilities for improving our major road
- 4 unless we see the whole plan engineered.
- 5 The BCA board feels that this is
- 6 the best plan we have to move forward and
- 7 improve Grand Avenue and it is in the best
- 8 interest of the Baldwin community to move
- 9 forward into the next phase. Thank you.
- 10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
- 11 Ms. Montalbano. MaryAnn Hannon? David
- 12 Fowler?
- MR. FOWLER: Thank you. I'm here
- 14 as a member, President of the Sewanaka
- 15 Central High School District Board of
- 16 Education. At our January 26, 2016 meeting,
- 17 we joined with the Village of Floral Park,
- 18 south Floral Park, Bellerose Village, the
- 19 OLB School Board, the Floral Park/Bellerose
- 20 School Board, the New Hyde Park/Garden City
- 21 Park School Board, Wednesday Mother's Club,
- 22 Floral Park Chamber of Commerce, Park Hearth
- 23 and Tudor Civic Associations and many other
- 24 organizations to ask that a VLT facility not
- 25 be considered for Belmont Park.

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 I know several of the legislators
- 3 were welcomed there, Legislator Solages,
- 4 Legislator Muscarella, Legislator Nicolello.
- 5 But as my colleague, Mrs. Rooney, mentioned
- 6 to you last month, anyone who wants to come
- 7 down physically and view the proximity of
- 8 our schools to this proposed facility, we
- 9 would welcome this.
- 10 Again, Floral Park Memorial High
- 11 School, a 1,400 student junior/senior high
- 12 school stands across a narrow two lane road,
- 13 Plainfield Avenue, from the Belmont
- 14 facility.
- There is a gate that is open from
- 16 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily that is
- 17 utilized, as long as I've been in Floral
- 18 Park, for the past 30 years. We are told
- 19 that there is no big deal, that there's
- 20 gambling at the site.
- But, again, the idea of equating
- 22 92 days a year, 8 hours a day of horse
- 23 racing, with 365 days a year, 20 hours of
- 24 video slot machines is insane.
- We are talking about placing this

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- 2 facility in the midst of an elementary
- 3 school, 900 member elementary school, Floral
- 4 Park Bellerose School directly behind the
- 5 property, Floral Park Memorial next door,
- 6 Our Lady of Victory down the block and in
- 7 near proximity to the facilities, Elmont
- 8 Memorial High School, Sewanaka High School,
- 9 numerous others.
- 10 Again, the idea that if gambling,
- 11 the idea of having gambling at the site is
- 12 the reason why we are going to place it at
- 13 Belmont, I question why it wasn't placed at
- 14 the Raceway Palace in Plainview where we've
- 15 had gambling for quite some time, which is
- 16 directly next to the Long Island Expressway
- 17 providing access to buses, et cetera.
- 18 Unlike the Race Place there is no
- 19 easy access to Belmont for buses and other
- 20 commercial vehicles. Increased traffic
- 21 along Plainfield Avenue, Jericho Turnpike,
- 22 and Hempstead Turnpike are going to
- 23 negatively impact Elmont, Floral Park and
- 24 South Floral Park. Floral Park Memorial
- 25 High School has an open campus policy for

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 seniors, some of whom will turn 18.
- 3 How will increased traffic, the
- 4 casino buses, traffic from around the school
- 5 impact our communities? How will it impact
- 6 the parents of our students as they pick up
- 7 and drop off students? How will it impact
- 8 response times for our volunteer
- 9 firefighters and EMTs in our communities?
- 10 Again, we are told all this
- 11 negative impact and for what? Allegedly
- 12 money. I question whether or not there is
- 13 actually going to be monies flowing to the
- 14 neighboring communities. We have a fully
- 15 operational facility with more options
- 16 already less than six miles away to
- 17 Aqueduct. When Empire City Casino --
- 18 CLERK MORONEY: Your three
- 19 minutes have expired.
- MR. FOWLER: Again, we really
- 21 request that you do everything in your power
- 22 to prevent this being placed in a
- 23 residential community among school children.
- 24 Again, I thank you for your time.
- 25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

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- 2 Judy Sanford Guise.
- 3 MS. SANFORD GUISE: Judy Sanford
- 4 Guise, 26 Countisbury Avenue, I'm the North
- 5 Valley Stream contingent and also in the
- 6 Sewanaka District.
- 7 I've spoken here before. I'm
- 8 concerned about and I continue to be alarmed
- 9 about what I'm learning about the problems
- 10 inherent in generating revenue by exploiting
- 11 addictions and gambling as was just stated
- 12 is just not gambling. This is one that is
- 13 exploiting people's weaknesses and I
- 14 consider it really, as I said last time I
- 15 was here, not good policy.
- But a thought occurred to me a
- 17 few minutes ago about the lack of realistic
- 18 revenue, and, as I read and I think, I
- 19 cannot get over there's something wrong with
- 20 this process. Part of this has to do with
- 21 the split. As I understand it, New York
- 22 does control the splits with OTB revenue.
- But, a colleague of mine in my
- 24 professional society was a staffer for a
- 25 Congress member from Connecticut. He wrote

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- 2 the covenant, designed the covenant,
- 3 negotiated the covenant between the Nations
- 4 in Connecticut that run Mohegan Sun and
- 5 Foxwoods. And many many years ago, and I
- 6 wasn't planning on raising this point, so I
- 7 didn't contact him and get any updated
- 8 numbers, but the difference between what is
- 9 projected as even a possible revenue for
- 10 Nassau County, is so different from the
- 11 experience of Connecticut.
- 12 It's important to know that
- 13 Connecticut was -- Connecticut cannot tax
- 14 the revenue from Nations. We understand
- 15 that. But Connecticut had to provide water,
- 16 police, and there were a lot of expenditures
- in bringing together Mohegan Sun and
- 18 Foxwoods, et cetera. So, to some extent,
- 19 this is apples and oranges. I apologize for
- 20 that.
- 21 However, the fact that the split
- 22 with the state of Connecticut is 25 percent
- 23 of the slot action. The nations keep
- 24 everything else. 25 percent about a decade
- 25 ago of that slot action, when Mohegan Sun

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- 2 first put in its hotels, because it started
- 3 first as a casino, was \$100 million; 25
- 4 percent of the slot action.
- 5 A few years later, that slot
- 6 action represented 25 percent split, not
- 7 total, 25 percent split, was \$300 million.
- 8 So, what keeps nagging at me as
- 9 I'm reading about all of the costs I think
- 10 we are going to end up having by additional
- 11 police needed, et cetera, the funding for
- 12 the human services community to address the
- 13 addiction problems of gambling, alcoholism,
- 14 and health problems of additional smoking
- 15 that's related to gambling.
- How come we're only talking about
- 17 \$20 million? There is something wrong with
- 18 this whole system. For me, it seems to be
- 19 that the purpose of this is really not
- 20 ultimately generating revenue for Nassau
- 21 County. There are other answers. I
- 22 personally don't think we should be taking
- 23 the risk --
- 24 CLERK MORONEY: Your three
- 25 minutes are up.

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- 2 MS. SANFORD-GUISE: -- in order
- 3 to keep OTB employed. And that seems how I
- 4 keep coming down to it. The split is wrong
- 5 and that should be enough of a reason for us
- 6 not to proceed with this, certainly not at
- 7 this time. Thank you.
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
- 9 very much. Joanne Borden.
- MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon. I
- 11 repeated here many times that human rights
- 12 are conferred by God and it's your job to
- 13 protect those rights. Ted Cruz' Iowa caucus
- 14 victory speech repeated those words exactly.
- 15 Marco Rubio followed Cruz and also said
- 16 human rights come from God and it's the
- 17 government's job to protect those rights.
- 18 Transgender human rights are not
- 19 the partisan issue you make it. A wise
- 20 founding father said, "as we must account
- 21 for every idle word, so must we account for
- 22 every idle silence." You will ultimately
- 23 account for your silence because it harms
- 24 your transgender neighbors.
- 25 Scientists have proven over and

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 over that transgender people are born
- 3 transgender and thus created by the All
- 4 Mighty. Transgenderism has no purpose.
- 5 It's not a whim or a pervasion nor a
- 6 lifestyle. Something inside forces us to
- 7 stop lying about who we are.
- 8 Once again, I ask you to end your
- 9 harmful discrimination which hurts us in
- 10 most facets of life and is especially
- 11 destructive in employment.
- 12 I ask you to clearly declare on
- 13 the record that harmful discrimination is
- 14 wrong. Some people along the way I stand
- 15 here month after month asking in vain for
- 16 justice. But I never question it. I am
- 17 asking for justice, legal equality, because
- 18 seeking liberty and justice for all is every
- 19 citizen's pledge and duty.
- For you, elected officials, it's
- 21 a sacred duty and an obligation of your
- 22 office to protect our God given birth right,
- 23 our civil rights, our human rights. It's
- 24 what your conservative candidates, your oath
- 25 to the Republican party, what the Republican

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- 2 and tea party websites claim and boast
- 3 about.
- 4 I'm asking you to pass the Gender
- 5 Clarification Law and practice what your
- 6 party now falsely claims. I'm asking you
- 7 for equality under the law.
- 8 I'm asking you simply for
- 9 justice. Thank you for listening.
- 10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Rita Rose.
- 11 MS. ROSE: Good afternoon, ladies
- 12 and gentlemen of the Legislature, members of
- 13 my community. I would like to introduce
- 14 myself. My name is Rita Rose but I am known
- 15 worldwide by my nickname Rusty. You see, I
- 16 am a pioneer in the modern day LBGTQ
- 17 movement, and I cannot understand why the
- 18 simple inclusion into the current bill is
- 19 not forthcoming, gender actual and
- 20 perceived.
- Over the years I have listened to
- 22 my friend Joanne Borden ask tirelessly for a
- 23 change and amending of the current law.
- 24 Many of you agree with her, but with all due
- 25 respect, collectively you are disappointing.

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 I don't know why you are so contrary.
- I ask, please do not put aside
- 4 this any longer. Because the lack of
- 5 clarification in the current Human Right
- 6 Bill, many transgender, lesbian, and gays
- 7 will be discriminated against in this
- 8 county. Last year alone 270 transgender
- 9 friends in my community have died. But I'm
- 10 not going to stand here and plead with you
- 11 year and year like Joanne does.
- 12 Instead, I'm going to use my
- 13 status as pioneer in the community and I am
- 14 going to petition members, both in the USA
- and abroad, and I'm going to ask them to
- 16 join us here in Nassau County to help get
- 17 proposed law 2014 included, gender actual
- 18 and perceived.
- 19 I assure you, ladies and
- 20 gentlemen, the turnout for this event will
- 21 be peaceful, but it will be larger than our
- 22 yearly March in Manhattan.
- So, respectfully, I ask you to
- 24 reconsider and please amend the current
- 25 bill. Please add proposed law 2014 to the

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 current law.
- Folks, its only a few words,
- 4 gender actual and perceived, but it needs to
- 5 be included because, although they are
- 6 simple and few, these words will save lives.
- 7 Thank you very much.
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have one
- 9 more speaker before we go into the Full Leg.
- 10 I have Dr. Lynn Pombanyo.
- DR. POMBANYO: Good afternoon,
- 12 Presiding Officer Gonsalves and members of
- 13 the Nassau County Legislature. I come to
- 14 you as a trustee of the Incorporated Village
- of Floral Park, the former Superintendent of
- 16 Schools in the Floral Park Bellerose School
- 17 District, a life long educator, and, except
- 18 for the past four years, a life long
- 19 resident of Nassau County.
- I thank you for your time and the
- 21 opportunity to speak about our villages and
- 22 school district's strong opposition to a
- 23 proposed video lottery casino at Belmont
- 24 Park.
- In May of 2014, our New York

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 State Comptroller, Thomas D'Napoli,
- 3 published a report about the increasing role
- 4 that gambling is playing in state budgets.
- 5 His OAC report is very mixed. For any
- 6 promising results or dollars that Mr.
- 7 D'Napoli notes, he concludes the gambling
- 8 gains are often offset by losses. He
- 9 states, "Now with a new expansion underway,"
- 10 referring to gambling including the
- 11 authorization of VLTs, video lottery
- 12 terminals, "more casinos will mean more
- 13 gambling revenue and new jobs, but the long
- 14 term impact for the state remains unclear.
- 15 It will inevitably create both winners and
- 16 losers in the years ahead."
- 17 With the future of gambling and
- 18 VLTs to be mixed at best, a gambling
- 19 initiative that success depends on losers
- 20 amongst our Nassau County residents and
- 21 other citizens seems short sighted, ill
- 22 advised, and cruel to those people.
- Looking next to the specifics of
- 24 gambling and VLTs are slot machines, which
- 25 have many similarities, there are numerous

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 reports that single out the video game type,
- 3 high speed gambling nature of VLTs and slot
- 4 machines as more dangerous than betting on
- 5 horses or purchasing Power Ball tickets and
- 6 scratch offs.
- 7 In 2011, Leslie Stahl did a CBS
- 8 60 Minutes' report entitled, "Slot Machines
- 9 the Big Gamble." Ms. Stahl recalls the
- 10 slots of the past when the gambler pulled a
- 11 handle and hoped for three of a kind, which
- 12 is now obsolete.
- The modern slot machines and VLTs
- 14 are high tech video games complete with
- 15 music and dramatic special events. Hundreds
- 16 of lines may appear at once and then every
- 17 three and a half seconds. High speed means
- 18 more bets and, at a successful casino,
- 19 bigger losers.
- 20 Leslie Stahl's report is balanced
- 21 with experts and gamblers citing the
- 22 positive and very negative aspects of this
- 23 21st Century form of high speed gambling.
- Those who do represent the very
- 25 sad and damaged minority, cite proximity to

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 the gambling machines as the factor that has
- 3 contributed most to their increasing use,
- 4 abuse and addiction.
- 5 To conclude with proximity, not
- 6 only do VLTs at Belmont bring many Nassau
- 7 residents in closer proximity to this
- 8 exciting high tech form of gambling, three
- 9 high schools in my school district, which is
- 10 the Sewanaka Centra High School District,
- 11 and their 4,800 students at Elmont,
- 12 Sewanaka, and Floral Park Memorial are
- 13 within the 10 minute car ride to Belmont and
- 14 what may be the ultimate video game
- 15 adventure.
- 16 Those at H. Frank Carey and New
- 17 Hyde Park Memorial as well as the three
- 18 Valley Stream High Schools are only slightly
- 19 further away, so proximity will be an issue
- 20 for at least some of those thousands of
- 21 students as well.
- In closing, I ask that you read
- 23 Thomas D'Napoli's report on gambling as well
- 24 as those written by economists and other
- 25 professionals. Please also view the 60

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- 2 Minutes videos, "Slot Machines, the Big
- 3 Gamble, " easy to access on You Tube.
- 4 Finally we hope that you will
- 5 take the car ride from one of our high
- 6 schools to Belmont. See how quick and easy
- 7 it is and while you're there take a quick
- 8 look at the Floral Park Bellerose School
- 9 field and playground all right up against
- 10 Belmont's north parking lot.
- 11 If not, I know from a long
- 12 history of first hand experience at many of
- 13 your high schools, that video lottery
- 14 casinos are not what we envisioned around
- 15 the corner for our next generation. We are
- 16 creating the future for all of them. Let's
- 17 please do it carefully and wisely. Thank
- 18 you.
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.
- 20 I have -- I'm not too sure I can read it.
- 21 Is there a Daniel Degrobt here, speaking on
- 22 behalf of transgender?
- MR. DEGROBT: That's me.
- 24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: What is
- 25 your name?

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 MR. DEGROBT: My name is Daniel
- 3 Degrobt.
- 4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay,
- 5 Daniel. I got it.
- MR. DEGROBT: I've been here two
- 7 times before.
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know you
- 9 have.
- MR. DEGROBT: So, basically, my
- 11 concern is that transgender individuals in
- 12 Nassau County don't have the same rights as
- 13 all other individuals and I still can't
- 14 understand why this is the case. They pay
- 15 the same taxes as every one else does, they
- 16 breathe the same air everyone else does.
- 17 They have the same feelings that every one
- 18 else does. They're no different than anyone
- 19 else, than any other individual but, yet,
- 20 they're not treated that way.
- 21 The whole purpose -- we say every
- 22 day when we do the Pledge of Allegiance, one
- 23 nation, for liberty and justice for all.
- 24 And, when this is the case, it violates that
- 25 principal because there isn't just for

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 everyone when transgender individuals are
- 3 discriminated and aided against.
- 4 Not only that, they are put in
- 5 dangerous positions because if someone is
- 6 forced to use the incorrect bathroom,
- 7 they're put into a position to be attacked
- 8 by someone or even worse. No one seems to
- 9 be doing anything about it in Nassau County.
- 10 I don't get why that is.
- I know people don't have a
- 12 problem with people being able to use the
- 13 right bathrooms but it just seems like here
- 14 in Nassau County, you know, everyone can't
- 15 get together and vote on a simple thing to
- 16 amend an amendment to allow this to happen.
- 17 It's really troublesome. Please do the
- 18 right thing. Please vote on this today.
- 19 Please.
- 20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
- 21 very much, Daniel. I have two more slips
- 22 even though we are going over the time limit
- 23 I think that we can hear from Yuki Endo.
- MS. ENDO: My name is Yuki Endo,
- 25 resident of Jackson Heights, Queens, and I

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 represent two non profit organizations, Long
- 3 Island Bus Riders Union fighting for better
- 4 bus service in Long Island and Citizen
- 5 Defending Libraries, fighting to save public
- 6 libraries and developer destruction of
- 7 public assets. I am also animal rights
- 8 activists.
- 9 Please do not build casinos
- 10 anywhere in Long Island because casinos are
- 11 very bad for our environment. Why casinos
- 12 will be bad for the environment? It will
- 13 create more traffic, which means more air
- 14 pollution, it will increase, and it will be
- unsafe for the people who have asthma, or
- 16 people who cannot go out in sunlight.
- 17 If a casino is built in Belmont
- 18 Park, part residents who live in Belmont
- 19 Park will lose their parking spaces. Cross
- 20 Island Parkway does not have service road,
- 21 and it will increase traffic flows on
- 22 surrounding streets including dangerous
- 23 Hempstead Turnpike and it will also increase
- 24 commuter time for both bus riders and
- 25 motorists.

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 If casino is built in Belmont
- 3 Park, both NICE Bus N6, Q2/Q-110 buses will
- 4 be overcrowded and bus riders will be more
- 5 frustrated for longer wait for the bus.
- 6 If casino is built at Belmont
- 7 Park, and if it becomes 24 hour, there will
- 8 be loud racket and will happen, and causing
- 9 disturbance to quiet neighborhood of Queens
- 10 and Long Island. This also applies to
- 11 Suffolk County as well.
- 12 If the casino is built, casino
- 13 folks will be more greedy and ask to make
- 14 Belmont Park station on Long Island Railroad
- open every day, which will result less
- 16 service on the main lines which Hempstead
- 17 and Huntington train do not run very often,
- 18 causing more longer wait for Long Island
- 19 Railroad riders.
- 20 Imagine if during Belmont Park
- 21 Stakes event and Casinos mix together,
- 22 Belmont Park Station will be extremely
- 23 dangerous and unsafe.
- There is no need for casinos in
- 25 Long Island because there is already Resort

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 World Casino at Aqueduct Racetrack in South
- 3 Ozone Park, Queens, Empire City Casino at
- 4 Yonkers Raceway in Westchester County, and
- 5 Foxwood Casinos and Mohegan Sun Casino in
- 6 Connecticut, which are all driving distances
- 7 via parkways, expressways, or
- 8 Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Ferry which casino
- 9 supporters could afford because they're
- 10 rich.
- 11 Casino will attract crime and
- 12 drunk driving.
- 13 Also, casinos will cause major
- 14 major headache for emergency responding
- 15 vehicles with insane casino traffic.
- 16 Imagine if casino is built at
- 17 Belmont Park, and gun violence happens
- 18 inside casino and if someone gets injured by
- 19 qun bullet? You'll be calling emergency
- 20 vehicle to get to scene, but with casino
- 21 traffic, ambulances or firefighters will not
- 22 make on time and person's life might be lost
- 23 because of heavy traffic.
- 24 If the casino is built near
- 25 Medford, there will be more traffic on Long

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 Island Expressway and surrounding streets.
- 3 Eastern Queens and Long Island
- 4 has many quiet neighborhood and these people
- 5 don't want casinos. Not at Belmont Park,
- 6 Inwood, Westbury, Medford or anyone anywhere
- 7 in Long Island.
- 8 This is the reason why I say no
- 9 casino in Long Island. No OTB. Thank you
- 10 for your cooperation.
- 11 LEGISLATORS SOLAGES: Presiding
- 12 Officer, is it possible that we could have
- 13 just a copy of the writing of that
- 14 statement?
- 15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I believe
- 16 he submitted it.
- 17 Our last speaker is Mr. Budnick
- 18 and I'm glad that we were able to do all of
- 19 it before we go into the Full Leg meeting.
- 20 Mr. Budnick.
- MR. BUDNICK: Good afternoon. My
- 22 compliments to each and every one of you for
- 23 doing this every time you meet. God bless
- 24 each and every one of you.
- 25 Good afternoon. I'm here to

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 speak about the heroin and other drug
- 3 problems that are afflicting Nassau County.
- 4 Up until about ten years ago,
- 5 there was a place in Nassau County called
- 6 Topic House that was -- it came to past. It
- 7 no longer exists, for Young people and other
- 8 folks in Nassau County who have severe drug
- 9 problems. There are I believe 12 beds in
- 10 Nassau Medical Center and about the same at
- 11 North Shore. Those are obviously not
- 12 anywhere near enough to address the problem.
- I think that something like, or,
- 14 indeed, the Michael Nungio Petito Memorial
- 15 Topic House should be recreated. Places
- 16 that are within the realm of possibility are
- 17 at the west end beyond where Nassau
- 18 Community College ends over in the Mitchell
- 19 Field area. The vacant floors at the tower
- 20 at Nassau University Medical Center and
- 21 there are several other locations.
- We are having too many young
- 23 people die. Too many young people are
- 24 becoming addicted and have no where to turn.
- 25 Thank you very much and God bless you. Have

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 a wonderful day. My compliments to you one
- 3 and all.
- 4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
- 5 Mr. Budnick. Before we go into the Full
- 6 Leg, I just want you to know that at 4
- 7 o'clock today we will have a recognition of
- 8 Black History Month and these are mostly
- 9 young students from the neighboring
- 10 communities, and, hopefully some of you will
- 11 remain. It shouldn't be too long. So, from
- 12 now until the program begins.
- 13 I'm inviting you to please come,
- 14 or go out and come back, and the enjoy the
- 15 recognition that we are planning for this
- 16 afternoon.
- 17 Without any further ado, it is
- 18 now time to go into the Full Legislative
- 19 calendar.
- Mr. Moroney, we have two
- 21 hearings, would you please call the first
- 22 hearing.
- 23 CLERK MORONEY: Yes. Hearing on
- 24 Resolution Number 26 of 2016, a resolution
- 25 to adopt the four year capital plan for the

- 1 Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 County of Nassau to commence January 21,
- 3 2015 pursuant to the provisions of Section
- 4 310 of the County Government Law of Nassau
- 5 County.
- 6 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.
- 7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.
- 8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
- 9 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
- 10 Walker. All those in favor of opening the
- 11 hearing, signify by saying aye.
- 12 (Aye.)
- Any opposed?
- 14 (No verbal response.)
- The hearing is now open. We are
- 16 going to recess the hearing.
- 17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's my
- 18 understanding in regards to the capital
- 19 hearing that there will be some amendments
- 20 that will be forthcoming?
- 21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's
- 22 what I was going to say, since we have not
- 23 received the amendments so that we can
- 24 address them here in the hearing, I'm asking
- 25 that we recess the hearing on Resolution 26.

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 The hearing resolution number 26. Clerk
- 3 Item 1 on your calendar. Item 1.
- 4 We are waiting for the amendments
- 5 to be filed and, until those amendments are
- 6 filed, there is really nothing to discuss
- 7 here at the hearing. So that's why we are
- 8 recessing and I will give you an indication
- 9 as to when we will be reconvening the
- 10 hearing.
- The second hearing, Mr. Moroney,
- 12 please call Item Number Two.
- 13 CLERK MORONEY: Hearing on
- 14 Resolution 27 of 2016, resolution to adopt
- 15 the four year capital plan for the County of
- 16 Nassau to commence January 1, 2016 pursuant
- 17 to the provisions of Section 310 of the
- 18 County Government Law of Nassau County.
- 19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion to
- 20 open the hearing.
- 21 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.
- LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.
- 23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
- 24 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
- 25 Walker. Again, all those in favor of

- Full Committee/2-22-16
- 2 opening the hearing, signify by saying aye.
- 3 (Aye.)
- 4 Any opposed?
- 5 (No verbal response.)
- 6 The hearing is now open and for
- 7 the same reasons we will recess Item 2 or
- 8 the hearing on Resolution 27 because we are
- 9 waiting for the appropriate projects that
- 10 need to be incorporated in the hearing.
- 11 So, now, because the next items,
- 12 three, four, five, six, seven, and eight
- 13 pertain to the capital project so, because
- 14 we're now going to hear the items on one and
- 15 two, we are not going to be calling those
- 16 items. Now, before I entertain the next two
- 17 items, I need to ask a question.
- 18 Item 9 will not be called as
- 19 well. Move on to Item 10. And,
- Mr. Moroney.
- 21 CLERK MORONEY: Yes. Resolution
- 22 28 of 2016 is a resolution to authorize the
- 23 transfer of appropriations heretofore made
- 24 within the budget for the year 2016.
- 25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion,

- 1 Full Committee /2-22-16
- 2 please.
- 3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.
- 4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.
- 5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
- 6 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
- 7 Ford.
- 8 Are there any questions or
- 9 comments regarding Item 10? It's your item,
- 10 Minority Leader Abrahams, is there anything
- 11 you would like to say regarding this item,
- 12 Item 10?
- 13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. This
- 14 is an item that is necessary for us to make
- 15 some changes within our own budget. It has
- 16 no fiscal impact on the remaining of the
- 17 year. It just basically allows us to move
- 18 around some budgetary resources throughout
- 19 our budget, and we should still fall within
- 20 our budget allocation for our department for
- 21 fiscal year 2016.
- 22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Ouestions
- or comments from the legislators?
- 24 (No verbal response.)
- Is there any public comment?

1	Full Committee/2-22-16
2	(No verbal response.)
3	There being none, all those in
4	favor of Item 10 signify by saying aye.
5	(Aye.)
6	Any opposed?
7	(No verbal response.)
8	The item passes unanimously.
9	We are now in recess. I'm going
10	to take a short break before we go into
11	Rules and then we will come back for the
12	Rules Committee. Hopefully some of you are
13	going to stay, I hope, because there is a
14	very very good program expected at 4
15	o'clock. So I'm taking a brief recess
16	between now and the Rules Committee. Please
17	don't go away. We should be back very
18	shortly in about 10, 15 minutes.
19	(Whereupon, the Full Legislative
20	Committee recessed at 2:39 p.m.)
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22	
23	
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1		
2	CERTIFICATE	
3		
4		
5	I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and	
6	Notary Public in and for the State of New	
7	York, do hereby stated:	
8	THAT I attended at the time and place	
9	above mentioned and took stenographic record	
10	of the proceedings in the above-entitled	
11	matter;	
12	THAT the foregoing transcript is a true	
13	and accurate transcript of the same and the	
14	whole thereof, according to the best of my	
15	ability and belief.	
16	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set	
17	my hand this 8th day of March, 2016.	
18		
19		
20	FRANK GRAY	
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		