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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

NORMA GONSALVES, Chairwoman

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, April 25, 2016
1:20 P.M.

1

2 A P P E A R A N C E S:3 NORMA GONSALVES,
4 Chairwoman5 RICHARD NICOLELLO,
6 Deputy Presiding Officer7 HOWARD KOPEL,
8 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

9 STEVEN RHOADS

10 DENISE FORD

11 LAURA CURRAN

12 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

13 VINCENT MUSCARELLA

14 ELLEN BIRNBAUM

15 LAURA SCHAEFER

16 DONALD MACKENZIE (Not Present)

17 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,
18 Minority Leader

19 ROSE MARIE WALKER

20 DENNIS DUNNE

21 JUDITH JACOBS

22 JAMES KENNEDY

23 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

24 CARRIE SOLAGES

25 SIELA BYNOE

26 MICHAEL C. PULITZER,
27 Clerk of the Legislature

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21
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25

LIST OF SPEAKERS

PRESIDENT JAMES CARVER.....	10
COMMISSIONER THOMAS KRUMPTER.....	12
BAZIL DONATO.....	38
JOHN MICHNO.....	50
ROBERT KUGELMASS.....	53
DOMINICK KASMAUSKAS.....	56
JOANNE BORDEN.....	57
JACK MCCLOY.	59
COLLETTE COYNE.....	62
META MEREDAY.....	67
DOUGLAS MAYERS.....	85
EDWARD HOSKINS.....	87
ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHN PRIEST.....	121
ASSISTANT CHIEF MICHAEL UTTARO.....	123
RICHARD BIVONE.....	129
MELISSA BARBOUR.....	130
LISA LOCURTO.....	141
GERRY PODLESAK.....	172

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
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25

INSERTS

Incorporated Veterans and
Senior Affairs minutes
Pertaining to
Clerk Item 2.....94

(Page 94, Line 3 to Page 119, Line 15.)

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

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 Legislator Dunne.

10 Minority Leader?

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
12 Madam Presiding Officer. For some of us who
13 may not know, I just wanted to recognize on
14 behalf of many of our Irish Americans who
15 are here on Long Island, that today marks
16 the Centennial of the East Arising in Dublin
17 in which lead to the freedom and
18 independence for many of the Irish Republic
19 and obviously and we enjoyed these freedoms
20 here in our country, we obviously want to
21 see these freedoms throughout the world and
22 this marks the Centennial for that.

23 So I just wanted to recognize
24 that on the record today.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 very much.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're
4 welcome.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: At this
6 point I'm going to ask our clerk to call the
7 roll.

8 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,
9 Presiding Officer. Deputy Presiding Officer
10 Richard J. Nicoletto?

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
13 Presiding Officer Howard J. Kopel?

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

15 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela
16 A. Bynoe?

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

18 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
19 Carrie Solages?

20 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
22 Denise A. Ford?

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
25 Curran?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.
3 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
4 Vincent T. Muscarella?
5 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.
6 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
7 William Gaylor III?
8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Here.
9 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Ellen
10 W. Birnbaum?
11 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.
12 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
13 DeRiggi-Whitton?
14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
15 Here.
16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
17 D. Kennedy?
18 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
20 M. Schaefer?
21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.
22 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
23 Dennis Dunne, Sr.?
24 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: I'm Irish and
25 I'm here. I thank you, Kevan.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

3 Judith A. Jacobs?

4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

5 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

6 Rosemarie Walker?

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

8 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

9 Donald MacKenzie?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

12 Steven D. Rhoads?

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader

15 Kevan M. Abrahams?

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer

18 Norma L. Gonsalves?

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

20 Thank you very much.

21 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
22 quorum.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
24 very much. At this point in time I think we
25 really have a very beautiful agenda today

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 because there are so many people we are
3 going to recognize, but I would like to
4 begin though, since they look so
5 professional back there, Legislator Bynoe
6 and Legislator Schaefer have guests here
7 today. If you would like, you may introduce
8 those guests, Legislator Bynoe, and you may
9 join in Legislator Schaefer.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good
11 afternoon. We're joined here by the Saint
12 Bridget's Student Council of Westbury
13 Diocese. We appreciate them being here with
14 us today. They spent the day touring the
15 building, participating in a press
16 conference, and they have been good stewards
17 of their time. They asked some wonderful
18 questions earlier today, and we just
19 appreciate you today.

20 And I think that we have some
21 future legislators in that group back there,
22 hopefully. But thank you very much for
23 coming today. We really enjoyed your time
24 here.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now we

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 begin with our monthly event which is
3 honoring top cops. I know that the
4 president of the PBA is here to honor two
5 police officers and acting Commissioner
6 Krumpter, Police Officer Robert Somass and
7 Police Officer Jeffrey Toscano.

8 PRESIDENT CARVER: Good afternoon
9 everybody. Today we honor two police
10 officers from the our Bureau of Special
11 Operations, Robert Somass and Jeff Toscano.

12 On November 23rd, 2015, at
13 approximately 23:52 hours at night while on
14 routine patrol, they observed a vehicle that
15 had some traffic violations. They pulled
16 the car over.

17 For months, we have been talking
18 about that there is no such thing as a
19 routine car stop. Again, this was not a
20 routine car stop by any stretch of the
21 imagination. They pulled the car over.
22 They observed some stuff going on inside the
23 car. The passengers acting a little
24 nervous, reaching around the car. That's
25 one of the things that concerns a police

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 officer more than anything else in the world
3 is when you can't see their hands and when
4 they're acting like they shouldn't be
5 acting, like they have something to hide.

6 Long story short, these two
7 police officers, like I said, they're BSO,
8 our elite unit, they're the top cops of our
9 department that go there. They observed
10 this. They watched what was going on. They
11 started pulling the guys out of the car,
12 interviewing them, giving answers that
13 didn't match up with each other.

14 Long story short, got everybody
15 out of the car, and they looked down on the
16 floor of the car and there is a loaded
17 weapon on the floor of the car.

18 All the subjects were arrested
19 and charged with the possession of that
20 weapon. Again, a weapon that was taken off
21 the streets by the great work of these two
22 police officers, a credit to our department,
23 I know the commissioner agrees a thousand
24 percent.

25 On behalf of that, they were the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 top cops this month and, congratulations,
3 guys.

4 COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: I can't
5 put enough emphasis on this. It's a
6 dangerous situation. You have a car
7 stopped. You have truly violent offenders
8 who are in possession of an illegal firearm.

9 And Jimmy Carver said it. They
10 have no idea what is going on. There's a
11 lot of movement in the car. In this
12 particular case, these officers acted
13 professionally and due to the great job that
14 they did, they were able to arrest these
15 offenders without anyone being injured.

16 So, one less illegal gun on the
17 streets of Nassau County. And they are
18 members of the BSO, Bureau of Special
19 Operations, so the expectations are high.

20 I was looking at the arrests made
21 by the 64 members of the BSO. The unit, as
22 a whole, they're making 20 to 30 arrests
23 each and every year, 64 members. They are
24 the cream of the -- they are truly the
25 cream.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 So, again, they've done a great
3 job here. They've made Nassau County a
4 safer place. But that's what they do each
5 and every day.

6 So, the one last thing I will
7 leave you with is, you're recognizing the
8 members of this department on a monthly
9 basis is truly appreciated, because every
10 day cops are out there doing great police
11 work and you are highlighting some of those
12 examples so thank you for that. Have a good
13 afternoon.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We thank
15 you. Minority Leader. Okay. I know that
16 there are a number of students here who
17 received the Intel finalist awards. I don't
18 have any in my district but, anyway, they're
19 still part of this legislature and, for me,
20 primarily because when I see students
21 achieve the heights you have achieved, it
22 does my heart good.

23 So, I don't know who has Intel
24 finalists here. Legislator Birnbaum, would
25 you like to call your finalist?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I'm proud
3 to announce that I actually have finalists
4 in each of the three high schools in my
5 district, being Great Neck North, Great Neck
6 South and the Herricks High School.
7 Unfortunately, the students from Great Neck
8 North and Great Neck South were not able to
9 come today, but I do want to acknowledge
10 Emily Bay from Great Neck South High School
11 and from Great Neck North, Grace Mandel, and
12 Olivia Discorbeth, unfortunately, because of
13 the school vacation, they couldn't be with
14 us today.

15 But, I am fortunate enough to
16 have three students from Herricks High
17 School here and each of them, from the sound
18 of their project, has done amazing research
19 into very practical applicable areas for
20 future science technology.

21 When I call your name, and I will
22 call the three winners. The three winners
23 from Herricks High School who are here today
24 are Sabrina Boyua, Iesha Chacani, and Bicrum
25 CrisnaMorthi, could please come to the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 podium?

3 I will try to say what your
4 project is, but could they speak for a
5 minute?

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Let them
7 tell. Each of you take turns.

8 MS. BOYUA: Hello. Thank you for
9 this honor. The title of my project is the
10 effect of magnesium deficiency on placenta
11 cell oxidative stress, reversal by magnesium
12 supplementation. My project is applicable
13 to the population of pregnant woman and it
14 just helps maintain health for the mother
15 and the fetus through two different concepts
16 of magnesium deficiency and excessive
17 oxidative stress.

18 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: And, could
19 you tell us where you did your science
20 research?

21 MS. BOYUA: Sure. I researched
22 this past summer at the Feinstein Institute
23 for Medical Research with Dr. Christine Metz
24 in the department of immunology and I owe
25 her a lot for my success, so I'm very

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 grateful for that opportunity.

3 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Great. Do
4 you know where you will be studying at
5 college in the fall?

6 MS. BOYUA: I'm currently
7 choosing between Duke University and the
8 eight year medical program at Hofstra.

9 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Terrific.
10 Thank you so much.

11 MS. BOYUA: Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Iesha.

13 MS. CHACANI: Thank you for this
14 honor. My project is titled a novel
15 magnetic field trap using super conductors
16 for transporting polarized ions for medical
17 imaging.

18 So, basically my project was
19 focused on a transport vessel of polarized
20 ions which are necessary for helium based
21 MRIs so you have a clear detection of the
22 lung and respiratory indications.

23 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Where did
24 you do your work?

25 MS. CHACANI: I did my research

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 at the physics department at Stony Brook
3 University.

4 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Wonderful.
5 Have you solidified your plans for College?

6 MS. CHACANI: Yes. I'm attending
7 Columbia University, the School of
8 Engineering.

9 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Great.
10 Really wonderful.

11 MS. CHACANI: Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Last but
13 not least, Bicrum.

14 MR. CRISNAMORTHY: Thank you for
15 this honor. So, my project is analyzing the
16 anti-diabetic effects of trigonum fonu using
17 a two part gene expression assay.
18 Essentially, I looked at a plant, fonu greek
19 [sic] and I used -- I measured its effects
20 on gene expressions, to see if it could have
21 possible anti-diabetic effects that supplies
22 to anyone that essentially has Type II
23 Diabetes.

24 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: And your
25 plans in the fall?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 MR. CRISNAMORTHY: So I will be
3 going to the University of Pennsylvania, the
4 Wharton School of Business.

5 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Terrific.
6 Thank you so much for coming today.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
8 Solages.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you,
10 Presiding Officer. Good afternoon everyone.
11 I especially would like to congratulate all
12 of the young people with you as our future.
13 Our future is very bright. Congratulations
14 to all of you.

15 The recipient of the Intel
16 finalist award from my school that I
17 represent in my district, Elmont, could not
18 be here today. Her name is Augusta
19 Uwamanzu-Nna, and she is the valedictorian
20 of the school. You might have read an
21 article about her. She recently was
22 accepted to all eight Ivy League schools and
23 this is the second year in a row that we
24 have this at Elmont Memorial High School.
25 So there must be something in the water

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 there. As the commissioner said, they must
3 be the cream of the crop.

4 But I'm very proud to have such
5 nice, decent and very smart young people in
6 my district. That goes to show that we
7 still live in a great county. Thank you.
8 She could not be here today. She's
9 traveling. She's choosing between what
10 schools she's going to go to.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Is there
12 anyone else? Legislator Jacobs.

13 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Everyone
14 laughs up here a little bit but in a nice
15 way because I'm very very fortunate with the
16 school districts today I have in my
17 district.

18 Today, I have four students out
19 of five from Syosset High School who joined
20 us today. If they could all come up to the
21 podium I would appreciate it. Rachel Kang,
22 Ben Senser, Dan Hirsch, and Joshua Katz.
23 Just decide who's going to go first. I'm
24 not going to try even try to explain your
25 project. I will let you explain your

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 project.

3 MR. HIRSCH: Thank you for having
4 me here. My study is entitled analysis of
5 background capital of founders of Fortune
6 1000 companies.

7 Essentially, background capital
8 is a term I created for this study that
9 describes the founder's background
10 characteristics in four major areas.

11 Ultimately, by analyzing these
12 characteristics, I was able to determine
13 that certain populations have inherent
14 advantages that give item competitive
15 advantage in the business market. These can
16 be used with promoting quality of
17 opportunity among disadvantaged groups as
18 well as the likelihood of economic firm's
19 success overall.

20 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Why don't you
21 share with us what your desires are for
22 college,

23 MR. HIRSCH: So I'm not really
24 sure where I'm going quite yet. I'm between
25 Cornell University and Duke.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Very good.

3 MS. KANG: My name is Rachel
4 Kang. Thank you so much for this honor.

5 So, on Long Island, the single
6 largest user of electricity is the Long
7 Island Railroad. So I investigated how
8 efficient it would be if the Long Island
9 Railroad were to implement a solar panel
10 system across the entire railroad. I found
11 that in only three to four years they would
12 gain a monetary profit from investing into
13 this system, and that this investment would
14 also increase the safety and convenience of
15 their passengers, and they would be able to
16 use their savings in order to further
17 provide better services for their customers.

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Well, I must
19 tell you something, a lot of us in the
20 legislature attended a breakfast this
21 morning put on by the New York League of
22 Conservation Voters.

23 One of the largest things that
24 were discussed was solar energy and how it
25 can save money and we also discussed the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 second largest item that was discussed was
3 the Long Island Railroad. So the Presiding
4 Officer and I looked at each other, it was
5 almost like you united them. Are you going
6 to send your report to someone at the Long
7 Island Railroad? If not, I can help you. I
8 know who to send it to.

9 MS. KANG: I've actually been in
10 touch with someone who works for the Long
11 Island Railroad. So I hope to use my
12 project to provide an impetus for the Long
13 Island Railroad to actually initiate this
14 project.

15 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Okay. But,
16 listen, if you actually would like to call
17 my office later today or tomorrow and we can
18 tell you who to actually send it to, who is
19 pretty high up there.

20 I think it's wonderful because
21 they were one of the people talking about it
22 today about solar energy on houses and on
23 stores, so here you're giving them another
24 idea.

25 Where are you going to school?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 MS. KANG: I'm most likely
3 attending Harvard University.

4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Thank you.

5 MR. SENSER: Hello. My name is
6 Benjamin Senser. Thank you very much for
7 this honor. Particularly, over the past 50
8 years, anthropogenic pollution which is
9 pollution that has human causes, has been
10 building up on coastal ecosystems,
11 particularly on Long Island, for example.

12 So my project was involved with
13 finding a way to quantify the amount of
14 pollution that's ending up in these
15 ecosystems by analyzing the chemical
16 composition of protist that live in the
17 marsh known as Foraminifera.

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Did you do
19 your research on-site at these different
20 areas?

21 MR. SENSER: Yes, so I collected
22 samples from northern and southern Long
23 Island on coastal marsh ecosystems.

24 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: And your
25 school is?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 MR. SENSER: Harvard University
3 as well.

4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS:
5 Congratulations.

6 Last, but not least.

7 MR. KATZ: Hello. My name is
8 Joshua Katz. I would like to thank you for
9 this honor. My project is entitled, a novel
10 association between thrombus spine two and
11 lysolecithinase.

12 These two proteins have both been
13 linked to various forms of tumor
14 progression. What I was able to find is
15 that there is a relationship between the
16 levels of thrombus spine two and
17 lysolecithinase.

18 What this would do is it would
19 give scientists a better understanding of
20 the tumor micro environment in which they're
21 looking to treat and would help them develop
22 a more effective therapeutic approach to
23 treating it.

24 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: What school
25 are you going to be going to?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 MR. KATZ: I'm going to
3 Washington University in St. Louis.

4 LEGISLATOR JACOBS:
5 Congratulations. Well, you're all
6 wonderful. I just want to say, because I
7 should mention it, that Jericho High School
8 had six students and Plainview had one, but
9 they were unable to be here today. But
10 Syosset certainly represented my district
11 very well and congratulations.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
13 DeRiggi-Whitton.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm
15 very fortunate to have two from Synder High
16 School in Port Washington. Can I please ask
17 Emma and Madeline to come up?

18 One of their teachers is here,
19 John Schneider is here. If he could come up
20 as well. I truly appreciate all the effort
21 not only with the parents but also with the
22 teachers. Thank you for being here today.
23 Emma, you want to go first?

24 MS. FELDMAN: Hello. My name is
25 Emma Feldman. I want to thank you for the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 honor of being here. So, for my project, I
3 looked at a less expensive way to filter
4 water by looking at the membranes that are
5 used in the water filter process used and
6 how the profit could be minimized with while
7 still maintaining a high quality of
8 filtration. Thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And,
10 Emma, where do you think you want to go to
11 school?

12 MS. FELDMAN: I will be attending
13 the McCormack School of Engineering at
14 Northwestern university.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
16 That's wonderful. It's another subject, but
17 you just did your project on, it's another
18 issue that we deal with almost daily here.
19 It's really amazing that you guys are
20 writing things that pertain to our counties
21 and other counties as well, but it's
22 amazing. Congratulations.

23 MS. FELDMAN: Thank you.

24 MADELINE: Good afternoon. Thank
25 you so much for having me. I identified

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 malleable biomarkers of immune dysfunction
3 in schizophrenia by studying the proteins of
4 the immune system. So first I looked at
5 gene usage in B cells, which are immune
6 cells. I found that schizophrenia patients
7 actually utilize genes in a very different
8 way than healthy patients and they even
9 utilize genes in a similar way to auto
10 immune diseases so I drew a novel link
11 between schizophrenia and autoimmunity.

12 In addition, I looked at
13 relationships between two proteins called
14 cytokines and micro-ernies [sic] and found
15 that the relationship may lead pathogenesis
16 schizophrenia.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
18 Truly amazing. Where are you going to
19 school?

20 MADELINE: I'm also going to the
21 University of Pennsylvania.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
23 Again, that's also work that can help our
24 society so much. I really feel wonderful
25 knowing our future is in the hands of people

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 like you. Would you like to come say
3 something John?

4 MR. SCHNEIDER: Being the only
5 teacher has spoken so far, I just want to
6 say a tremendous thank you for recognizing
7 all the students. It's really the work that
8 they do that put us in the position that
9 we're in.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

11 Thank you for all that you do. Thank you
12 for everything.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
14 Schaefer.

15 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So I had
16 two students from Garden City High School
17 who were recognized, and neither one of them
18 are here right now. One of them I did get
19 to meet. And that was the one who was here
20 earlier, I was able to meet with her and her
21 mom, was Elizabeth Reager.

22 I can tell you that her project
23 was a plant based method to decrease
24 proinflammatory cytokine projection in
25 response to cytotoxic volatile organic

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 compounds, implications for asthma and
3 respiratory diseases. That's pretty much
4 all I can tell you about it. I could
5 pronounce everything, I'm proud of myself
6 for that.

7 But she is a very nice young
8 woman and I believe she was choosing between
9 Dartmouth and Penn State for her colleges.

10 The other young lady was Dessie
11 D'Mino, and her project was the development
12 of a 3D printer method for hyaluronic acid
13 hydrogel scaffolds through optimization of
14 the molecular weight, functional domain,
15 stability, and visco elastic properties of
16 hyaluronic acid bio-ink. Again, that's
17 pretty much it.

18 I'm sure they are very
19 interesting projects and I congratulate
20 everybody who is here as well. You guys are
21 really wonderful and it's really wonderful
22 for us to have the opportunity to meet the
23 young minds of today who are getting
24 involved in things and who are going to make
25 the changes in the world that we're going to

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 see in the coming years. So congratulations
3 everyone.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Is there
5 any other legislator who has an Intel?

6 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I would like
7 to mention that the research director for
8 Syosset High School, and I was remiss in not
9 bringing her up. I was wondering if she
10 could come up here and introduce herself. I
11 would like you to tell the story, did you
12 say next week you are going someplace?

13 MS. AID: I'm Veronica Aid and
14 I'm the research facilitator at Syosset High
15 School. Thank you for having the students
16 here. They work very, very hard to get
17 where they are and it's wonderful to see
18 their accomplishments recognized.

19 Quite a few schools on Long
20 Island are actually heading to the
21 International Science and Engineering Fair
22 in two weeks. It will be held in Phoenix.

23 There will be 20 projects from
24 the Long Island area and then there are 13
25 projects from New York State that are all

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 headed there. So I will be headed there
3 with two students from Syosset High School,
4 Mr. Schneider is coming, actually Madeline
5 is one of the students coming with us.

6 So we will be headed there for
7 the second week in May and we will be out
8 there and the students get to present their
9 projects at the international level along
10 with 1,800 students. Thank you for having
11 us.

12 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Thank you so
13 much.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We are
15 going to proceed with points of personal
16 privilege. The first point of personal
17 privilege is from Legislator Walker and
18 Legislator Kennedy and I think either one of
19 you can speak as to who we are recognizing
20 today.

21 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you,
22 Presiding Officer. Hi everybody. I am
23 James Kennedy. I'm here today to
24 congratulate four young men and one young
25 woman who are now regional champions of the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 National Science Ball and they're going to
3 Washington D.C. to compete in the national
4 championship.

5 I know a little bit about this.
6 Not me personally. But right now my nephew
7 is going to be competing in the National
8 Quiz Bowl, it's similar and in Texas.

9 I completely understand the
10 amount of work he has been putting in, so I
11 can only imagine how much work you guys have
12 put in. It is very, very impressive in
13 talking to him and my sister.

14 But, also, the US Energy
15 Secretary said that the National Science
16 Ball continues to be one of the premier
17 academic competitions across the country,
18 prepares America's students for the future
19 successes and some of the world's fastest
20 growing fields in research and engineering.

21 And I am sure that these young
22 men and young women right here are going to
23 be a part of that future.

24 I just want to say also, the
25 Farmingdale High School, their coach,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Mr. Peter Mafia, thank you, Mr. Mafia, has
3 led them this way. They said the team
4 worked very hard for their victory and they
5 took a different approach this year. Last
6 year they won. This year, took a different
7 approach, and they've also won the regional
8 and on to the national.

9 Instead of just winning a trophy,
10 they are preparing for college. So they're
11 benefitting from studying together almost
12 every day and, win or lose, they will be
13 successful in college.

14 So, I would set to ask, Mr.
15 Maccia, if you would come up to the podium
16 and introduce those students. I would like
17 everyone to see each and every one, and I
18 would like to say good luck and
19 congratulations and thank you.

20 MR. MACCIA: Thank you for that
21 introduction. I am very proud of this team
22 and I do know that they did understand every
23 one of those Intel projects, so that is what
24 they are benefitting from all of our work.

25 We do have Carise Baez, and I

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 think the team will come over also, and
3 Carise has captained the team when we work
4 on improving the entire group, we sometimes
5 have our Captain Serge sit out so that
6 everyone else gets an opportunity to thrive
7 without having to compete with each other
8 all the time.

9 Then we have Burmine Charery and
10 Jake Chamos, and Hams Omalik, our only
11 junior on the squad this year.

12 They are most impressive when you
13 get to see them at work. So I thought I
14 would let them get to say something. In
15 their competition, what they do is they buzz
16 in first. If they are successful after
17 that, they get to work as a team for 20
18 seconds, and they can pull off a pretty good
19 answer to just about any question in math or
20 science in that 20 seconds.

21 Something that I'm most proud of
22 with this team is, when an audience gets to
23 see them, they become so impressed by the
24 level of communication they have and in the
25 current workforce and careers they're going

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 to be getting into, it's not the type of
3 stuff you do independently any more. You
4 need to collaborate and you need to work
5 together so I'm hoping they can show that
6 off now with 20 seconds to prepare some
7 thank yous.

8 MR. MERLADOLIN: My name is Serge
9 Merladolin. I would like to extend a very
10 heartfelt thanks to everyone at the
11 Legislature as well as all of our parents
12 for helping us through the past two seasons
13 and for your recognition of our hard work.

14 I would like to briefly just say
15 where everyone is going to school. Next
16 year I will be attending Harvard College
17 majoring in biochemistry astrophysics.
18 Carise Baez will be going to RPI and
19 majoring in biomedical engineering, Burmine
20 will be going to RPI as well and majoring in
21 computer science, Hams, who is a junior will
22 not be going to college in the fall but will
23 be applying in the fall and he would like to
24 go to Duke. Jake Chamos at the end is going
25 to Columbia University and he will be

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 majoring in environmental sustainability.

3 So, we feel that the National
4 Science Ball is a great program to prepare
5 us, like Mr. Maccia was saying, for our
6 careers because the skills involved in
7 preparing for such a competition really can
8 enable us to channel our hard work and
9 ability into careers that we would like to
10 go into in the future so we definitely feel
11 it's a very rewarding competition and we
12 sincerely appreciate the recognition you
13 guys are giving us. So, thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're
15 welcome. Legislator Walker.

16 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I, too, would
17 like to congratulate our students. You know
18 that Legislator Kennedy and myself, we both
19 represent the Farmingdale area. We are so
20 so very proud of you. I am so glad you
21 understood all about the Intel finalists
22 because if we step outside later you can
23 give me even a small clue because I have no
24 idea.

25 Once they started speaking, once

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 they started talking about their projects, I
3 don't even know how they come up with an
4 idea to do any of those projects and here
5 you understood all of them.

6 But we can not tell you how proud
7 we are of you. We know you are going to be
8 very successful. But no matter what the
9 outcome is, we thank you for your hard work,
10 your dedication, and we could see right from
11 the beginning there that the captain took
12 charge when you were going to say a little
13 something at the microphone there, and I'm
14 sure our junior will probably lead this
15 group next year.

16 So we look forward to seeing you
17 again next year, to all our seniors the best
18 of luck. Best of luck in the competition
19 coming up in Washington, and, like I said,
20 you make us proud every day, no matter what
21 the outcome is, you make us very proud and
22 we thank Mr. Maccia for all his hard work.

23 I see you have some friends with
24 you today, some helpers, I bet their your
25 family. So thank you all for being here

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 today.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now for
4 the last point of personal privilege, I'm
5 going to ask Legislator Ford to please bring
6 the individual to the podium.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
8 much, Presiding Officer. As you all know,
9 you may not know, April is occupational
10 therapy month. Today I'm happy to present
11 Bazil Donato, who is a second year
12 occupational therapy graduate student who is
13 here to present on the benefits of
14 occupational therapy from a county wide
15 perspective.

16 I do want to say, I did speak
17 with our commissioner of health, Dr.
18 Eisenstein, who is away, and unfortunately
19 he is not able to attend this presentation.
20 If he didn't have to be somewhere else, he
21 definitely would have been here because he's
22 very interested in occupational therapy and
23 its role throughout the county.

24 MR. DONATO: Thank you for the
25 time to speak. As Legislator Ford said, my

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 name is Basil Donato. I'm from NYIT, the
3 occupational therapy program. Today I just
4 wanted to point out some of the potential
5 benefits that the county could see by
6 implementing the discipline of occupational
7 therapy.

8 So what is occupational therapy
9 since most people do not know? It has
10 nothing to do with your job or however you
11 earn gainful employment. Occupational
12 therapy is a procurement, maintenance or
13 increase of skills required for functional
14 engagement in required or desired
15 activities.

16 So what that really means is,
17 what you do every day to live. You got up
18 this morning, took a shower, made breakfast,
19 planned your day, got into your car,
20 traveled to work. All of those things are
21 treated by occupational therapy, should you
22 have lost the ability due to a trauma or
23 situation from birth.

24 It seeks to address the
25 individual's ability to function in general

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 or within a given context. This includes
3 but is not limited to children holding
4 writing instruments in school, or an
5 individual being able to function as an
6 individual by scheduling their day.

7 Is OT like PT? They are very
8 similar but they are completely different.
9 The easiest way to think of this is that PT
10 is everything below the waist. So
11 everything involving ambulation is PT.
12 Occupational therapy is everything above the
13 waist, especially the arm. Also above the
14 waste is the brain, so the thought process.

15 Another way to think of that is
16 physical therapy gets you to where you're
17 going and occupational therapy is what you
18 are doing once you get there.

19 So, as I said, occupational
20 therapists work in many settings including
21 schools, hospitals, outpatient clinics, as
22 well as major corporations and in public
23 health which is why everyone is here today.

24 Within these settings, they work
25 with children, patients of various diagnoses

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 and their families.

3 So the goals of occupational
4 therapy are client dependent and very
5 specific to each situation. They work to
6 increase the abilities of a person within
7 their own hygienics, taking care of
8 themselves, bathing, any standing hygiene,
9 planning shopping trips, functional use of
10 an injured limb, if somebody has lost a limb
11 due to an amputation, once they are provided
12 a prosthesis, occupational therapists are
13 the ones who implement that and ensure that
14 the patient or client can proficiently use
15 the given item.

16 So, behavioral occupational
17 therapy is the real purpose of today, to
18 point out how the county could benefit from
19 programs that look to target youth to
20 prevent crime or any adverse situations from
21 occurring.

22 So, occupational therapists and
23 occupational therapy assistants provide
24 purposeful goal oriented activities to teach
25 and facilitate skills in assertiveness,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 cognition, independent living, self
3 awareness, social skills, stress management.
4 All this is really saying is that this
5 teaches individuals to grow up to be
6 productive functioning adults.

7 Some of the tools of the trade
8 for occupational therapy focused upon the
9 physical aspect as seen up on the screens or
10 in the screens in front of you. On the left
11 is a saccade, it's how somebody who cannot
12 bend at the waist after having, say, a hip
13 surgery would be able to dress themselves
14 without much aid. Then would be a reacher,
15 a rainbow arc, which increases shoulder
16 range of motion, a dressing stick to help
17 somebody remove socks or clothing, and a
18 prosthesis for an amputation or loss of a
19 limb.

20 How all of this could tie
21 together to benefit the county can be
22 highlighted on the screen above you which
23 took place in Chicago from 2008 to 2010.

24 I'm sure everyone is aware of
25 Chicago's current situation regarding crime

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 and gun violence. As the screen says,
3 Chicago reported 610 gun crimes involving an
4 individual under the age of 21. And a large
5 share of these homicides are related to
6 impulsiveness of the individual.

7 So, the intervention was a
8 program called Becoming a Man. The reason
9 why it's called Becoming a Man is because it
10 was specified towards male candidates under
11 the age of 21 in a high school setting. It
12 seeks to guide the development of resilience
13 and self-efficacy. Resiliency is the
14 ability to overcome challenges while
15 self-efficacy is the extent or the strength
16 of one's belief in their own power or
17 ability to complete tasks and reach goals.

18 So, what this is, this is similar
19 to cognitive behavioral therapy. What it
20 does, it shapes the way an individual thinks
21 and reacts towards situations.

22 So, Becoming a Man, or BAM, the
23 sports edition, was implemented within
24 school and after school for a specified
25 amount of time. It costs \$1,100 per student

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 to implement.

3 The results were 40 percent
4 decrease in violent crime of the at-risk
5 population and increased educational
6 performance.

7 If the program is to be
8 continued, it's expected to increase the
9 urban graduation rate by five to eight
10 percent. That may not sounds like that
11 much, but the average graduation rate of 50
12 major urban areas within the United States
13 is 53 percent. So a five to eight percent
14 increase of these given areas, which are
15 considered at risk, will benefit the nation
16 by producing more adults which are goal
17 oriented, and not contributing towards
18 crime.

19 As I said before, the BAM program
20 costs \$1,100 per student to implement, but
21 the feedback or the result is anywhere from
22 \$3,300 to \$34,000 and change per individual.
23 So it's profitable.

24 On top of this, if you're
25 producing more goal directed adults, there

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 will be less need theoretically, less need
3 for support and programs which cost the
4 county money, which are proving to be not as
5 effective as this potentially could be.

6 Thank you.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Basil, thank
8 you very much. Considering the study that
9 was done in Chicago with these young
10 students, how is it that an occupational
11 therapist gets involved in this? How
12 basically does the program run?

13 MR. DONATO: So, in order for an
14 occupational therapist to treat, a script
15 has to be provided by a medical doctor or
16 this could be implemented from the
17 countywide perspective to treat the youth of
18 a program.

19 So even just community-run
20 programs to form relationships between the
21 existing police force and the youth, hoping
22 to guide the children in the right way so
23 that they are pulled away from any adverse
24 circumstances they may be drawn to which
25 could result into gun violence, drugs, crime

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 in general.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: So the cost of
4 \$1,100 per student, is that based on a one
5 to one intervention, or is this something
6 that, say, if the school was interested
7 where they are trying to capture more
8 students to graduate, they want to make sure
9 they are more successful to boost the
10 graduation rates.

11 So, would it be done on a one to
12 one, or can it also be done in a group
13 setting, if they a group of students that
14 they wanted to reach out to?

15 MR. DONATO: The way this
16 specific program is run that I referenced
17 its both. The individuals in school have a
18 mentor who oversees them an provides them
19 insight to certain situations as well as
20 group sessions outside of school which were
21 focused on sports. So it was trying to
22 occupy the population's time when they were
23 not engaged in school.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm just going
25 to segue off into something else where,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 today, we had a press conference in regard
3 to providing better opportunities for
4 veteran owned businesses in the county. A
5 lot of them are basically handicapped, the
6 amputees, and so forth, from the wars and
7 stuff.

8 I know that we have occupational
9 therapists that work within the county.
10 Just really like my interest would also be
11 the involvement of occupational therapy in
12 helping a lot of the veterans that come home
13 from these wars that may need the
14 assistance.

15 Do we provide -- how can you help
16 a veteran in that instance and if you can
17 segue into if we look at housing for them,
18 housing opportunities, would an occupational
19 therapist get involved in helping to design
20 or set up a house for a veteran who may be
21 an amputee?

22 MR. DONATO: As mentioned before,
23 it's very case specific. Every intervention
24 is going to be tailored made for the given
25 individual. But from the panoramic

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 perspective of this, occupational therapists
3 could work to increase the returning
4 veteran's function within their given
5 environment.

6 So, how they handle their stress,
7 how they go about their morning routine, any
8 routine within the home, just helping them
9 to function at the highest possible level
10 for their given situation. What was the
11 rest of that question?

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: Just like if we
13 ended up, I know a lot of the times where
14 there is the challenges of getting housing.
15 I know that there are various groups, what
16 is, Gary Sinese's group, they build homes
17 geared for veterans that are amputees, that
18 are physically disabled.

19 So, do they normally, and I'm
20 throwing you a left ball I guess, but when
21 homes like this are designed for people with
22 disabilities, do they bring in occupational
23 therapists to help set the housing up or to
24 give suggestions on the design of a kitchen
25 or a bathroom, or is that something outside

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 of the realm of OTs?

3 MR. DONATO: That's a possibility
4 but whether or not that takes place would be
5 in the hands of the builder. That's
6 absolutely a possibility because
7 occupational therapy specializes in
8 ergonomics, as I said before, that major
9 corporations employ occupational therapists
10 and that could be anything from -- to
11 specialize somebody's given workspace, so
12 all of you have offices, but I'm sure that
13 if you were to go in there and compare it to
14 the textbook regarding what is functional
15 and the healthiest setup for you to work
16 within, there would be variances where I'm
17 sure that offices will be off.

18 You can go as specific into that
19 as you wanted to and that goes down to the
20 height of your computer monitor, to the
21 position of your phone. So, regarding your
22 home setup for a returning veteran who has a
23 physical and/or possibly a psychological
24 diagnosis, how deep you go into it is up to
25 the given situation. But, yes, occupational

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 therapy could specialize a house regarding
3 stairs, employing universal design, so that
4 there are few hindrances for the individual.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
6 much and thank you for your presentation.

7 MR. DONATO: Thank you for your
8 time.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: At this
10 time, Mr. Pulitzer, we are going to go into
11 30 minutes of public comment. I believe
12 it's 2 o'clock, so I believe 2:30 would be
13 the 30 minutes.

14 So we are going to begin with the
15 first speaker who is John Michno.

16 MR. MICHNO: I'm here to come
17 before you today because I am frustrated but
18 not surprised about what our bus system has
19 become.

20 As an almost daily rider of NICE
21 bus, which is really anything but, I can
22 tell you the quality of service provided
23 falls far short of what MTA Long Island Bus
24 provided prior to 2012. I am here to tell
25 you that despite the additional revenues for

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 NICE and routes being restored this summer,
3 NICE is still cutting service.

4 I live in Westbury, a town where
5 many rely on public transportation and NICE
6 to get around.

7 The Long Island Railroad does not
8 serve us well. Despite good ridership
9 numbers, too many trains skip our station.
10 So the N22 bus route is a life line for many
11 in our community. I was flabbergasted when
12 I looked at NICE bus schedules that started
13 April 24th to see that several eastbound
14 buses in the evening on the N22 now end at
15 Roosevelt Field instead of continuing to
16 Hicksville through Westbury. This includes
17 the last eastbound bus on weekdays and
18 Sundays.

19 The N22 is busy and often very
20 crowded at all hours. This change seriously
21 baffles me. I just want to say, NICE wrote
22 me back to comment and claimed that only two
23 people were on the bus that time. I can
24 tell you that's not true because I've been
25 on the bus at that time and there's way more

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 than that.

3 In particular, the New Cassel
4 section of Westbury depends on this route
5 heavily. It's as if NICE wants to drive
6 these riders to taxis. Many of which still
7 thank Ed Mangano on the routes.

8 Prior to 2012, Westbury along
9 with many other Nassau communities, had much
10 more frequent bus service on the N22 and
11 N35. The N35 used to run 30 minutes all
12 day. Now, if Nassau had agreed to work with
13 the MTA back in 2011, we would most likely
14 still have this level of services.

15 Trans-Dev is a for-profit
16 company. The could care less about their
17 riders, employees or the buses. Their
18 maintenance falls far short of what MTA
19 provided. Many break down every day leaving
20 riders waiting for the next bus, sometimes
21 up to an hour.

22 And buses only a few years old
23 look worse than their older counterparts in
24 the city. It is really time that you do
25 right by the people of this county and bus

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 riders and get back to the table with the
3 MTA to restore the Long Island bus service
4 we had prior to 2012.

5 I want to thank you for your
6 time.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
8 very much, Mr. Michno.

9 MR. KUGELMASS: Robert Kugelmass.
10 This is regarding Baldwin's Grand Avenue
11 road diet. Baldwin's community leaders are
12 desperate for improvement to the run down
13 sections of their downtown north and south
14 of the train station at Sunrise Highway.

15 Since World War II, across the
16 country, downtowns have declined,
17 out-competed by shopping centers, strip
18 malls, and big box stores.

19 Today, Americas new main street
20 looks more like Sunrise Highway in Suffolk
21 County.

22 Baldwin school bars reached out
23 to Liro Engineers who have dusted off their
24 one size fits all complete street's design.
25 The shills at Liro say that this is going to

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 rejuvenate Baldwin and reduce store
3 vacancies. Liro says, just look what our
4 plan did to Hamburg, New York. That's their
5 primary case history on page seven of the
6 report. What a crock. What a fairytale.
7 Hamburg is nothing like Baldwin. 15 miles
8 south of Buffalo, the Town of Hamburg is one
9 tenth the density of Hempstead town. The
10 village of Hamburg is one half the density
11 of Baldwin with one third the population.

12 Their village has wide expansive
13 streets everywhere, large building plots,
14 empty lots, and the village is surrounded by
15 open fields. That doesn't sound like
16 Baldwin. Their main street has four
17 roundabouts, a ridiculous comparison to
18 Baldwin.

19 I've been railing about the poor
20 engineering. Let me flesh out an example.
21 They're taking away two active traffic
22 lanes. With one lane they're splitting it
23 in half and putting a bicycle lane adjacent
24 to the parallel parked cars on both sides of
25 the street.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Manhattan, there is a lot of
3 bicycle lanes. Best practices now are to
4 place the bike lanes safely between the curb
5 and a protective row of parked cars.

6 If you insist on inserting
7 under-utilized bicycle lanes, you're better
8 off safely sequestering the bike lanes
9 together on one side of the street and turn
10 the parallel parked cars into diagonally
11 parked cars on the other side. That doubles
12 parking on the street. Doubles it. You
13 already own the land. No eminent domain is
14 needed. The parking lot is already paved.
15 That will organically help the landlords and
16 the developers compete.

17 The unimaginative Liro design
18 robs us of the opportunity of increasing
19 parking spots by the hundreds, a chance for
20 the old downtown to compete for businesses.
21 That's enough for today.

22 Next month we will be discussing
23 Jackson Avenue in Syosset, Ms. Jacobs. And,
24 also, Ms. New Cassel will be talking about
25 prospect avenue and your turf.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: My name is
3 Legislator Bynoe. Don't call me Ms. New
4 Cassel.

5 MR. KUGELMASS: Okay. I hope to
6 see you then next month. Thank you, Madam
7 President.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The next
9 speaker is Dominick Kasmauskas. This is an
10 item, this is in support of the Fire
11 Prevention Ordinance. It's going to be
12 coming up shortly on the calendar. You can
13 either speak now or when the item comes up.
14 It's up to you. Your option.

15 MR. KASMAUSKAS: I'll speak now
16 that I'm here. Dominick Kasmauskas, New
17 York Regional Manager for the National Fire
18 Sprinkler Association. I rise in support of
19 this ordinance. It's slightly overdue, but
20 glad to see it. There is a few areas that
21 need to be ironed out, and we'll be working
22 with the fire marshal's office here in the
23 coming weeks, and I urge your support of the
24 ordinance. Thank you very much.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 sir. Joanne Borden.

3 MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon. My
4 experience proves that if one person is not
5 protected from harmful discrimination, no
6 one is. In Tennessee in the late 1950s, I
7 was asked by a company's management to
8 recommend an applicant for the chief
9 engineer's job. I found a resume with top
10 credentials and was told we can't bring him
11 down for an interview. I asked "why not,
12 he's the best one?"

13 The reason was, he has an Italian
14 sounding name, and his skin might be too
15 dark. Any Mediterranean sounding name might
16 be subject to the same harmful
17 discrimination.

18 Also, as I cited here last month,
19 there are many examples of harmful
20 discrimination because a person is thought
21 to be something they are not.

22 Hatred blinds people to the
23 facts, like the man who stood here two
24 months ago and claimed transgender rights
25 would lead to men invading ladies rooms and

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 molestation of young girls.

3 He ignored the fact as they are
4 and stirred emotions by specifying the
5 innocence of young girls. His bigotry asked
6 us to be blind to the fact that transgender
7 people already, already use gender specific
8 facilities appropriate for their gender
9 identity and young girls are not molested.
10 No one is.

11 More than half of the United
12 States lived with transgender rights laws
13 with no bad consequences reported and no
14 invasion of privacy noted.

15 Only bigotry propels people to
16 use emotions because the facts disproved
17 their claim. Bigots proclaim the future
18 doom that present reality disproves, stop
19 the idiocy. There is no bathroom problem.
20 And our laws do not now protect us. These
21 are excuses for anti-Americanism.

22 Do not stand in line with bigots,
23 follow your head and your heart and do what
24 is morally right for America. Equality for
25 all is not a means to a higher political

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 end, equality for all is the highest
3 political end.

4 Science has proven time and time
5 again no one chooses transgenderism. We are
6 born this way. Thus, we are stuck with
7 God's will. Pass the Gender Clarification
8 Law and stop the idiocy.

9 I thank you for listening and I
10 call your attention to the reverse side that
11 proves with documented facts that the
12 bathroom issue is not an issue, it's created
13 as an excuse.

14 Mr. Pulitzer, will you put both
15 sides of the address in the record. Thank
16 you.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Melissa
18 Barbara, New York Fire Sprinkler Council?

19 MS. BARBARA: I will speak when
20 the ordinance comes up.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Jack
22 McCloy.

23 MR. MCCLOY: Good afternoon,
24 Members of the Legislature. I'm here again
25 to mention the widespread opposition to the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 road diet plan to restructure Grand Avenue
3 in Baldwin from two lanes in each direction
4 to only one lane in each direction.

5 It will affect our fire
6 department, the main Baldwin Fire Department
7 is located right in the area where the
8 reconstruction is proposed to take place.
9 The First Precinct uses this main north
10 south corridor to get to any emergencies in
11 North Baldwin. It is the only two lane in
12 each direction roadway in Baldwin that
13 travels north and south.

14 And, also, EMTs bringing anybody
15 from north Baldwin to our closest hospital,
16 South Nassau Communities Hospital would use
17 this roadway to get emergency patients to
18 the hospital in the shortest amount of time.

19 This roadway was just recently
20 resurfaced less than two years ago. There
21 are over 300 residents that don't want the
22 roadway to be reconstructed into only one
23 lane in each direction.

24 You've heard from the Baldwin
25 Civic Association in the past who says she's

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 in favor of it.

3 I wanted to let you know that the
4 other civic association in Baldwin, the
5 Baldwin Oak Civic Association is opposed to
6 this reconstruction plan.

7 Just this past week, the
8 co-president of the Baldwin Chamber of
9 Commerce said that he has serious concerns
10 about how this reconstruction would affect
11 the community.

12 Last month I mentioned that New
13 York State traffic experts do not recommend
14 road diet type plans such as this to be
15 implemented in areas that have traffic
16 counts of 20,000 daily or larger.

17 This is documented to be a
18 roadway with over 19,500 and, in short
19 order, this will be an area where a roadway
20 diet restriction plan such as this will be a
21 detriment to the community just because of
22 the normal traffic flow much less the
23 restrictions for the fire department, police
24 department, and EMTs.

25 I know that the vote is not going

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 to be held today, but it will be held some
3 time soon. I just wanted to remind you that
4 this is going to be expensive. It is not
5 necessary and will result in a dangerous
6 condition and I hope that I might be able to
7 convince my local legislator to change her
8 mind because there is a lot of people that
9 feel this is not the best way to spend
10 resources. Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
12 Mr. McCloy. Collette Coyne.

13 MS. COYNE: Good afternoon. Many
14 of you of course I know. For those of you
15 who don't know me, I am a co-founder of the
16 Collette Coyne Memorial Melanoma Foundation
17 here on Long Island created after the death
18 of our daughter in five and a half months
19 from Melanoma, and at that time there was no
20 voice on Long Island regarding skin cancer.

21 I would like to commend also the
22 Legislature because they were the first,
23 really, in 2005 to pass a bill with tanning
24 restrictions for minors. The rest of the
25 state followed and many states throughout

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 the country followed. So, today, again, I
3 am here asking for protection for a
4 particular group and that is our lifeguards.

5 For those that are not aware of
6 what the statistics are, since 2012, that's
7 our latest stats, one in five across the
8 board will get skin cancer. One in 50 will
9 get Melanoma. Melanoma is the fastest
10 growing cancer in America and most common
11 cancer for young women 25 to 29 years old
12 and the second most common cancer for 15 to
13 29 years old.

14 So, the focus of our foundation
15 is prevention through education and offering
16 free screenings at our local beaches here in
17 Nassau and Suffolk County.

18 For the last 17 years, thousands
19 have been screened and the statistics remain
20 the same. A third require referral in their
21 community by their local dermatologist.

22 Since I spoke with you, we've had
23 a 32 year old from Massapequa Park pass, a
24 young woman Lisa Amato. We had just
25 recently from Carle Place a young woman,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 five days after her 28th birthday, she was
3 diagnosed in October and passed in December.
4 A young policeman, 31 years old from
5 Levittown. So the statistics keep
6 increasing.

7 Unfortunately, we are not aware,
8 people are not aware of the danger of skin
9 cancer which is, for the most part,
10 preventable.

11 My concern as I look, certainly
12 not in Nassau County, I would have to say
13 that many of our lifeguards are well
14 protected. My concerns are for the
15 lifeguards who don't have the smarts, that's
16 the way I would put it, to use the
17 umbrellas, to wear a wide brim hat, to use
18 sun screen. All of these things are
19 necessary to prevent skin cancer.

20 I would like to read a
21 communication I received just about two
22 weeks ago.

23 CLERK PULITZER: Excuse me,
24 ma'am, your three minutes have expired.

25 MS. COYNE: I would just like to

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 read this. To put it into context, I'm a
3 fair skinned, red haired person. I was
4 never one for being in the sun too much
5 because my parents were sticklers about sun
6 screen and shade because of my complexion.
7 I became a lifeguard my junior year of high
8 school at such and such golf and country
9 club in Hauppauge. I worked there every
10 summer until I graduated college in 2010.

11 That was about six summers of
12 straight sun exposure which is something I
13 wasn't used to.

14 I guess I was somewhat aware of
15 skin cancer at the time but I never thought
16 I would be at risk. I wore sun screen, and
17 tried to stay in the shade while guarding,
18 so I didn't think there was anything to
19 worry about. The scariest part about this
20 entire situation, no one thinks they are at
21 risk.

22 The pool did not supply real
23 shade and while I was guarding I was exposed
24 to direct sunlight for hours on end.

25 I think if there were more

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 resources available like umbrellas, shade,
3 as well as a push for more awareness, those
4 who are life-guarding in the sun will be
5 safer and less prone to skin cancer.

6 So, Nassau County led the way in
7 2005. I'm hoping you will lead the way in
8 passing a resolution for some kind of a
9 mandate for lifeguards to at least have
10 umbrellas over them.

11 Let's face it, young people don't
12 have a clue. They're invincible. And many
13 of them want that tan to look great. They
14 are the role models for our young people at
15 the beaches and at our pools. So, I ask
16 you, please consider this resolution. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
19 Collette. Richard Bivone, are you going to
20 wait for the item to come up?

21 MR. BIVONE: Yes.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
23 Norma, with Collette, could we just saying
24 something real quick? I just want to give
25 you so much credit. I can imagine after

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 losing your daughter how difficult it is to
3 talk about this, and I want to say, as a
4 former swimming instructor who spent six
5 summers out there with baby oil we used to
6 put on, we really didn't know. I've had my
7 share of Clark's moles and everything else.

8 You're such a courageous person
9 and I have such respect for you. I hope
10 that we do the highest possible standard,
11 not only for swimming instructors where my
12 kids are, but another one of my children is
13 a camp counselor and they're out in the sun
14 all day also.

15 I appreciate you making everyone
16 aware of it, but I think we have a lot of
17 work to do. Thank you for coming today.

18 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Presiding
19 Officer, can I say one thing?

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Meta
21 Mereday.

22 MS. MEREDAY: Good afternoon.
23 I'm Meta J. Mereday, 758 Wesley Street,
24 Baldwin. I'm also signed to speak with
25 regard to the hearing on the contracts for

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 service disabled veterans, so I don't want
3 to use my time for that, but I do want to
4 speak at this particular opportunity to
5 concur with my neighbors from Baldwin.

6 I am also opposed to the road
7 diet for the very comprehensive reasons that
8 were noted and, if the legislators would
9 desire to take a van and just go down Grand
10 Avenue anywhere between four and 6 o'clock,
11 and you pass over Sunrise Highway, you'll
12 see exactly what we are trying to get across
13 in terms of just the impossibility of this
14 design even working.

15 We already have a problem with
16 residents and young people who are getting
17 hit crossing Grand Avenue that has yet to be
18 addressed even though we have had numerous
19 studies.

20 But we did get the road repaved
21 so I do want to thank the county for that.
22 But unfortunately, the residents are still
23 getting hit crossing it. So, I don't
24 understand why anyone could think having one
25 lane, a bicycle lane, and a parking lot,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 where we have a fire department, a police
3 station around the corner, a school up the
4 block, is going to make any sense
5 whatsoever, and let's not forget it's right
6 off of Long Island railroad. So, again,
7 just food for thought, when you're making
8 those decisions, with regard to that.

9 Also, with regard to the NICE
10 bus. Yes, the 35 goes through Baldwin and
11 there are numerous occasions, as I'm sure
12 Legislator Curran can concur because I've
13 sent pictures to her, on the numerous
14 occasions when the N35 broken down along
15 Grand Avenue and it makes it very difficult
16 for residents who depend on those buses to
17 have to wait upwards of an hour or an hour
18 and a half before they can get
19 transportation to their jobs to pay the
20 taxes that we pay in this community with no
21 relief.

22 Again, I still stand with an
23 issue with regard to how we can support all
24 this funding and allocations and I'm all for
25 the situation with dealing with the pools.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 I, myself, now have sun sensitivity because
3 the medication that I'm taking for the COPD
4 that I acquired as a first responder at
5 Ground Zero, so I understand that.

6 But we still have to deal with
7 the traffic safety issues in communities
8 such as Baldwin where we have young people
9 who cross the street willy nilly.

10 So if we're going to talk about
11 full education for our young people who
12 think that they're invincible, let's also
13 look at that because we still live just
14 south of what is called Dead Man's Alley on
15 Southern State Parkway. So we are the ones
16 who hear the emergency response units,
17 again, the ones who have to go down Grand
18 Avenue after they unfortunately have to
19 scrape somebody up off of Southern State
20 Parkway to get them to South Nassau
21 Community Hospital.

22 So, like I said, let's look at
23 the big picture when you start to make these
24 decisions as they pertain to our money.

25 One last point, I would just like

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 to know where else is there a firing range
3 for the police department besides Baldwin?
4 Can somebody answer that question? Because
5 I don't know if any of the rest of you would
6 like to hear bullets in the morning, and I'm
7 all for the police department. I fought to
8 keep the First Precinct where it is. I
9 fought to get them the funding that had been
10 spent twice before to build a facility that
11 they have now.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Ma'am, your
13 three minutes have expired.

14 MS. MEREDAY: I understand. I'm
15 about done, but, like I said, would you like
16 to have that firing range -- let's put a
17 firing range in your community so that your
18 young people and your senior citizens have
19 to hear the round of bullets all morning,
20 Monday through Friday. Thank you.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.
22 That's the end of public comment. We will
23 now begin with the calendar. I'm going to
24 ask the clerk to call the first item,
25 please.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 CLERK PULITZER: I call the
3 hearing on proposed Local Law Clerk Item
4 141-16; Item Number 1 on the calendar is a
5 hearing on a proposed local law to add Title
6 82 to the miscellaneous laws of Nassau
7 County in relation to ensuing service
8 disabled veterans have greater participation
9 in county contracts.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: A motion
11 to open the hearing.

12 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

13 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
15 Legislator Gaylor, seconded by Legislator
16 Dunne. Mr. May, are you going to talk on
17 this item or would you like the legislators
18 to do it?

19 MR. MAY: I can speak on the item
20 if there are any questions. We went over it
21 in committees.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You speak
23 on the item and I believe that Legislator
24 Gaylor or Legislator Curran may want to add
25 to it.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 MR. MAY: Sure, this is the Local
3 Law that we were talking about two weeks ago
4 in committee. It creates essentially a
5 similar program as the MWBE program that we
6 have. It creates essentially a similar
7 program as the MWBE program that we have for
8 the disabled service veterans who registered
9 with New York State. I think currently
10 there are 208 registered companies with New
11 York State.

12 I believe that number is only
13 about eight in Nassau County right now but
14 we are going to use the best practices to
15 get the information out to all registered
16 companies state wide. Obviously you don't
17 have to be a local company to bid on a
18 county contract.

19 Just to clarify Legislator
20 Solages' question, two weeks ago, it is six
21 percent of the value of the contracts as
22 opposed to six percent of the number of
23 contracts.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
25 Gaylor, would you like to comment?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Sure. I
3 think this is a great piece of legislation
4 and a first step for our service disabled
5 veterans who have sacrificed so much for our
6 nation, our country, our state and our
7 county, and this will give they will greater
8 access, I believe, to doing business with
9 the county.

10 There's a lot of benefit to that
11 as well. It helps to reduce possibly some
12 of the burden on the economy. It will help
13 with the downward trend of the unemployment
14 statistics in Nassau County by employing
15 more and more service disabled veteran
16 organizations.

17 So I commend my colleagues, I
18 commend the administration for this piece of
19 legislation. It's the first step to more
20 that can be and should be done for our
21 veterans and I look to continue to work hard
22 on behalf of all veterans service disabled
23 and veterans to come up with creative ways
24 and ideas how we can repay them for the
25 service they have given to our country so

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 that we can live freely under the democratic
3 principles that we do today.

4 So, I'm encouraged by this and I
5 thank my fellow legislators for the support
6 they have shown here as well.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
8 Dunne.

9 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Thank you,
10 Madam Chair. The men and women that served
11 our country when they first went into the
12 military they raised their right and said
13 I'm a United States Marine Corp recruit,
14 Army recruit. I serve in the forces which
15 God our country and its way of life, and I'm
16 prepared to give my life in its defense so
17 help me God. That's a step that most people
18 in this country never take. Do they deserve
19 an extra step? Absolutely. We should be
20 doing everything we can for them especially
21 if they're disabled.

22 This provides us the ability to
23 have -- for all contracts in Nassau County
24 to have them considered to be included with
25 the minorities and women owned businesses.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 I worked for the Veteran Service
3 Agency from May 1973 until December 31st,
4 1995, the next day I became a legislator.
5 So I worked with veterans forever. The jobs
6 that they had as far as their owning
7 businesses fell short. So this is something
8 we are opening up to fellas and gals.

9 I have to tell you, there is an
10 awful lot of young ladies coming home from
11 the war, they were helicopter pilots, they
12 lost their legs, some of them both their
13 legs being shot up at. They deserve to be
14 special, be treated a little bit better.

15 Us doing this is a step in the
16 right direction. So I appreciate all my
17 colleagues being on board this. Thank you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
19 Curran.

20 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thank you.
21 Also, an added benefit for this bill is that
22 veterans who own businesses tend to hire
23 other veterans and that's going to be
24 welcome news for veterans returning home
25 from serving our country.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 I also want to emphasize that
3 this vote today is really a team effort and
4 I want to give a sports analogy.

5 Ms. Mereday and I have a profound
6 disagreement about the road diet in Baldwin.
7 But the idea for this bill actually came
8 about from a conversation Ms. Mereday a
9 couple of years ago.

10 She threw me the ball. I ran to
11 mid field, there I was looking around, and
12 then way in the distance I see Bill Gaylor,
13 throw it over to him, he catches it, scores
14 the touchdown, and, really, it's a touchdown
15 for our veterans, and this is a long game
16 that we're playing. This is one touch down.
17 We have a lot more to do but I think it's a
18 great win for everybody. So I want to thank
19 everybody. It should be the way the game is
20 played.

21 MR. MAY: I think legislator it
22 should be a goal and double overtime.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
24 Bynoe.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Presiding Officer. So I also echo the
3 sentiments of my colleagues. I think this
4 is a great opportunity to serve our men and
5 women who have served us so well.

6 My only concern is that we need
7 to make sure that the Office of Minority
8 Affairs has all of the resources necessary
9 to make this program successful.

10 As we know, they're already not
11 resourced properly, and we don't even have a
12 director. So we really need to move forward
13 to make sure that the benefit of this
14 program is successful as well as the
15 programs for our minority men and women.
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Why don't
18 you come up and say that? Legislator
19 Jacobs.

20 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I want to
21 applaud this law also. I do agree with
22 Legislator Bynoe that we do have to make
23 sure Minority Affairs is staffed well and
24 can handle the fact that monitoring, that
25 this does take place.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 I hope some of our veterans are
3 here. I'm sorry I didn't join you today.
4 It wasn't for a lack of wanting to, but
5 because I walked in when my four Syosset
6 Intel winners walked in, and I sort of, I
7 couldn't get up there to be with you.

8 My heart is there and I think
9 it's a very good law. I applaud the great
10 "game" that was played by Legislator Curran
11 and Legislator Gaylor that ended in a win
12 for everybody. So, congratulations.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any public
14 comment? I'm sorry, Legislator Walker.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you,
16 Legislator Gonsalves. I, too, am very, very
17 excited about this new law and I think
18 everything we can possibly do to possibly
19 reach out to all of our veterans, whether
20 it's through our VFWs, our American Legions,
21 maybe even possibly -- I don't know how
22 excited our recruiting centers would be to
23 share this information, but we often lose
24 our veterans when they return if they don't
25 join a local VFW, but how we can get that

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 message out to them, that this law is now in
3 effect and we will be doing all we can to
4 help those veterans enterprises. So, thank
5 you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Before I
7 call for public comment, I would like to
8 express my appreciation to my colleagues, to
9 the County Executive for initiating this
10 local law. It's a long time in coming, but
11 I have to say to you that every opportunity
12 that we have to assist our veterans should
13 be taken.

14 A few years ago, I was happy,
15 after God knows how many years, trying to
16 get it done that we were able to open up a
17 clinic at Nassau University Medical Center.

18 So that was a major step in the
19 right direction and today is another step in
20 that direction. Our veterans deserve all of
21 the help we can give them so I thank all of
22 those who participated in it.

23 Now, any public comment? I know
24 you wanted to speak on this Ms. Mereday.

25 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 758 Wesley Street, Baldwin.

3 Yes. I am very enthusiastic with
4 regard to this first step, but, again, as
5 has been already mentioned there are already
6 many problems within the MWBE program and
7 the fact that there is no director troubles
8 me significantly.

9 I'm also concerned about when we
10 make notice of greater participation, I seem
11 to think we go back to that media centric,
12 let's just throw something out there, take a
13 picture, and we have done the due diligence
14 and we have not.

15 There's more required than to
16 just put a law out there on the books if you
17 do not have the development process, if you
18 do not have the outreach, and if even the
19 majority of you don't fully understand what
20 this means in terms of the inclusion of
21 veteran businesses, not just service
22 disabled veteran businesses. And you're
23 also talking about participation.

24 If you're saying six percent of
25 the contract, does that mean six percent of

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 the contract if the individual is a minority
3 female veteran? Or what is the percentage
4 when you have that classification? There
5 are various things.

6 There is the unconscious bias
7 that people have that you just assume that
8 the veteran business that has been operating
9 for the large part as a sole proprietorship
10 has the capacity to do the contract itself.
11 80 percent of veteran businesses are sole
12 proprietorships because they lack the
13 resource and the support.

14 So you can put it out there on
15 paper, but when the size of the contract
16 comes out, and you do your little outreach
17 and you write your little letter, if you
18 don't have them coming back with the
19 package, guess what? Those who are behind
20 the scenes, who at some point in time
21 usually end up in Newsday because of
22 contracting improprieties have gone back to
23 the old boys network.

24 So, again, without the teeth
25 behind it and the structure from the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 conversation that I had with Legislator
3 Curran, and I do applaud her for her efforts
4 in getting this forward, but the process was
5 more than a conversation.

6 There was a whole proposal and a
7 package that outlined the true
8 implementation of a program, because I have
9 the experience in doing supplier diversity
10 and workforce diversity in terms of getting
11 contract opportunities for minority women,
12 veteran, service disabled business
13 opportunities when they were rebuilding the
14 World Trade Center.

15 So, again, I am just concerned
16 that we can applaud this first step that I
17 had been standing up here saying that we
18 needed to have and I was assured that Nassau
19 County had such an extensive vetting process
20 when Newsday already proved that to be
21 untrue.

22 But I'm willing to move forward
23 at this point. And you have contracts that
24 you're going to be voting on now, the
25 situation with these banks, that's also

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 something that could be inclusive of veteran
3 businesses. They may not be veteran
4 business or service disabled veteran
5 businesses that are located in our region,
6 but there are service disabled veteran
7 businesses that can deal with some of the
8 financing issues.

9 What is going to happen with the
10 vetting process for that? Are there just
11 going to be selective contracts? Are you
12 just looking at construction or are you
13 going to look at the wide range?

14 Again, as it was mentioned by
15 Legislator Bynoe, who is going to provide
16 the tracking, so the training, the tracking,
17 the procurement and the outreach --

18 CLERK PULITZER: Your three
19 minutes have expired.

20 MS. MEREDAY: -- requires a wide
21 range and intensive focus that's
22 specifically geared toward veterans.

23 Let's not forget our veterans in
24 total because the service disabled community
25 is a small percentage, but our veteran

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 population in total are suffering. Our
3 student veterans are leaving the region. So
4 we need more than talk, more than photo ops.
5 We need real work and real results. But I
6 do thank you for this first step. But it's
7 a small step. So let's not get too happy.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
10 Ms. Mereday. Any other public comment?

11 MR. MAYERS: Good afternoon,
12 legislators, ladies and gents. I want to
13 comment on what Legislator Bynoe said this
14 evening because this was the discussion we
15 had a couple of weeks ago at the comptroller
16 which I sit with comptroller at the
17 budgeting committee.

18 It's a shame and I know each
19 legislator here knows, there is a charter
20 where Minority Affairs was created, how it
21 should be staffed, and that there should be
22 appropriation every year for that office,
23 but I don't see neither Democrat nor
24 Republicans seems to look at that Charter to
25 that office staffed properly. All right.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 It's supposed to have at least ten to 12
3 people with the director in that office.

4 And they came last week to the
5 comptroller meeting and I asked the same
6 question which I told the comptroller, I'm
7 going to check with staff attorney general
8 on this issue. Because Minority Affairs is
9 supposed to be an office of this county.

10 I would ask my Democratic friends
11 and Republican friends from here on to make
12 sure that office is funded. You can bring
13 it up in your next session but it should be
14 funded properly to have the Minority
15 Affairs. You have a report every year, but
16 I will ask either one of you, have you seen
17 a report from the Minority Affairs Office in
18 the last ten to 15 years?

19 I bet you none of you can say you
20 seen a report from the Minority Affairs
21 Office. So that's ridiculous.

22 Again, I want to support the
23 veterans. I'm a British veteran myself from
24 the British army and I'm proud of that. I
25 like veterans because I was in the army also

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 and I know what it is to be a veteran.

3 I support what my sister here,
4 Legislator Curran, I think she's a fantastic
5 legislator.

6 One thing I say about her, you
7 call her office, and she returns your call.
8 So, Ms. Bynoe, I thought she is going to
9 represent my area but this is why I want to
10 see more ladies elected in office, because I
11 think they have more common sense than
12 males. On both sides. But I think the
13 women do a better job than the males as
14 political leaders.

15 But, again, Madam Chair, please
16 look at Minority Affairs. I will call the
17 County Executive, talk to the comptroller
18 about it, and he said, yes, that office
19 should be funded. And, please, Democrats,
20 Republicans, nobody has to scream at each
21 other, but let's get that office funded.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
24 public comment? Did you put in a slip?

25 MINISTER HOSKINS: I didn't put

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 in a slip, will I still be allowed to speak?

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, you
4 may. Go ahead.

5 MINISTER HOSKINS: My name is
6 Minister Edward Rasan Hoskins. I didn't
7 intend to speak until I heard these two
8 issues which I am intimately aware of. I'm
9 the former vice-chairman of the Minority
10 Affairs Council of Nassau County, and I'm
11 also an United States Marine Corp disabled
12 veteran.

13 I heard the speaking about the
14 Office of Minority Affairs. I'm one that
15 was around when this form of government that
16 exists right now was not in existence. When
17 the at large form of government was
18 overturned. So, many of you sitting here
19 now, there was no space for you to sit.

20 But what I do want to say is that
21 any conversations about the Office of
22 Minority Affairs, the Minority Affairs
23 Council, which has a particular charge, and
24 that is to look at any budgetary issues and
25 how money is going to be spent, they're

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 supposed to look at it. So its almost
3 ludicrous. This was the same conversation
4 going on over a decade ago.

5 The county executive or former
6 county executive said to me, Brother Rassan,
7 no county executive really wants an office
8 like Minority Affairs. I've been able to
9 make one of those meetings at the new
10 Minority Affairs Council. It's not there to
11 do anything. How can you have an entity
12 that should be funded and don't fund it, and
13 don't give it any money? So even me sitting
14 here saying this is just a lot of talk that
15 I'm doing right now, unless someone has the
16 courage to submit some legislation to back
17 up which was already legislated on.

18 But it's a shame and that's part
19 of the reason that Nassau County
20 unfortunately has been designated as one of
21 the most segregated and discriminatory
22 counties in the United States of America.
23 That's the reason why we have you all
24 sitting here because that was deemed by
25 Judge Arthur Spatt.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 So, to change that perception,
3 something got to be done. For me to stand
4 here and use moral suasion, that's going to
5 fall flat.

6 So it takes some kind of
7 legislative action, just the rhetoric and
8 just the talking about it, presenting a
9 problem, hell, everybody knows the problem.
10 Forgive my language. Everybody knows the
11 problem. Where's the solution? By now, we
12 should have done something to serve our
13 veterans.

14 There was an office that was
15 brought up just before the last county
16 executive, race for county executive, and
17 that was in office I think it's 160 or 260.
18 It was this big expansion Veteran Affairs
19 Office. It's gone. Few people care about
20 us the way that they should care about us.
21 We should not have to be out here
22 protesting. We've got young people coming
23 out. Me, being a Vietnam era veteran, I
24 know the tragedy of war, there is no glory
25 in it. If you go out to Northport Hospital,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 you'd see there is no glory in war. Again,
3 more persuasion won't do it.

4 Encourage someone or someones to
5 have the courage to put something in black
6 and white and hold a big press conference
7 out front since everybody loves veterans.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
10 Jacobs.

11 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I just wanted
12 to say something to you. You don't have to
13 get up again. What I wanted to say to you,
14 it's not so much as writing new legislation,
15 it's making sure the legislation within the
16 Charter is implemented properly. It's
17 already in writing.

18 So, for us to reenter another
19 repeat of that, it's not the problem. The
20 problem is to follow what already is there
21 and that's implementation. I just wanted to
22 give you my opinion.

23 MINISTER HOSKINS: I'm just
24 saying, are you for or against veterans and
25 their best interests?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: I understand.
3 And I'm just going to say for the record
4 what you said, and you said that everyone is
5 saying we're for veterans but are we really
6 doing what is in the best interests.

7 What I'm saying to you, I believe
8 the Charter written right, and it's not
9 written right in every respect, but it's
10 written right in this respect with the
11 counsel plus the Minority Affairs Office,
12 it's incumbent upon all of us to have --
13 whether it's our legal teams on both sides
14 of the aisle, take a look at what's fallen
15 through the cracks and shore it up so we do
16 it properly. Okay? Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
18 Ms. Jacobs. There being no other comments,
19 a motion to close the hearing, please.

20 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
23 Legislator Gaylor, seconded by Legislator
24 Walker. All those in favor of closing the
25 hearing signify by saying aye.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 (Aye.)

3 Any opposed?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 The hearing is now closed.

6 Mr. Clerk, would you please call

7 Item 2.

8 CLERK PULITZER: A local law to
9 add Title 82 to the Miscellaneous Law of
10 Nassau County in relation to ensuing service
11 disabled veterans and have greater
12 participation in county contracts.

13 Motion, please.

14 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
17 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
18 Kopel. Any other comments regarding this
19 proposed local law?

20 Of course all of the testimony at
21 the hearing is now incorporated into this
22 item.

23 (Whereupon, the following are the
24 minutes of the Veterans and Senior Affairs
25 Committee pertaining to Clerk Item 2,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 4-11-16.)

3 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: There is one item on
4 the addendum today, which is Clerk Item
5 141-16, which is a Local Law to add Title 82
6 to the Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County
7 in relation to ensuring service-disabled
8 veterans have greater participation in
9 county contracts.

10 May I have a motion?

11 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

12 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Muscarella and Dunne,
14 second by Dunne.

15 The item is before us.

16 Do I have anyone here from the
17 administration here to speak on behalf?

18 MR. MAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm going
19 to speak on behalf of this item.

20 This is a Local Law proposed by the
21 county executive to help the veterans in our
22 county establish or better participate in
23 the contracts process of Nassau County. It
24 creates a service-disabled veterans program
25 which is similar in concept to the MWBE

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 program that we have, based off of state
3 legislation that was passed in 2014. And
4 state certified veteran-owned businesses
5 will be, you know, contacted during the bid
6 process to let them know that there are
7 county contracts available and make any best
8 efforts on behalf of the county to get them
9 involved in the contract process.

10 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Through the Chair.

11 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Legislator Dunne.

12 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: I want you to relay
13 back to the administration that we
14 appreciate this. We've been fighting for
15 this for a long time. We've been asking and
16 asking that it be included. I, being a
17 disabled veteran myself, I have a lot of
18 friends that are disabled veterans who own
19 businesses and could be doing work with the
20 county. If they just had a little bit of a
21 leg up, they might be able to get in. The
22 state legislation provides for that. I
23 appreciate it.

24 We always have to look to make it
25 better. This is step one. Let's secure

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 this and then we will go from there.

3 Please let Mr. Mangano know that we
4 appreciate that we're opting into this. It
5 has my full support.

6 MR. MAY: Excellent. I'll let him
7 know. And thank you for all of your
8 support.

9 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Legislator Solages.

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you very
11 much, Chair Gaylor.

12 Good afternoon, Mr. May.

13 MR. MAY: Good afternoon.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is there a
15 particular percentage, goal of contracts
16 that will be awarded to this new category of
17 service-disabled veterans?

18 MR. MAY: I believe the goal is six
19 percent, but of course that's just a
20 baseline. As the program goes, we will seek
21 to expand that, as appropriate.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Six percent of
23 what?

24 MR. MAY: Excuse me. I believe it's
25 six percent of all county contracts.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Of the value of
3 all county contracts or just a number?

4 MR. MAY: I believe it's just a number,
5 but I hear what you're saying and it's
6 something we could certainly look into.

7 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes. I just
8 wanted to be more clear.

9 MR. MAY: I understand. You're trying
10 to clarify. When we say six percent, six
11 percent of what? I understand. There could
12 be a huge difference between six percent of
13 a number of contracts and six percent of the
14 value of contracts. I hear what you're
15 saying. This is the start of the program.
16 We can certainly evaluate when we go on to
17 see if we are reaching the goals that we
18 want to reach. Just having six percent of
19 the contracts may not be enough. We may
20 want to look at six percent of the total
21 value of contracts.

22 Again, this is the very ground floor of
23 this program. Like I tell the people who
24 work with me at my other job at the TLC,
25 everyone is in at the ground floor. We have

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 the opportunity to work through issues at
3 the start. That's where we are with this,
4 just right at the beginning.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood, sir.

6 In addition, you know, this is all -
7 these are all great goals. I agree with my
8 colleague, Legislator Dunne, that we need to
9 do more for our veterans. But what's
10 important here is how we do this. And who
11 will be responsible for monitoring this?

12 MR. MAY: The Office of Minority
13 Affairs is tasked with monitoring this
14 program and implementing it.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So they will be
16 charged with the best efforts initiative, I
17 guess.

18 MR. MAY: Correct.

19 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: If I may.

20 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Of course. Yes,
21 Mr. Chairman, of course.

22 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: The Office of
23 Minority Affairs also monitors the contracts
24 pertaining to minority-based woman
25 enterprises?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 MR. MAY: Yes. They will be doing
3 similar work to the existing MWBE program,
4 which is why we felt it was most appropriate
5 to task that office with this Local Law.

6 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Okay. Good.

7 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.

8 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I have a
9 question.

10 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Go ahead.

11 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: This six percent,
12 how does it compare to the others? Is there
13 a set percentage for women and minority, in
14 terms of numbers of contracts or values of
15 contracts?

16 MR. MAY: I don't know. Let me turn to
17 my counsel here to see if he has an answer.
18 The answer is we believe six percent as
19 well.

20 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: That number is
21 the same as the others?

22 MR. MAY: Yes.

23 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: This is just to
24 possibly increase the amount? Are we saying
25 in the past that we don't know if the number

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 has even been close to six percent?

3 MR. MAY: Which number close to six
4 percent?

5 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: For the veterans.

6 MR. MAY: We haven't studied it. This
7 is a new program.

8 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: So we don't know
9 what the number has been all along?

10 MR. MAY: We haven't delineated it, in
11 terms of this program because this program
12 hasn't existed. So as we get information on
13 the program, we will be able to see. You
14 have to understand --

15 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Statistics
16 haven't been kept. Is that what you're
17 saying, we don't know?

18 MR. MAY: Yes. But I want to be very
19 hesitant to how I say yes to that. It's not
20 that these numbers existed and we haven't
21 tracked it. This program, under state law,
22 only recently came into existence. The
23 state law was passed in 2014. The state is
24 responsible for determining which business
25 qualifies or is certified as a

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 service-disabled veteran business. So this
3 is all brand new. It's not like we had a
4 number of these. To put it differently, we
5 didn't know this class of business under the
6 law because it did not exist before.

7 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Got it.

8 MR. MAY: So that's why we don't have a
9 number to track. It's not that we were just
10 ignoring the issue. The designation is new.

11 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: It's a similar
12 endeavor to the others.

13 MR. MAY: Correct.

14 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: So this is a new
15 category that we're going -

16 MR. MAY: Correct.

17 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: To be. Okay.
18 Are we hopeful that this office will be
19 tracking it? Is that the idea?

20 MR. MAY: Yes.

21 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: The Office of
22 Minority Affairs will keep track.

23 MR. MAY: Yes.

24 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: We'll get
25 clarification of whether it's the amount of

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 contracts or the value of the contracts.

3 MR. MAY: Yes, we can certainly clarify
4 that.

5 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: If I may, Mr. May. I
6 think the way that the local law is written
7 is that it's a percentage of the contracts,
8 not the dollar value. It's the number of
9 contracts.

10 MR. MAY: Correct. Correct.

11 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Okay. And this six
12 percent is in addition to any other
13 percentages that are already applied for
14 minority or women based businesses, correct?
15 It's not being lumped in with the same six
16 percent.

17 MR. MAY: That is correct. This will
18 be a discreet number.

19 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: What I would like to
20 do is publicly thank the minority, and
21 especially Legislator Laura Curran who has
22 been working with me for the last three or
23 four months to try to get this before the
24 committee. On behalf of all of on this
25 side, we thank all of you on that side as

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 well to make this happen, as well as the
3 county exec.

4 MR. MAY: Thank you. We certainly
5 appreciate it. It's very nice when everyone
6 is working cooperatively towards these same
7 goals. A lot of good things can get done.

8 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Legislator, a
9 question up here.

10 MR. MAY: We already said thank you to
11 everybody.

12 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: It's not
13 over. I think you're happy to be back, I
14 might be wrong.

15 MR. MAY: It is a lot of fun being
16 here. I shouldn't say that on the record,
17 they may hold me to it.

18 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I know
19 we're harping on a minor detail, but we want
20 to make sure it goes smooth.

21 The six percent participation rate of
22 state certified business on county contracts
23 is what's in the backup - in the resolution,
24 rather. What is the participation rate?
25 How would we be able to clarify that?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 MR. MAY: It would just be six percent
3 of the total amount of contracts in the
4 county. I could take a stab at it.
5 Typically, our contracts, you see the bulk
6 of them, in terms of the A, B, or E
7 contracts. Any given year it's about 500
8 contracts. Then there are the blanket
9 resolution contracts, which are typically
10 social services contracts. I'm going to say
11 conservatively there are probably about 700
12 contracts that the county enters into on an
13 annual basis. Whatever six percent of that
14 is.

15 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Forty-two.

16 MR. MAY: There you go.

17 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Do we have
18 any way of an update per quarter just to
19 make sure we're kind of on goal. For
20 instance, what if we are falling short at
21 that number? Do you have any idea of what
22 we should do?

23 MR. MAY: Again, it's the ground floor
24 of a new program and a new process. We're
25 not going to know if we've even hit those

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 targets for probably a full year after the
3 program is in place. Then once we have that
4 in place, we can start an analysis of if
5 there was a shortfall why. First thing we
6 have to do is we have to work off the state
7 certified disabled veterans business list.
8 And then we have to see how many people have
9 received bids, how did they receive the
10 bids? Why didn't they respond to the bids?
11 There will be a whole series of questions
12 that would have to be asked, and it's really
13 premature at this point to say what
14 happened. Why didn't we meet our goals when
15 we haven't actually had the opportunity to
16 attempt to achieve the goals? I think it
17 would be more apt for this body to ask the
18 county executive a year from now, a year and
19 a half from now, whether it's this committee
20 or this body as a whole, to say, hey, we'd
21 like a report on how you're doing.

22 Again, I think it's premature now. We
23 haven't even started.

24 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Just
25 getting back to what the chair mentioned.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Is it the six percent in addition to what's
3 already the baseline? We don't even know
4 what the baseline is, right, because we
5 don't keep track of it. So I don't know how
6 we can be reassured that it's above what we
7 have now if we don't know.

8 MR. MAY: I think the chair was asking
9 is the six percent, in addition to the MWBE
10 goal, and the answer to that is yes. Again,
11 we would still have to have the program in
12 place, operate it, and then do an analysis
13 on our first year numbers. It would be like
14 anything else. If we were a private company
15 and we were doing sales and put a new
16 product out, how do you know what you're
17 going to sell? You don't. You put it out
18 there, see what the numbers are the end of
19 the year, and then analyze why you hit your
20 targets or you didn't hit your targets.

21 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Are we
22 going to give preference to anybody that is
23 a veteran-based company when we're going out
24 to bid? Are we going to ask that question
25 in our RFP or anything?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 MR. MAY: I don't know that we can do
3 that.

4 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I don't
5 know if we can, to be honest.

6 MR. MAY: I don't think we can add
7 points to somebody's RFP based on their
8 status. I think the idea for getting these
9 numbers in is to reach out to these
10 businesses in the first place. It may be
11 that they are newly established businesses
12 who aren't familiar with the process. I
13 don't know that we can do that.

14 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Do you
15 know how many businesses that are state
16 certified at this point? Do you know how
17 many there are?

18 MS. MEREDAY: There are about 35
19 service disabled veterans businesses, and
20 most of them are not from New York State. I
21 happen to be an expert.

22 MR. MAY: I'm not going to testify on
23 her behalf. So the number that I'm hearing
24 from the audience is 35. I have no way to
25 confirm that right now. I could look at the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 Department of State website and see what the
3 numbers are that they have certified. And
4 as counsel is reminding me and as I
5 mentioned before, this is a new program for
6 the state as well. The law was signed into
7 effect at the end of 2014, so they are just
8 getting their ducks in a row.

9 Again, this is a brand new program for
10 everybody.

11 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I think
12 it's great and I'm hoping - I really want to
13 follow through with it. If it's true, I've
14 also heard that the number is low. To find
15 these companies, I don't think we can give
16 them special preference, as far as RFPs are
17 involved. I'm just hoping we can reach our
18 goal because it's sort of set up that if the
19 companies are not, you know, known to us and
20 are not local and for them to come as lowest
21 bid and hit all the other qualifications, it
22 just seems like a good effort.

23 MR. MAY: Play that scenario out. Say
24 there are only 35 disabled veteran service
25 companies, and let's say all of them get

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 contracts with the county but we need to hit
3 46 in order for it to be six percent. We
4 know the answer. Why didn't you reach six
5 percent? Because there are not enough
6 certified companies to make that number.
7 These are all hypotheticals.

8 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I know.

9 MR. MAY: We would have to run the
10 program and see the result at the end of at
11 least the first year.

12 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I'm just
13 trying to analyze it going forward. It just
14 looks like our pool is very small. We
15 legally probably can't give any special
16 preference. I don't know what our number is
17 going in. I haven't heard any good
18 feedback, as far as our history with using
19 veteran companies.

20 MR. MAY: I don't know that the
21 distinction was ever made under state law.
22 Once again -

23 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: We don't
24 know.

25 MR. MAY: Right.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: We don't
3 know where we're starting from. We know the
4 pool is going to be small, and there's
5 really nothing we can do to legally promote.

6 MR. MAY: It's a program that started
7 last year, so we can assume that the number
8 previous to this, as far as the category,
9 legal category goes, was zero. Presumably,
10 we can only go up from there. Again, at the
11 end of a year or two of operation of this
12 program, we will have better numbers and
13 better information. Remember, as this
14 program goes on, the state is going to
15 certify more and more companies.

16 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Right.

17 MR. MAY: I understand your concern,
18 but I don't know that it's necessarily
19 appropriate at this time.

20 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I'm not
21 even really worried about this. I'm just
22 saying the six percent might be high for
23 right now.

24 MR. MAY: It might be high. But let's
25 challenge ourselves and get it done.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I hope we
3 are successful with it.

4 MR. MAY: Me too.

5 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: And so the six
7 percent matches the state suggested goal as
8 well, correct?

9 MR. MAY: That is correct.

10 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Do we have any public
11 comment? Ms. Mereday, the floor is yours.

12 MS. MEREDAY: Thank you. Finally.
13 Finally. And as I said earlier, this is a
14 start. But, yes, I do happen to have
15 extensive background in business development
16 as it pertains to diverse suppliers,
17 including minority, women, veterans,
18 disabled, local businesses, etcetera.

19 To answer some of the earlier questions
20 and concerns. The federal mandate is only
21 three percent as it pertains to
22 service-disabled business, service-disabled
23 veteran businesses, and that's not by the
24 number of contracts. Again, you can't say
25 contracts because you don't know what the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 contract is for, you don't know what
3 industry specific it pertains to. So that
4 random number does not suggest the inclusion
5 aspects. Then if you go by the value of
6 the contract itself, you've given
7 authorizations to a wide range of
8 contracting opportunities, ranging from the
9 millions to a couple thousand dollars. So
10 one service disabled veteran, if you go by
11 the percentage of a contract itself, one
12 service disabled veteran could get a \$100
13 million contract and you can say our goal
14 was \$100 million for service disabled
15 veterans and you have supported one company.
16 So you really have to be specific in that
17 arena.

18 The number I mentioned with regard to
19 35 is a figure that I received about six
20 months ago when I attended a session that
21 was sponsored by the New York State - one of
22 the New York City departments actually but
23 also in conjunction with the MTA. Because
24 of the lack of outreach and development
25 within New York State, the majority of those

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 service-disabled businesses do not reside or
3 do business in New York State. So the first
4 thing that we have to do is to generate the
5 business pool within our community.

6 Again, and I'm sure it's on the record,
7 I'm tired of saying it but sometimes it
8 bears repeating. Long Island has the
9 largest veteran population in New York State
10 and the northeast corridor. All of the
11 veterans that live on Long Island, a
12 majority of them are what we would
13 considered service-disabled veterans. Some
14 of them have service-disabled veteran
15 businesses. Statistically, less than ten
16 percent of veteran businesses, including
17 service disabled and veteran-owned business,
18 less than ten percent have the capacity to
19 hire anybody, along with another veteran.
20 So you've got 90 percent, an approximate
21 number, 90 percent of veteran-owned
22 businesses, including both categories, who
23 don't have the capacity to hire somebody
24 else. What does that say? That says that
25 the majority of the nation's veteran-owned

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 businesses, even those that qualify under

3 the federal mandated three percent, could

4 not even conduct any outreach of the

5 contracts that take place. So it really is

6 a building from the bottom, so to speak.

7 That's not to say that we cannot bring in

8 service-disabled veteran business that are

9 qualified, which I have been trying to -- I

10 have been proposing to do. A lot of the

11 teeth and the background information for

12 this particular law was presented to this

13 body, via Legislator Laura Curran, by me.

14 So, that is where we are in terms of

15 what we need to do. We need to start the

16 development. We need to do the outreach.

17 We need to build the model. Now, Nassau

18 County can be an example of that, in terms

19 of all of the contracting opportunities that

20 we have bringing in qualified and

21 established service-disabled veterans who

22 can hire our student veterans who cannot

23 afford to stay here. They can co-partner

24 with the smaller veteran businesses and

25 service-disabled veteran businesses that are

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 here so that that business can grow and hire
3 someone else, so that the veterans that are
4 about to lose their home can keep a job and
5 stay here and contribute to the taxes. So
6 it's not just a cookie cutter model.

7 I agree that this is a start. It is
8 appreciated. But there is still a great
9 deal of work to do as opposed to just,
10 again, putting out a press release, patting
11 ourselves on the back. And I have to once
12 again address veterans that are homeless or
13 about to be evicted, student veterans that
14 have graduated leave here and trying to keep
15 somebody from staying here.

16 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Absolutely. And I
17 think all the legislators on the committee
18 here will agree with you.

19 On behalf of all of your efforts and
20 your advocating, thank you. And keep up the
21 good work for our veterans, please.

22 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Can I just
23 ask one other quick question?

24 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Absolutely.

25 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: This is

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 under the Office of Minority Affairs. But
3 who specifically is going to be overseeing
4 it? Do we have any type of outreach
5 program?

6 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Mr. May, are you
7 going to take that one on?

8 MR. MAY: Sure. The question was who
9 is going to be responsible for --

10 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Getting the word out.

11 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Right.
12 Maybe even being proactive maybe, since we
13 are all behind this. Is it the compliance
14 office?

15 MR. MAY: Again, new program, we have
16 to work out the kinks here. It's going to
17 be based out of the Office of Minority
18 Affairs. We're also going to have the
19 Office of Purchasing handle making sure that
20 the registered businesses all get the bids
21 that go out to all the other businesses. So
22 there will be some initial outreach, as far
23 as bidding on contracts goes as well.

24 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: What are
25 the outreach efforts? Are you going to

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 reach out to veteran halls?

3 MR. MAY: Reaching out to veteran halls
4 wouldn't necessarily help because they have
5 to be a state registered, state certified
6 service-disabled veteran owned business.

7 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I think it
8 would be worthwhile to meet with the
9 veterans personally, just to put the idea in
10 their head. There might even be people that
11 aren't certified that might want to get
12 certified. Not everyone watches us on live
13 stream.

14 MR. MAY: My colleague, Deputy County
15 Executive Eric Naughton, has asked that he
16 be tagged in.

17 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE NAUGHTON: One
18 method that we've decided we're going to use
19 is we have the list from the state of the
20 certified disabled veterans. So working
21 with Constituent Affairs, Minority Affairs
22 will send out a letter to them to let them
23 know about our new law and suggest to them
24 that they meet with our Purchasing
25 Department, let them know of all of the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 opportunities that the county does have so
3 we can make this very effective.

4 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Is that
5 number approximately what we were mentioning
6 before, the number of companies in the state
7 that are certified?

8 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE NAUGHTON: No.
9 The list that we've seen from the state,
10 it's roughly about 34 pages, we think it's
11 probably closer to about 200 vendors in the
12 state.

13 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.
14 Maybe we can just get a copy of it. Would
15 you mind sending me a copy of that list?
16 Would you mind just forwarding a copy of the
17 list of vendors?

18 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE NAUGHTON:
19 Sure.

20 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I would
21 appreciate just taking a look at it.

22 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE NAUGHTON: Not
23 a problem.

24 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: If you would, just

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 send it to the chair and then I'll
3 distribute it to all of the legislators.

4 DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE NAUGHTON: Will
5 do that.

6 CHAIRMAN GAYLOR: Thank you much.

7 Do we have any other public comment?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 At this time we'll take a vote.

10 All those in favor of passing this item
11 please signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 Any opposed?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 The item passes unanimously.

16 (Whereupon, the following is the
17 continuation of the minutes of the Full
18 Legislative Committee, 4-25-16.)

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
20 comments regarding this proposed local law?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 There being none, all those in
23 favor of local law, I believe it's Local Law
24 141, signify by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Any opposed?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 I guess it's unanimous. It's 18
5 nothing. A unanimous vote. Thank you very
6 much.

7 What we usually do in speaking
8 with the minority, we come up with a consent
9 calendar.

10 Most of these items have been
11 called through the committees and I ask that
12 the testimony from those committees be
13 incorporated into today's calendar. I'm
14 going to begin with Item 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
15 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21,
16 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,
17 35, 36.

18 A motion, please.

19 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

20 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
22 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
23 Schaefer. Testimony from the committees be
24 incorporated into this agenda. All those in
25 favor of the items that I just called,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 Any opposed?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 Any abstentions?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 18 to zero. I guess it's

9 unanimous.

10 Now we go back to what we call
11 the non-consent. Just a few items. We are
12 going to begin with Item 3 and that is
13 Ordinance 28. An ordinance for the
14 prevention of fires by establishing uniform
15 regulations for the control of fire hazards
16 and for the enforcement of such regulations.

17 Motion, please.

18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
21 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
22 Nicolello. There are some comments here.
23 Chief?

24 ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: Good
25 afternoon, Madam Presiding Officer, members.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Assistant Chief John Priest, Nassau County
3 Fire Marshal's Office. The item before you
4 represents the first major rewrite of the
5 Nassau County Fire Prevention Ordinance in
6 many years. It's a project that has been
7 ongoing for three years.

8 Nassau County has long had one of
9 the lowest death by fire rates of any county
10 in the State of New York, that the Fire
11 Marshal's Office proudly points to the fire
12 prevention ordinance in regard to.

13 The document has been discussed
14 with members of both sides of the aisle and
15 we are incredibly proud that it will bring
16 us in line with most of the state codes that
17 we are required to conform with, and it will
18 continue our long tradition of safety in
19 Nassau County.

20 I'm joined by Assistant Chief
21 Uttaro who was the primary author and
22 chairman of the committee on the rewrite and
23 we have a number of members of the fire
24 service here in support, and, as you know,
25 some members of the public who have comment.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 But Chief Uttaro will have brief statement
3 and will also take any of your questions.

4 ASSISTANT CHIEF UTTARO: Good
5 afternoon. As we saw this morning, we had a
6 large fire down in Oceanside this morning.
7 It involved eight fire departments and a
8 commercial strip.

9 So, more the reason why this
10 ordinance serves Nassau County so well. It
11 keeps our business, our homes, our
12 firefighters safe, and I thank you, there
13 were a lot of questions and a lot of
14 concerns and I hope I addressed them well
15 with everybody from both the Democratic and
16 Republican side. I know we met a couple of
17 times to go over some things.

18 We have some contractors here as
19 well, and the people from the fire
20 protection community that we worked with to
21 establish some of these new laws and
22 ordinances to make sure that they work well
23 together with our partners that installed
24 these systems as well, and it's worked out
25 very well.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Thank you again for all of your
3 questions, your input. If you have any
4 further questions, I will be here.
5 Otherwise, again, after three years, we're
6 looking forward to getting this ordinance
7 put through and start to enforce it and make
8 Nassau County a safer place to live.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
10 Chief Uttaro. Legislator Rhoads.

11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you so
12 much, Madam Presiding Officer. Chief
13 Uttaro, I just want to congratulate you on
14 the hard work that you did, you and your
15 committee did in putting this important
16 legislation together.

17 I also want to thank you for
18 taking the time to explain some of the finer
19 points and answer some of the questions that
20 I had earlier today.

21 The work that you've done is
22 incredibly important. We all have the
23 obligation, and, myself, being a volunteer
24 fire fighter as well, we share the common
25 goal, as we all do on the Legislature of

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 being sure that we can keep business owners,
3 homeowners, and the general public safe in
4 everything we do.

5 So, updating our legislation to
6 comply with state legislation and FPA
7 standards is incredibly important work, and
8 I just wanted to take a moment to thank you
9 for doing that and doing it in a way that as
10 well is sensitive to our residents and our
11 business community in terms of the
12 obligations and costs that are associated
13 with complying with the additional
14 standards. So, again, hats off to you, and
15 I appreciate your hard.

16 ASSISTANT CHIEF UTTARO: Thank
17 you.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
19 Norma, may I just say one thing?

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have
21 Legislator Ford.

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you very
23 much. It is very important. I just want to
24 make a comment though. I had an opportunity
25 to pass by where the fire was on Long Beach

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Road in Oceanside and it was very unsettling
3 to see the damage done to the stores as well
4 as to the residential building that was
5 attached to it, so I guess when everybody is
6 so close and always attached, it's always
7 best that we do whatever we can to make sure
8 stores are in compliance.

9 It's bad enough that their store
10 goes up, then if all of a sudden it travels
11 to adjacent stores, it can be very, very
12 devastating.

13 My hats off to all of the
14 responders to that fire. That must have
15 been some unbelievable scene. They did a
16 great job and I'm glad that everybody got
17 out of there safely.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
19 Jacobs and then Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

20 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Chief, I just
21 wanted to tell you that I was so
22 appreciative of the report that you made to
23 the caucus. It helps. It helps when you're
24 going to vote on something, and remind me
25 again how many pages that report was?

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 ASSISTANT CHIEF UTTARO: 394.

3 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Right. It
4 definitely helps when you have someone like
5 yourself and your team that was there, being
6 able to answer all the questions, explain
7 the specifics to us, and I just want to
8 kudos to you for doing that because a lot of
9 times people don't take the time, and it
10 makes us feel so much better that we know
11 what we are voting for. So thank you.

12 ASSISTANT CHIEF UTTARO: Thank
13 you. It's a good talented staff that I work
14 with it, so it helps a lot.

15 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: You did very
16 well.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
18 just want to take a second also to
19 acknowledge your partner Mr. Priest. Not
20 only does he look after everyone's safety in
21 this way, but also he's been a tremendous
22 asset to our county with the Narcan
23 training.

24 As many of you know, I have a
25 friend who we actually honored here and

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 unfortunately her son made a relapse over
3 the weekend, and I was actually able to
4 contact him and the support is so amazing
5 and you are an unsung hero that we are very
6 proud of. So thank you for all that you do.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
8 Walker.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I, too, just
10 want to commend you for the work certainly
11 on this, updating this legislation and us
12 moving forward, and certainly on all the
13 work that you do. I know we've had some
14 devastating fires, certainly the fire this
15 morning. We had a very bad fire in
16 Hicksville in two homes not too long ago
17 where actually the fire started. The wind
18 swept it to the neighboring house, which the
19 neighboring house was totally destroyed and
20 the families lost everything. The other
21 family lost 80 percent of their home.

22 So anything and everything we can
23 do to try to make the situation safer for
24 our businesses, our families, for all of you
25 and, just again, to thank you for all your

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 dedication and hard work.

3 I know that whenever we reach out
4 to you for any questions, you are always
5 there to be helpful to us and I can't thank
6 you enough for that.

7 ASSISTANT CHIEF UTTARO: You're
8 welcome. And thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have Mr.
10 Bivone here to speak on this item and I
11 believe a Melissa Barbour who will speak
12 after Mr. Bivone.

13 ASSISTANT CHIEF UTTARO: I also
14 wanted to introduce Chairman of the Nassau
15 County Fire Commission, James Meezy is in
16 the back of the room as well as the
17 president of the Nassau County Fireman's
18 Association, Walter Frame. They're here as
19 well.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Please
21 stand up. Mr. Bivone.

22 MR. BIVONE: Good afternoon,
23 Presiding Officer, legislators, again, thank
24 you.

25 I represent the Long Island

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Business Council, also two professional
3 companies that work in Nassau County on many
4 of the projects, commercial projects. We
5 support these changes, as I said a couple of
6 weeks ago when I was here, they were needed,
7 long overdue but good things come in time.

8 The professionalism of the Fire
9 Marshal's Office is beyond belief. They're
10 great to work with. These changes need to
11 be there because they have to keep up with
12 construction standards that happen over
13 time.

14 Our organization, Assistant Chief
15 Uttaro did visit us twice to explain to the
16 membership that these changes were coming
17 and, again, we are in support of them and
18 thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
20 Mr. Bivone. Ms. Barbour.

21 MS. BARBOUR: Hi. Good
22 afternoon. My name is Melissa Barbour and I
23 represent the New York Fire Sprinkler
24 Council which our membership includes fire
25 sprinkler contractors who perform the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 largest amount of work in the metropolitan
3 area; installation, inspection, testing and
4 maintenance of fire suppression systems.

5 Over the past week, and over the
6 past couple of years prior to that, members
7 of our association have met with the fire
8 marshal, with Fire Marshal Uttaro to discuss
9 and address any concerns we had with the
10 ordinance.

11 We truly appreciate his reaching
12 out, listening to us, and responding to our
13 concerns. We look forward to a positive
14 continued working relationship with the Fire
15 Marshal's Office and Fire Marshal Uttaro and
16 we applaud their efforts to strengthen the
17 requirements concerning the installation,
18 inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire
19 sprinkler and stand pipe systems and to
20 ensure that competent people are performing
21 this work.

22 So one of the things this
23 ordinance did, it created two new
24 certificates of fitness for fire sprinkler
25 work, one for installation and one for

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 inspection, testing, and maintenance, as
3 well as a five year test on all sprinkler
4 systems. We really think this will make
5 great strides in improving fire protection
6 for all people living and working and
7 visiting Nassau County.

8 So the enactment of this
9 ordinance in that regard, we fully support.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
12 Ms. Barbour. Any other comments? Mr.
13 Priest.

14 ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: Madam
15 Presiding Officer, one other thing on behalf
16 of Chief Fire Marshal Tusa to the Fire
17 Marshal's Office would like very much to
18 thank the County Attorney's Office and, in
19 particular, Mr. Podlesak, who shepherded us
20 through this. We are just a bunch of
21 firemen, and when it comes to writing laws,
22 without their help, it would not have gone
23 anywhere near as well as it did.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have to
25 correct you, ex-chief. You're not just a

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 bunch of firemen. You know how dear you are
3 to your communities. So I thank you for
4 your efforts and I know Chief Uttaro, I
5 worked with you before, and I know how
6 thorough you are and, of course, I will
7 thank Mr. Podlesak as well.

8 So, I think this is a step in the
9 right direction and I can many people will
10 be happy that this legislation is going to
11 pass today. Would you like to say anything?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 Being no other comment, I'm going
14 to ask all those in favor of Item 3 signify
15 by saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 Any opposed?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 Any abstentions?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 Item passes unanimously. Keep up
22 the good work.

23 Item 4, Ordinance 29, an
24 ordinance to provide information related to
25 sun safety to lifeguards assigned to Nassau

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 County outdoor pools, bathing beaches, and
3 Nickerson Beach.

4 Motion, please. Moved by
5 Legislator Gonsalves.

6 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Seconded
8 by Legislator Jacobs. I don't know whether
9 or not -- I guess it would be in order just
10 to give you a brief synopsis. Do you know
11 what this law is about? Talk to us about
12 it.

13 MR. MAY: This is the legislative
14 initiative to include the warnings for
15 lifeguards at the county pools to ensure
16 that they are approving appropriate levels
17 of sunscreen for their exposure during work
18 hours.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It goes a
20 little deeper than that. I'm just going to
21 read a section and then, of course, my
22 colleague, Legislator Jacobs, we conspired
23 together on this piece of legislation.

24 It does list a number of risks
25 that do exist from exposure to UV and it

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 also gives advice as to how to reduce the
3 exposure to UV and to protect yourself in
4 the sun.

5 It is something that we went as
6 far as we thought we could. It does include
7 protective clothing, shirts, wide brim hats
8 or caps. It does include sun screen and the
9 UV umbrella. And of course life guards must
10 wear sunglasses while on duty.

11 The thing that we tried to do is
12 we have these instructions posted and we are
13 asking that at these sites, the county
14 sites, that the lifeguards sign a form that
15 they read these instructions and certainly
16 the fact that these instruments to protect
17 them are available to them.

18 I'm going to go on to Legislator
19 Jacobs because I know we always can do more
20 but I think this is a good start, but I'm
21 going to go to Legislator Jacobs.

22 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Well, I was
23 going to say that this goes back so many
24 years ago when Legislator -- when Presiding
25 Officer Gonsalves and Legislator Yaturo at

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 the time joined together on the tanning beds
3 with Collette Coyne's help who has devoted
4 her life since she lost her beautiful
5 daughter to this horrible disease.

6 This bill, I'm very pleased to
7 co-sponsor it with the presiding officer
8 because it's time we something as a kick off
9 point for what really has to be done.

10 What really has to be done in my
11 estimation is not to tell lifeguards and
12 people who are exposed to sun dangers to
13 sign something that they are aware of it but
14 to do as much as we can to make certain that
15 the proper procedures are in place at our
16 beaches and at our pools. And I know we
17 don't have as many as the towns do, but it's
18 is a start that they have something on the
19 lifeguard station to be able to accept an
20 umbrella, number one.

21 Number two, I believe the
22 legislation talks about baseball caps as
23 well as wide brim caps. The truth of the
24 matter is, baseball caps do nothing.
25 Seriously, these are important things.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 As far as sun screen goes, I
3 don't know, if someone is looking for a job
4 and they just sign their name, what is the
5 guarantee they are ever going to put on a UV
6 shirt or put sun screen on. That's my
7 concern here. I applaud it in that it's a
8 start but I believe we have to go further
9 and I would hope together that we can.

10 Some of it I know costs money.
11 The ideal is to have sun screen, literally
12 sunscreen over dugouts, to have sun screen
13 over the -- permanent sun screen over
14 lifeguards. If we can't go all the way
15 monetarily, we should be able to do a little
16 bit more than this.

17 But I'm still happy to be on this
18 bill but I want us to leave that door open
19 to improvements.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going
21 to add to it, Judy. I did contact someone
22 who is the supervisor for the lifeguards in
23 Nassau County pools and beaches. I was
24 reassured that all of the paraphernalia we
25 were talking about are there for the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 lifeguards to use.

3 The only thing that we felt at
4 this point in time is to make sure they are
5 instructed as to what they should be doing
6 and making themselves -- avail themselves of
7 those items that we mentioned in the
8 legislation.

9 I know we all like to mandate but
10 at the present time I think it's a step in
11 the right direction. At least we are
12 opening that door to make sure that -- look,
13 let's face it. If I was a lifeguard, and I
14 was given these instructions and I was told
15 that these items are available and I was
16 asked to sign a form stating that I read it,
17 I think that is a step in the right
18 direction. We can always do more.

19 But I think right now since
20 summer is coming, and we're going to have a
21 lot of our lifeguards out there in the sun,
22 we want to do as much as we can at this
23 particular time.

24 As far as mandating, I think this
25 is something else we can look into. But I

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 think right now I believe that this is a
3 step in the right direction.

4 I will tell you something,
5 Collette, I travel a lot, and I see places
6 that have tanning salons, they are
7 disappearing. I don't know that that means,
8 but they're not there anymore. Where are
9 they going? I don't know. But maybe the
10 message is out there and people are becoming
11 more aware of it.

12 I don't know if there are any
13 other comments that want to be made, but I
14 think -- Collette, do you want to say
15 anything else?

16 MS. COYNE: I want to say thank
17 you because it is a beginning. People are
18 still unaware. And I have ordered, because
19 I saw the caps, and I know that they're not
20 sufficient. So I went online and I did
21 order big straw hats that I will donate to
22 our lifeguards because they, again, are the
23 role models. And I'm hoping that what
24 begins here in Nassau County will spread
25 across our country. We've got to educate

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 people. Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
4 Collette. There being no other comment, all
5 those in favor of Item 4, Ordinance 29,
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 The item passes unanimously, 18
11 to zero. Thank you, Collette, for being
12 here.

13 Let's move on. The next item is
14 Item 22, Resolution 52. A resolution
15 authorizing the County Attorney to
16 compromise and settle the action, Randy
17 Hoskins a/k/a Randy A. White versus County
18 of Nassau pursuant to the County Law, the
19 County Government Law of Nassau County and
20 the Nassau County Administrative Code.

21 Motion, please.

22 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
25 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Schaefer. Who is here to speak on this
3 item?

4 MR. MAY: Ms. Lisa Locurto from
5 the County Attorney's Office.

6 MS. LOCURTO: Thank you,
7 legislators. I also have here special
8 counsel who is here with me should there be
9 any additional questions that you might
10 have.

11 This particular settlement is
12 recommended. We believe it is in the
13 county's best interest. It was fully
14 discussed at the Finance and Rules
15 Committees in executive session. I believe
16 we were expansive enough in those sessions,
17 but if there are additional questions. We
18 are happy to discuss them further. The only
19 thing we would request is go into executive
20 session if more detailed questions are
21 required.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
23 DeRiggi-Whitton says she has a general
24 question, as does minority leader.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 have more of a procedural question.

3 During the Finance Committee, do
4 you remember there was a problem because our
5 side hadn't been given a copy of the
6 stipulation at the time?

7 MS. LOCURTO: I don't believe it
8 had to do with this particular settlement.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Then
10 I apologize.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority
12 leader.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
14 Madam Presiding Officer. Ms. Locurto, it
15 was brought about I believe for quite some
16 time now, and also on the floor, I'm not too
17 sure if it came up in the executive session,
18 but really not executive session worthy in
19 terms of the matter. We were asking about
20 the practice of the former commissioner of
21 the police department in the conduct that
22 was betrayed that was outlined in the
23 district attorney report.

24 We would like to think that
25 there's been procedures that have been put

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 in place and I believe that someone had said
3 they were going to get back to us to find
4 out if that was the case, if there is
5 procedures in place to ensure what happened
6 will never happen again, since this time
7 because this goes back some years.

8 MS. LOCURTO: I do remember that
9 question. I think our office did reach out.
10 Unfortunately, I don't have a specific
11 answer to give you today, but I will
12 definitely reach out again to make sure I
13 can give you that answer to that question of
14 what is changed.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's
16 crucial. If you can get back to our offices
17 today to let us know. If it requires you to
18 call the Acting Commissioner's Office
19 because we don't want to be in the practice
20 of being down this road over and over again.

21 MS. LOCURTO: Understood,
22 legislator.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Ms.
24 Locurto, can you get that answer to us
25 shortly, the answer to the minority leader's

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 concern?

3 MS. LOCURTO: Yes, as soon as I
4 finish here, I will make that call.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
6 comments?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 There being none, all those in
9 favor of Item 22, Resolution 52 signify by
10 saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Any opposed?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 Any abstentions?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 The item passes unanimously. We
17 still want the answer. Thank you very much.

18 The next item, Item 23,
19 Resolution 53, a resolution authorizing the
20 County Attorney to compromise and settle the
21 claims of different utility companies as set
22 forth in various actions pursuant to the
23 County Law, County Government Law of Nassau
24 County and the Nassau County Administrative
25 Code.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Motion, please.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
6 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator
7 Kopel.

8 Now I'm going to ask for an
9 amendment in the nature of a substitution
10 and I will read that amendment and this
11 amendment is to the title and various parts
12 of the resolution and clarifies that the
13 Town of Oyster Bay and various special
14 district's third party claims against the
15 county are being settled.

16 It's a matter of semantics but it
17 had to be. A motion, please, for the
18 amendment in the nature of a substitution.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

20 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
22 Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator
23 Dunne. Any questions or any comments?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 All those in favor of the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 amendment signify by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 Any opposed?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 The amendment passes.

7 Now, the item as amended,

8 Legislator Kopel.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I just want to
10 say that I intend to vote for this, for this
11 measure, and I suspect that just about
12 everyone will. But it's a real big problem
13 and I don't know that people understand it
14 sufficiently. It's because of the county
15 guaranty that this comes up. The county
16 guaranty just very briefly, in this
17 particular case, provides that Nassau County
18 has got to pay back any district, any school
19 district or garbage district, or what have
20 you, that is required to refund any taxes
21 that it had to pay. That's just very
22 briefly what it's about.

23 Now, what people need to
24 understand is that this \$26 million and
25 change is not buying anything for the county

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 at all. And this is not even due to an
3 assessment error.

4 It's a particularly egregious
5 case because what happened over here is
6 special districts went ahead and taxed
7 something that they should not have taxed,
8 that they ought not to have taxed.

9 In the end, Nassau County has to
10 pay for it. Now, what this does, it's the
11 opposite of government transparency. It
12 actually makes government totally opaque
13 because what's happening now is that no one
14 is voting on this. This is just simply
15 something that's done by the special
16 district and someone else has to pay for it.

17 It has to be paid for by all
18 taxpayers. So we don't really -- taxpayers
19 are not really able to allocate the taxes
20 and the spending on this kind of thing. It
21 encourages opacity and it encourages
22 irresponsible behavior by special districts.

23 Now, this body here tried to
24 repeal the County Guaranty a couple of years
25 back and it was struck down by the state

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 courts which held and, Lisa, correct me if
3 I'm wrong, it simply held that only the
4 state has the power to go ahead and do this.

5 I understand the county has
6 requested the state to go ahead and do it a
7 number of times and we're getting absolutely
8 no response.

9 I also understand that we have a
10 few hundred million dollars more of similar
11 nature refunds that are backed up, or claims
12 I should say that are backed up.

13 This is a good deal and everyone
14 is going to vote for it I think because it's
15 not as bad as it could have been. But it's
16 still just an absolutely horrible situation
17 and I think that -- I would love to see
18 everybody call their state representatives
19 to actually do something about this because
20 it's a travesty.

21 Have I described that fairly
22 accurately?

23 MS. LOCURTO: Yes, legislator,
24 you have.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 DeRiggi-Whitton.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

4 Thank you. Like I said before, it's more of
5 a question of our procedure you being our
6 attorney, and it's a client-attorney
7 situation.

8 As ranking member on Finance
9 during the committees, I asked why the
10 minority hadn't been given the stipulation.
11 Do you recall your testimony?

12 MS. LOCURTO: You mean my
13 testimony in executive session?

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No.
15 On the record.

16 MS. LOCURTO: On the record I
17 think that there were fine points in the
18 stipulation that were being worked out. I
19 advised the legislature as soon as the stip
20 was finalized that we provide a copy to the
21 Legislature and we did provide that to the
22 legislature.

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

24 That's not what you said. You said it was
25 your oversight that you didn't provide it to

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 us. We have the record. We will get it to
3 you.

4 MS. LOCURTO: I believe my
5 testimony of the oversight was not getting
6 the confidential executive memo to the
7 Legislature.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
9 specifically asked for the stipulation.

10 MS. LOCURTO: I do recall you
11 asking for the stipulation, and I'm not
12 going to get into a back and forth with you
13 because I don't think that serves us well, I
14 take you at your word, if you want to call
15 up the record.

16 I'm testifying now, my
17 recollection of the conversation and what
18 was going to be provided to the Legislature,
19 I believe everything that was requested by
20 the Legislature was provided.

21 I know you have a very difficult
22 job in determining whether or not to vote
23 for the settlement or not. We always
24 endeavor to provide you with all the
25 information you need so you can make an

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 intelligent decision.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

4 Again, I'm grateful for the fact that we do
5 have a stenographer here, but --

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We can
7 agree to disagree, Legislator
8 DeRiggi-Whitton.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
10 Well, there's nothing to disagree about
11 because we have it. But what is the real
12 difficulty as a legislator is, you're our
13 attorney. This is a client attorney -- that
14 is a real serious matter. If we ask you for
15 a copy of the stipulation and you say, oh,
16 no, it was my oversight, I will get you the
17 copy. Then I get the copy and it's dated
18 three days later. You didn't have a copy of
19 the stipulation which you agreed to provide
20 us.

21 It was dated on Thursday the
22 21st. We got it Friday. It's still --
23 honestly, I hope this is a good settlement
24 but what I'm concerned about, we haven't
25 even had the full seven days to have

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 everything to even vote on it.

3 MS. LOCURTO: I respectfully
4 agree to disagree, legislator. I believe
5 you have everything you need now to make
6 your decision.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The
8 bottom line is, when it's before finance and
9 we ask you if you have something for a \$26
10 million vote, and you say yes, I have it,
11 it's an oversight, you are completely being
12 -- you're not being truthful to us.

13 MS. LOCURTO: I take exception at
14 you questioning my veracity, questioning my
15 ethical and legal obligations. So I take
16 great exception to that.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
18 am. I can understand that.

19 MS. LOCURTO: I would like to
20 finish my statement because you just called
21 out and said something that was
22 extraordinary inappropriate and offensive to
23 me --

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Absolutely.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 understand it.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Don't
4 interrupt, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

5 MS. LOCURTO: -- as a practicing
6 attorney. I'm not finished speaking. I do
7 not speak over you. I appreciate if you do
8 not speak over me.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
10 Finish, Lisa.

11 MS. LOCURTO: I know what I said
12 on the record and I stand by my testimony
13 and what I said on the record and in
14 executive session, everything that was
15 discussed in the executive session was put
16 and going to be reduced to the stipulation
17 of settlement. Everything should be there
18 for you in either the confidential memo or
19 as it's finally reduced to the writing.

20 I know my obligation. My
21 obligation is not only to you, as the
22 Legislature, but the County Attorney's
23 obligation stems to the County of Nassau
24 which is all the taxpayers of Nassau County.

25 It is our obligation, my job,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 working in the County Attorney's Office to
3 ensure that we protect the taxpayers of
4 Nassau County.

5 Bickering back and forth on this
6 point does not benefit the taxpayers of
7 Nassau County, because the real issue is the
8 substantive issue that was discussed in
9 executive session is whether or not this
10 long standing litigation, which has gone on
11 for over 15 years, hasn't resulted in a
12 resolution that is ultimately a satisfactory
13 conclusion that will benefit all the
14 taxpayers of Nassau County. That's what the
15 vote is about today.

16 It shouldn't be about what he
17 said, she said, and I will assure if you go
18 back and read on the record, I know what I
19 testified to and I will not let it stand
20 that I said something that is anything less
21 than truthful. I have always been
22 respectful to this Legislative body and
23 endeavored to give you what you need to do
24 your job.

25 I expect the same amount of

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 respect in return that I give each and every
3 legislator which they deserve.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
5 have something to say.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going
7 to call the vote, Legislator
8 DeRiggi-Whitton.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
10 Listen, you can't call the vote until I'm
11 finished.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Would you
13 like to overrule the chair?

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: How
15 can you make a vote?

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: All those
17 in favor of this item?

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: This
19 is the most bizarre thing I've ever seen in
20 my life.

21 The bottom line is, thank God we
22 take testimony here and we have it. There's
23 no way you can conflict that.

24 I'm upset we didn't have a copy
25 before we voted in Finance and, Rich, you

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 were there. Before we make a vote on
3 something of \$26 million, to have the
4 stipulation --

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
6 DeRiggi-Whitton, I think it was said very
7 clearly what we're voting on today.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
9 think we haven't.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's
11 what the item is at the present time.

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But
13 the information given to us as legislators
14 has to be something that we can trust. If I
15 can't trust that someone has -- -

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: So don't
17 vote. Vote against it.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
19 don't understand how it's not bothering you
20 that we ask for something from our
21 attorney's office.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We got all
23 the information that was felt that was
24 needed. I'm sorry that you feel that you
25 didn't. I am very, very sorry that you had

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 called Lisa Locurto --

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
4 will give you both copies of the testimony
5 and you can decide.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You have
7 the option to vote yes or vote no.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We
9 have a stenographer. What is testified to
10 is not the question. We have it written
11 down. The question is, we need to depend on
12 what is told to us at the time. I used to
13 work in claims. Before you settle a case,
14 you want to know, especially in finance as
15 the leader in Finance --

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority
17 Leader, please.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
19 madam, Presiding Officer. Ms. Locurto, I do
20 have some questions. I don't know if they
21 require us to go into executive session
22 because they're not particular to the actual
23 settlement, but I just wanted to find out
24 from your in regards to, has the Town of
25 Oyster Bay, Town Board, have they approved

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 the settlement?

3 MS. LOCURTO: I don't believe --

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam

5 Presiding Officer is saying yes up here.

6 MS. LOCURTO: I'm not sure. I

7 can't say yes or no. And you better get

8 that on the record.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam

10 Presiding Officer, how do you know it's yes?

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Who?

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Somebody

13 said it.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm saying

15 to you, Minority Leader, I know that the

16 Town of Oyster Bay did sign the settlement

17 agreement.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no.

19 That's not what I'm asking. I'm asking, did

20 they approve, did the Town Board approve it?

21 MS. LOCURTO: I don't know if

22 they voted for it yet. Similarly, they may

23 be waiting for us to vote on it. Whether or

24 not, I can't speak for the legislative body

25 and their procedures. I just know the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 legislative procedures for the Legislature.

3 As the Presiding Officer has
4 indicated, they've signed the stipulation so
5 I believe it's the Town's intent to go
6 forward with the settlement subject to
7 whatever their approvals are.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ms. Locurto,
9 you said they would need us to vote on it
10 first.

11 MS. LOCURTO: I said I'm not sure
12 if they need us to vote. Maybe they're
13 waiting for us to vote on it.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Why would
15 they need us to vote on it. This is a
16 settlement with the utilities. Not with the
17 county.

18 MS. LOCURTO: I don't know
19 Legislator and I really don't want to
20 speculate.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Is it
22 possible they may not have had a meeting
23 yet?

24 MS. LOCURTO: That's a
25 possibility, yes. Then they may not -- it

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 depends on, many times settlements here have
3 to wait until the next available legislative
4 session.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Do you have
6 any knowledge of the town possibly approving
7 this?

8 MS. LOCURTO: At this time, no.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So we don't
10 know if this is going to be something that's
11 binding what we take up here today?

12 MS. LOCURTO: I think that's with
13 every settlement. It depends. This is a
14 little different because it's a
15 municipality. As you know, all
16 municipalities are subject to their rules
17 for approval. I can't give you a definitive
18 answer.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It just
20 seems to me then the Town of Oyster Bay
21 should really go first. I mean, why are we
22 going first?

23 MS. LOCURTO: I can't say why. I
24 don't know. Maybe their calendar, they
25 don't have it ready for the next available

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 calendar like we do.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So what's
4 the harm in waiting? I mean, I thought the
5 urgency on them. I thought they were
6 pushing this. I thought this was being
7 pushed hard. It came down on a Friday
8 before the Monday last committee meeting.

9 I would think if the Town of
10 Oyster Bay was so urgent for this to happen
11 that the administration would take action so
12 quickly that their town board would act by
13 an emergency --

14 MS. LOCURTO: Legislator, I don't
15 want to speculate.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't
17 want to either.

18 MS. LOCURTO: On what the Town of
19 Oyster Bay's intentions are, what their
20 requirements are. I think it would be
21 unfair to you and to me to try to speculate.
22 All I can do is present it to you. Do you
23 want to go forward with the settlement?
24 Even if you approve this, it's still subject
25 to their board and their approval. So the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 only question is, is it your --

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ms.

4 Locurto, may I finish my questioning? I
5 just have, just to wrap up, actually two
6 more things just to wrap up, to me, all I'm
7 saying for the record is that it probably
8 would be prudent to have the Town of Oyster
9 Bay act first and then we would gladly act
10 afterwards.

11 All I'm saying is, it conflicts
12 with how this was sent down to us. This was
13 sent down to us in a rushed manner. It came
14 down on a Friday. You actually said in
15 earlier testimony that it did not have the
16 final stipulation when we took the vote in
17 the committee. That's why I voted to
18 abstain at that time because I did not have
19 the stipulation before us in its final form.

20 From that standpoint, if there
21 was such an urgency, you would think that
22 they would have done something -- I'm not
23 asking you to, I'm just saying it is not
24 consistent with what was going on at that
25 time.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 And, to me, it just seems like it
3 would be more prudent to wait, take pause,
4 have them act, and they may very well vote
5 for it, and then we'll act within a month
6 when it comes back to us, or when the
7 Presiding Officer decides to have a meeting
8 sooner than that, that's fine by us as well.

9 I do have another question if
10 regards to the confidentiality of it. I do
11 believe the public has the opportunity to be
12 able to scrutinize this deal.

13 I think residents of Oyster Bay
14 should have that opportunity. Obviously the
15 county is getting a benefit by doing this
16 deal, which to the tune of close to 11 or
17 \$12 million.

18 I do think, if I am a Town of
19 Oyster Bay resident, I am concerned that we
20 are receiving much less than what we
21 probably could have gotten if we allowed all
22 the other deals to go through at the same
23 time.

24 It seems like to me the County
25 Attorney has taken a position, Judge Foskey

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 has taken a position, to withhold many of
3 these documents not being able to be
4 disclosed.

5 I just wanted to ask you on the
6 record, what are some of the sensitivities
7 why he would not want this information to be
8 disclosed?

9 MS. LOCURTO: Legislator, there
10 are other litigations which were ongoing
11 with the other towns and for that reason we
12 don't want to get into the specifics of any
13 litigation strategy or certain merits of the
14 case. That is the reason for the
15 confidentiality.

16 We want to ensure that the county
17 maximizes it's ability to continue on with
18 the other litigations that are proceeding as
19 has been reported. Some of the other towns
20 are firmer in their position in their
21 litigation positions and have told us that
22 they are seeking to litigate this to the
23 end.

24 So, therefore, we do not wish to
25 compromise in any way the county's ability

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 to enter into this settlement, while at the
3 same time if we are forced to continue to
4 litigate, then we are therefore asking for
5 confidentiality for those reasons.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ms.

7 Locurto, I would never ask you to release or
8 put on the record your strategy in regards
9 to future litigation.

10 I guess what I'm striving at is
11 there are certain components which are going
12 to become very known to the public, which
13 actually have been reported to the public in
14 many cases already.

15 So I guess what I'm driving at is
16 I'm concerned that -- and he's not here to
17 represent himself, but I'm very concerned
18 about Judge Foskey's position -- I'm very
19 concerned that Judge Foskey, oh, he is here?
20 I didn't see him. I'm concerned he is
21 taking a position to withhold information
22 that I believe all of our constituents
23 deservedly have an opportunity to see.

24 I would like to see from him
25 something that substantiates that position

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 for information not to be publically
3 disclosed.

4 Legislator Jacobs has already
5 indicated that it's already posted in
6 Newsday last week.

7 But I just don't see, we want to
8 be able to give information, if our
9 constituents ask for it, I don't see --
10 outside of what we hear in executive
11 session, I don't see why anything that was a
12 part of that stipulation.

13 I just don't see why certain
14 components, as long as they're done
15 responsibly, could not be disclosed to the
16 public when they're already in Newsday a
17 week prior.

18 MS. LOCURTO: Legislator, I
19 cannot speak for the conduct of other
20 parties and whether or not they wish to
21 disclose certain details.

22 It's the County Attorney's
23 obligation as the chief legal officer to
24 protect the county's interest and defend it
25 accordingly.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 It was his determination that the
3 best course to defend while there's ongoing
4 litigations was to keep certain aspects
5 confidential and we still ask that because,
6 as you can see, the vote hasn't been taken
7 here. It may fail. It may go forward.
8 And, for all those reasons, I think we have
9 to respect the County Attorney's decision
10 when he asks as the chief legal officer to
11 keep certain things confidential because he
12 believes there's a true need. And, if there
13 is something that you need further, I can go
14 on, but I'm sure at this point I don't know
15 if anybody is even listening. So I will
16 leave it at that.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm
18 listening to you, Ms. Locurto. I do want to
19 say my next question. The Town of Oyster
20 Bay has paid the utilities certain amounts
21 of money already. Is that your
22 understanding as well?

23 MS. LOCURTO: Yes, it is. That's
24 subject to the Appellate decision, required
25 to pay.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Do you know
3 how much of the \$38.2 million has been paid
4 out?

5 MS. LOCURTO: I know certain
6 judgments have been paid out. I have to go
7 back and consult. I think though the lawyer
8 in me is getting nervous if we should be
9 talking in executive session about those
10 decisions or not.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no.
12 Ms. Locurto, I don't want to talk about the
13 decisions. I just want to make sure we're
14 not getting the wool pulled over our eyes.

15 I mean, we are talking about
16 paying out \$26.7 million settlement to
17 Oyster Bay for money we think they have paid
18 out to the utilities.

19 I don't want to hear about the
20 number they paid out to the utilities was
21 say \$25.1 million, and we are handing them a
22 check for \$26.7 and then somehow down the
23 road nothing happens.

24 I want to make sure that we're
25 clear and that actually goes to my next

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 question of how much of the \$26.7 -- and you
3 may not know the answer to this as well,
4 how much of the \$26.7 settlement amount has
5 Oyster Bay already paid to utilities? So it
6 doesn't seem like --

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Do you
8 think we need to go into executive session?

9 MS. LOCURTO: I think I can
10 supply an answer without going into
11 executive session. I understand your
12 question.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Why would
14 we need to go into executive session of
15 something that's public?

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm asking
17 her. She's the attorney. I'm asking her if
18 we need to go into executive session. Go
19 ahead, Lisa.

20 MS. LOCURTO: I think if I
21 understand your question correctly you,
22 first and foremost, you're asking, are we
23 paying on judgements that were already paid
24 by the town?

25 As required, as the Appellate

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 Division has ruled, the town and special
3 districts are obligated to pay first. They
4 must make those payments first before they
5 can seek reimbursement from the county.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ms.

7 Locurto, that's not the only thing I'm
8 asking. What I'm asking is, how much of the
9 \$38.2 million to the county liability to the
10 Town of Oyster Bay has Oyster Bay already
11 paid? It's a dollar amount, not an action.
12 Action I agree with you. I agree with what
13 you just said. I want to know the dollar
14 amount which I don't know if you are able to
15 tell me. I don't know if it requires an
16 executive session. It may require you to
17 maybe make a phone call and get back to us
18 maybe.

19 MS. LOCURTO: I understand the
20 question. I just -- hold on. I think,
21 Presiding Officer, in order for me to
22 accurately answer the question, I'm going to
23 ask for executive session.

24 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: A motion
3 was made to go into executive session by
4 Legislator Gaylor, seconded by Legislator
5 Walker. All those in favor of going into
6 executive session signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 We are going into executive
11 session.

12 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
13 Committee recessed into executive session at
14 3:53 p.m. and reconvened at 4:22 p.m.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We are now
16 back in session, everybody in his or her
17 seat.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr. May?
19 Ms. Locurto is over there. She can answer
20 this. It is our belief according to Section
21 105 of the Charter that legislation has to
22 be in its final form for seven days before
23 this body can take action or have the legal
24 authority to approve the settlement.

25 I want to make sure -- I know you

1 Full Committee/4-25-16
2 had some testimony back and forth with
3 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. It is your
4 understanding that this has been in final
5 form for seven days?

6 MS. LOCURTO: Yes. I think I'm
7 going to let my counsel speak, Mr. Podlesak.

8 MR. PODLESAK: The way we've been
9 interpreting this is that the final form is
10 for the actual piece of legislation. That
11 is the resolution, the ordinance or the
12 local law. And that during the course of
13 the lead up to the final vote, additional
14 papers when they become available can be
15 added to it.

16 We have done this under other
17 circumstances because there have been other
18 situations where there has been the need to
19 submit additional papers to the Legislature.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Gerry, I'm
21 just curious though. If when this was voted
22 on the committee, if Ms. Locurto or anyone
23 was able to advise the Legislature, say, an
24 example, the dollar amount, or some of
25 provisions of the settlement, and somehow

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 they changed when we actually received the
3 final document, or the stipulation as we did
4 on Friday, I just don't see how that -- what
5 we voted on in committee, it could be
6 considered to be final form when things
7 could change and you have to wait for the
8 stipulation. That's a big part of what we
9 are voting on in the agreement. It's
10 everything.

11 MR. PODLESACK: I would disagree
12 respectfully. The actual wording of the
13 Charter indicates that the legislation is
14 not the back-up material that might be
15 affected by the submissions.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But the
17 back-up material is the stipulation which is
18 the reason why the legislation is going
19 forward. I just think that's a big part of
20 it. You are not talk about some side
21 contract, you're talking about -- every
22 premises that we are basing the legislation
23 on is tied to that stipulation agreement.
24 That's true, but that does not change what
25 the Charter says. The Charter says the

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 legislation.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I

4 understand. Thanks, Gerry.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Before we

6 take a vote, Ms. Mereday, please.

7 MS. MEREDAY: Thank you,

8 Presiding Supervisor. Again, I did express

9 my interest to make public comment before

10 you asked for the motion to go into

11 executive session. I want that noted for

12 the record because I did feel that you were

13 trying to rush a vote without getting the

14 voices of the taxpayers. So I do want to

15 make that known.

16 I am completely confused with

17 regard to this situation, this scenario, and

18 this process. As more discussion was going

19 forward, it was not helping because the

20 taxpayers need to know, and I kept hearing

21 the comment that this was going to benefit

22 the taxpayers, and my question, first of

23 all, is how?

24 This \$26 million or \$38.2 million

25 or whatever the money is, were those funds,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 was that dollar amount already allocated in
3 the county budget that you all discussed?

4 Secondly, if the impact includes
5 the towns who are going to be litigated
6 after the Town of Oyster Bay, what then is
7 the impact on, for example, the Town of
8 Hempstead, the Town of North Hempstead, is
9 this issue going to come up again? What is
10 the potential dollar amount? And, again,
11 the taxpayers will then be hit twice,
12 because we will have to pay the county to
13 reimburse for this situation that either
14 lack of transparency, a special district
15 making decisions, out of order, whatever the
16 case is, the taxpayers will still be
17 impacted, and we will also have to pay back
18 whatever our respective towns have to pay
19 into this. We still also pay the utilities
20 on our own.

21 So, how is it that this body with
22 the 59 county attorneys cannot seem to get
23 the information correct, and you're at a
24 point now where you are going to vote on a
25 resolution that has so many holes in it,

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 matching Swiss cheese, and there is no
3 system that seems to be in place to keep
4 this from happening on a recurring basis?
5 This is similar to the previous resolution
6 that you passed with no assurance from the
7 County Attorney's Office that the incident
8 that was involved in that previous
9 settlement is going to happen again. So
10 that means residents can just as well be
11 snatched off a bus like the previous
12 claimant was.

13 What kind of trust issues do you
14 think we should have with this current body
15 with the decisions that consistently get
16 made based upon faulty information and holes
17 in the process and procedure? It is a
18 question.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Remember,
20 I did say that this is public comment and
21 this is not a question and answer period.

22 I will say thank you for your
23 comments and we will certainly give them
24 some thought. Thank you very much.

25 MS. MEREDAY: Thought is one

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 thing, but I have yet to get a response from
3 any of the questions that I posed here, and
4 months down the road stuff comes up and it's
5 like, wait a second, it's not like the
6 public is not telling you that these things
7 are not working.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Ms.

9 Mereday, I'm saying thank you to you and
10 it's not a question and answer period. It's
11 public comment period. So I thank you for
12 your comments.

13 MS. MEREDAY: You're very
14 welcome.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I don't
16 think there is any other comments from
17 legislators. There being none, I'm going to
18 call the vote. All those in favor of
19 Resolution 53, or Item 23, signify by saying
20 aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 Any opposed?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 Any abstentions?

25 (Abstain.)

1 Full Committee/4-25-16

2 14, zero, 4. I believe that
3 exhausts the calendar. There being no other
4 items, I call for a motion to adjourn.

5 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
8 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
9 Nicolello. All those in favor signify by
10 saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Any opposed?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 We are now adjourned.

15 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
16 Committee adjourned at 4:30 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the State of New
York, do hereby stated:

THAT I attended at the time and place
above mentioned and took stenographic record
of the proceedings in the above-entitled
matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true
and accurate transcript of the same and the
whole thereof, according to the best of my
ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 11th day of May, 2016.

FRANK GRAY