

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ROSE WALKER
CHAIRWOMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

June 27, 2016
2:35 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

A P P E A R A N C E S:

ROSE MARIE WALKER
Chairwoman

C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III
Vice-Chairman

LAURA SCHAEFER (Not Present)

HOWARD KOPEL (Sitting in for Laura Schaefer)

JAMES KENNEDY

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
Ranking

JUDITH JACBOS

SIELA A. BYNOE

MICHAEL C. PULITZER
Clerk of the Legislature

LIST OF SPEAKERS

PAUL BRODERICK.	5
META MEREDAY.	10
MARY ELLEN LAURAIN.	14

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2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I'd like to call the
3 Health Committee to order. I ask the Clerk to
4 please take the roll.
5 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. Health and
6 Social Services.
7 Legislator Siela Bynoe?
8 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.
9 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Judith
10 Jacobs?
11 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.
12 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member Delia
13 DeRiggi-Whitton?
14 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.
15 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
16 Kennedy?
17 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
18 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Howard
19 Kopel?
20 (No verbal response.)
21 Vice Chairman C. William Gaylor, III?
22 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.
23 CLERK PULITZER: Chairwoman Rose Marie
24 Walker?
25 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Here.

2 CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum.

3 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: We have one item on
4 the original agenda, which is Clerk Item 231-16,
5 an ordinance supplemental to the annual
6 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
7 Department of Social Services.

8 May I have a motion, please?

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Motion by Legislator
12 Kopel, seconded by Legislator Kennedy.

13 We have Mr. Paul Broderick here.

14 MR. BRODERICK: Legislators, good
15 afternoon. Paul Broderick, Deputy Commissioner,
16 Department of Social Services.

17 The item before you is a supplemental
18 appropriation for \$41,400 to finance a local re-
19 entry task force called STEERS Program. Do you
20 have any questions?

21 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions by the
22 legislators? Legislator Bynoe.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Hi, Paul. How are
24 you?

25 MR. BRODERICK: Good afternoon.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Could you tell me a little bit more about what this re-entry task for strategic plan is actually supposed to achieve and who is going to be on the task force?

MR. BRODERICK: Absolutely. The STEERS re-entry is basically reintroducing individuals that are currently incarcerated back into the community. It is a program which is run by DOCS, correctional services. When people are incarcerated they are selected for the program and they work with individuals down here in the county to seek employment and reintroduce them back into the community, basically casework to help them integrate back and, I guess, mend their ways.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. And who is going to be part of the task force?

MR. BRODERICK: Actually, right now there are funds in outside contract with FCA, and they work in collaboration with the Department of Social Services and New York State Parole.

LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Sorry. This amount has been reduced from previous?

MR. BRODERICK: Actually, it's extending

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2 the contract. New York State Corrections, they
3 are the ones who oversee the funding of this.
4 They are re-RFPing this contract. It was ending
5 July 1. They are re-RFPing, New York State is.
6 And I believe this for a period of July, August,
7 and September, and they are looking to re-
8 solicit. Really, it's an extension of the
9 contract.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Have we been able to
11 isolate some data that could tell us whether we
12 are actually achieving our projections or?

13 MR. BRODERICK: We have data. I don't
14 have anything with me unfortunately. But we have
15 different targets that we have to achieve for New
16 York State which we can, by all means, share with
17 you.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And does this include
19 going into the community at all and meeting the
20 folks where they reside?

21 MR. BRODERICK: That might be more on
22 the parole side, as opposed to more, you know,
23 find suitable housing, suitable employment. It's
24 really primarily employment, to try to get people
25 working in a meaningful manner.

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Part of my concern is
3 that individuals who have been out of the jail
4 system for some time, still finding themselves
5 flounder and they're not really able to connect
6 in and find employment. I wanted to know if this
7 would help those individuals at all.

8 MR. BRODERICK: It does. However, I
9 mentioned earlier that they select the
10 individuals. This is a subset of the population
11 who are being reintroduced to their
12 neighborhoods. Not everyone fits in this
13 program. There is only so much volume that they
14 can manage to do case management for.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I guess then I would
16 like to see what is the selection criteria, how
17 you're determining who goes into the program.

18 MR. BRODERICK: Let me just assure you
19 that we don't. We are told who is. But we can
20 share that with you. We can get that from the
21 funding source.

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Madam Chairwoman,
24 question.

25 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Sure.

2 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: This grant applies
3 to drug offenders that are currently in state
4 prisons being returned to the county, is that
5 correct?

6 MR. BRODERICK: I don't know what their
7 crimes WIA. We can definitely find out.

8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: My understanding is
9 it's the chemically dependent offenders that are
10 in the state prisons returning back to the county
11 that would get this outreach kind of help, I
12 guess.

13 These are state dollars we're talking
14 about, correct?

15 MR. BRODERICK: That is correct.

16 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Okay.

17 MR. BRODERICK: I'm not really sure of
18 their criteria, but I'm sure it captures across
19 all type of infractions.

20 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I'm not so sure of
21 that. I think it's only the chemically dependent
22 that we are specifically addressing today.

23 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: That was my
24 understanding also.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm sorry. I'm sure

2 it's not addressing every single person that's
3 going to be entered back into the community that
4 had a drug-related, chemically-dependent related
5 arrest. There are some other criteria they're
6 using to then identify which one of those will
7 then be assisted. So I would like to know how
8 they do that, how it's determined.

9 MR. BRODERICK: They could be chemically
10 dependent but that might not be the nature of
11 their crime. We can definitely share information
12 with you on that.

13 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: If you could get
14 that information to us as soon as possible, and
15 we will make sure we share it with everyone.

16 MR. BRODERICK: Absolutely.

17 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
18 Broderick.

19 Any other questions or comments?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 Any public comment? Ms. Mereday.

22 MS. MEREDAY: Meta Mereday, Baldwin.

23 Again, Legislator Bynoe continues to encourage me
24 because she does ask the questions as it pertains
25 to my tax dollars. As I sit back and I'm

2 frustrated with the fact that my elected
3 officials continue to just nod heads when it
4 comes down to our money and you have these
5 questions that sit there but you just continue to
6 pass it along as if somebody else is going to be
7 responsible for it.

8 I can't see how you can fund an
9 initiative where you don't have all the
10 information presented to you - how this money is
11 actually being utilized, what is the success
12 rate? What are the benchmarks in place? The
13 determination of the participants. What is the
14 level of recidivism within that group set itself?
15 How can you just sit there and justify, well,
16 we're just going to move it forward? What will
17 it take to actually get that emphasis in place
18 that we have to stop somewhere? The bleeding has
19 to stop somewhere. We have to look at what we
20 are doing with people's money and their lives.
21 You have to stop somewhere.

22 And to have presentations - and no
23 offense to the presenters. But to have
24 presentations that are ill prepared and you're
25 still just voting for it anyway. That just

2 smacks to me of an ongoing systemic problem
3 within this body that does not seem to get any
4 relief.

5 Hearings don't do it. Criminal
6 convictions don't do it. The district attorney
7 coming here doesn't do it. You're renewing
8 contracts, extending deals. You're acting like
9 you want to do what is right by the people but
10 you are still, you know, embodying the same
11 nonsense that is costing people. The fact that
12 you have to legislate about zombie houses. You
13 have to address the issue that we have to do
14 something about re-entry.

15 Re-entry is not just about, you know,
16 helping them to mend their ways when they get out
17 and then they still don't have a job or they
18 don't have a job that gives them enough money so
19 that they can stay here. We don't provide them
20 enough resources so that they can move themselves
21 from their chemical dependency. So they repeat
22 those same bad habits, go back to those same
23 scenarios, and they look like all of us.

24 What is it going to take for you to
25 realize that this bleeding has to stop? And I

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2 know my words are just bouncing in the air
3 because you got this side and you got that side.
4 But you're killing us. In the meantime, you're
5 killing us, killing us, because we're all one
6 body.
7 CLERK PULITZER: Ma'am your three
8 minutes are up.
9 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any other comments?
10 (No verbal response.)
11 Any other public comments?
12 (No verbal response.)
13 All those in favor of Clerk Item 231-16
14 signify by saying aye.
15 (Aye.)
16 Any opposed?
17 (No verbal response.)
18 Any abstentions?
19 (No verbal response.)
20 Then this will move on to Finance.
21 There are six items on the addendum. I
22 first need a motion to suspend the rules.
23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.
24 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.
25 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Moved by Legislator

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2 Gaylor, seconded by Legislator Kennedy.
3 All in favor of suspending the rules?
4 (Aye.)
5 Again, there are six items on the agenda.
6 I'm going to put all the health together.
7 Clerk Item 243-16, it is an ordinance
8 supplemental to the annual appropriation
9 ordinance in connection with the Department of
10 Health.
11 Clerk Item 244-16, Clerk Item 245-16,
12 Clerk Item 249-16, and 250-16 are also all
13 ordinances supplemental to the annual
14 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
15 Department of Health.
16 May I have a motion, please?
17 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Motion.
18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.
19 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Motion by Legislator
20 Gaylor, seconded by Legislator Kopel.
21 MS. GOETZ: We have Mary Ellen Laurain.
22 MS. LAURAIN: Good afternoon. Mary
23 Ellen Laurain, Department of Health.
24 Item 243-16 is a supplemental
25 appropriation in the amount of \$54,172. This is

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2 for the child and family safety grant. It's 100
3 percent funded through New York State Office of
4 Children and Family Services. This team reviews
5 all deaths of children who reside in Nassau
6 County and whose death is unexplained or
7 unexpected. This program just won a national
8 award for its Safe Sleep Program.

9 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions by the
10 legislators for Ms. Laurain?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Any public comment?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 Clerk Item 244-16.

15 MS. LAURAIN: Item 244-16 is a
16 supplemental appropriation in the amount of
17 \$43,145. This for our tuberculosis public health
18 campaign. This is an additional COLA award, and
19 it is funded through New York State Department of
20 Health. Total funding after this award is
21 \$566,745.

22 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any comments or
23 questions from the legislators?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Any public comment?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 Clerk Item 245-16.

4 MS. LAURAIN: Item 245-16 is a
5 supplemental appropriation in the amount of
6 \$24,720. This is for our immunization action
7 plan. It is funded through New York State
8 Department of Health. It is also an additional
9 COLA award. Total funding after the award is
10 \$324,720. This program protects the public from
11 vaccine preventable diseases.

12 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions or
13 comments from the legislators?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 Any public comment?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Clerk Item 249-16.

18 MS. LAURAIN: Item 249-16 is a
19 supplemental appropriation for the HIV
20 surveillance and partner notification in the
21 amount of \$283,552. This is New York State
22 Department of Health funded, and it is a mandated
23 program.

24 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions or
25 comments from the legislators?

2 (No verbal response.)

3 Any public comment?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 Okay. Clerk Item 250-16.

6 MS. LAURAIN: Item 250-16 is a
7 supplemental appropriation in the amount of
8 \$214,775 for the childhood lead poison prevention
9 grant. This is funded through New York State
10 Department of Health and provides comprehensive
11 services to reduce the prevalence of blood lead
12 in children under age six.

13 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions or
14 comments from the legislators?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 Any public comment?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Clerk Items 243, 244, 245, 249, and 250-
19 16, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 Any opposed?

22 Any abstentions?

23 These items will move on to the Finance
24 Committee.

25 MS. LAURAIN: Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you, Ms.
3 Laurain.

4 Also, we have Clerk Item 246-16, which is
5 an ordinance supplemental to the annual
6 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
7 Social Services.

8 May I have a motion, please?

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Motion by Legislator
12 Kopel, seconded by Legislator Kennedy.

13 And we have Mr. Paul Broderick here.

14 MR. BRODERICK: Good afternoon,
15 Legislators. Paul Broderick, Deputy
16 Commissioner, Department of Social Services.

17 The item before you is a supplemental
18 appropriation for \$94,400 from New York State.
19 It is for salaries, salary expense.

20 Any questions?

21 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any questions for
22 Mr. Broderick?

23 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Hi. How do
24 you publicize this program?

25 MR. BRODERICK: I'm sorry?

2 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: How do you
3 publicize the program?

4 MR. BRODERICK: Which?

5 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: For
6 instance, how would you -

7 MR. BRODERICK: The summer youth
8 employment program?

9 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Yes.

10 MR. BRODERICK: We work with our
11 advisory council. We reach out to both the Town
12 of Hempstead, they have WERS in there. The Town
13 of Hempstead and the Town of Oyster Bay. Also,
14 with our foster youth, we deal with foster youth
15 and we deal with the parents and we try to engage
16 those parents to see if their children want to
17 participate.

18 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Do you do
19 anything in Glen Cove or the Town of North
20 Hempstead?

21 MR. BRODERICK: I would say it's based
22 on the child, where they are. The foster kids
23 could be from any neighborhood.

24 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Do you work
25 more with the Town of Hempstead than, like, the

2 Town of North Hempstead?

3 MR. BRODERICK: I don't believe the Town
4 of North Hempstead has a WIA that we have to work
5 with through the state.

6 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: And does
7 Glen Cove have that, the WIA?

8 MR. BRODERICK: I don't believe so.

9 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: What is a
10 WIA? I'm sorry.

11 MR. BRODERICK: It's basically an
12 employment. They work with the state to have
13 employment programs for the residents, programs,
14 funding, stuff like that.

15 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Is there
16 like a criteria to be eligible for that?

17 MR. BRODERICK: New York State would
18 know that. I'm not familiar.

19 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I'm just
20 surprised. I never heard of it. W-E-I-R, is
21 that how you spell it?

22 MR. BRODERICK: Weir.

23 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Okay.
24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I know -

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Was that a yes on the
3 spelling?

4 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Is that how you
5 spell it, Mr. Broderick?

6 MR. BRODERICK: I'm sorry?

7 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Is that how you - is
8 it initials?

9 MR. BRODERICK: It's the initials of
10 the program.

11 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: And what are those
12 initials again?

13 MR. BRODERICK: I would go with W-I-A,
14 WIA. I could send you information on that.
15 Would that make it easier?

16 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Is that under
17 Workforce Investment Act? Is that what that is?

18 MR. BRODERICK: That's part of it. I
19 think that's the overlying funding. We don't
20 really get involved with DSS with that. But I
21 think that's the funding source for them.

22 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: I know in my
23 previous employment many years back, I actually
24 represented the Hicksville School District with
25 the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program.

2 It's very strict criteria. I think the children
3 either had to be - they could be in a special ed
4 program or they could be - had to do with their
5 economic status, family. We, you know, then
6 found jobs for probably at sometimes I had 30
7 children who WIA involved. It was very set
8 criteria.

9 MR. BRODERICK: The criteria is all
10 eligibility based. It's based on the family
11 income composition and all of that and that's set
12 by the federal government. That's really the
13 starting point and that's what it is intended to
14 do, is to try to assist those kids to - work
15 ethics and things like that, programs. It's not
16 only to give them summer employment, but it's
17 also life-skill training - how to manage a
18 checkbook, how to, you know, go on an interview,
19 role playing, things like that. It's kind of
20 interactive. It's not all just employment. It's
21 learning skills, but it's also life skills,
22 that's the whole purpose of the program.

23 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: And they - I'm going
24 to use them for a better example. I'm going to
25 say they all had a job coach, when I say a job

2 coach - say they WIA in one of your offices but
3 you are very much a big part of their day and
4 teaching them a lot of things. It was a
5 wonderful program. I was - I really loved
6 working with our kids and certainly working with
7 all of those, wherever I placed them. It was a
8 lot for me because I was constantly going to
9 visit each of those sites and certainly checking
10 on those who WIA the adults as well as the
11 children.

12 MR. BRODERICK: We've been working with
13 DSS has been working with Nassau County IT to
14 help kids in foster care, disadvantaged youth,
15 and they're learning a skill in IT getting skills
16 and then hopefully when the program concludes
17 from working with - we can see if they can engage
18 the children for future employment outside of the
19 county. We started that this year and we are
20 hopefully optimistic that it's going to be very
21 successful to benefit the kids. That's where we
22 are going.

23 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Legislator Bynoe.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you. It would
25 be extremely hopeful, I believe, if every

2 legislative office was aware of these
3 opportunities so that we could partner with your
4 office, if appropriate, to be able to help you
5 find or at least broadcast to our community that
6 these options are available.

7 Again, I know that there are specific
8 income eligibility requirements. I didn't even
9 know about this program at all. This is the
10 first that I'm hearing of it. Then you just
11 mentioned this other program that I believe is in
12 its first year with the technology piece; it
13 would be great if we knew about these things in
14 advance.

15 MR. BRODERICK: I know the commissioner
16 shares that in our annual report. Primarily,
17 there is only a limited number of spots. We are
18 trying to deal with the populations we work with,
19 primarily for foster care and PINS kids.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Your population is
21 our population.

22 MR. BRODERICK: I appreciate that.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

24 MR. BRODERICK: I don't need to go
25 outside to start -

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: We should at least
3 know about it, right?

4 MR. BRODERICK: Absolutely.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: If we have families
6 that we're serving that fall into this criteria,
7 their parents are coming to us asking us can you
8 help with summer employment, this is another
9 option. I'm not saying - this is something that
10 we can at least refer them to your office and say
11 they have this program available, reach out to
12 them and see if there is any opportunities for
13 your child this summer. But if I don't know
14 about it, I can't do that.

15 MR. BRODERICK: That's true.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Thank you, Mr.
18 Broderick.

19 Any other questions or comments for Mr.
20 Broderick?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 Any public comments? Ms. Mereday.

23 MS. MEREDAY: First of all, just want it
24 know that I am a proud former resident and
25 graduate of the Roosevelt School District and

just wanted that to be known. As far as getting the types of skills, the program, notwithstanding, I think, as it was noted, the residents and the young people, irregardless of socio-economic status, can benefit from interviewing skills and things of that nature. So I think that we need to start looking at that, in terms of how we are positioning ourselves and our resources. It's great to have all of that, but a lot of times the residents and the individuals that you think need those "services" because they may be lacking them is incorrect. In most cases they have that training and that background, they just need to get the job.

Secondly. Literally, as we speak, there is a press conference that I'm missing because I wanted to be here. But the president is acknowledging today funding, \$150 million, for tech hire partners that will be announced nationwide. It continues to boggle my mind that we live here, in the Empire State and on Long Island, and we continue to have to pick the pockets of the taxpayers for funding and resources and for information that we contract

out to individuals and we pay federal money that goes to other locations that could benefit our young people who are leaving this county in droves because they can't afford to live here.

It behooves us to really start rethinking again how we are allocating our resources, one, and, two, how we are "identifying" communities in crisis. Even growing up in Roosevelt and having the news media, which is one of the reasons why I decided I wanted to go into journalism is because when you're seven years old and you have someone on the media telling you that you WIA raised in what's considered a poor pocket of suburbia and you don't feel that way, it can be very detrimental on that individual. Fortunately, I had a village, and I still have a village, of individuals who supported me, educated me, and those who are around me. So let's not always consider that there are these neighborhoods that need these resources to just do training when, in most cases, we really need the jobs.

As I said, we need to start thinking a little further outside the box, we need to broaden the scope, we need to stop picking the

2 pockets of taxpayers, and we need to really
3 evaluate how we are assessing our funding
4 because, again -

5 CLERK PULITZER: Ma'am, your three
6 minutes are up.

7 MS. MEREDAY: Always. You have these
8 track records and this information you're
9 presenting and there are no benchmarks. There
10 are no success stories. You just keep putting
11 the money out there and you really have very
12 little to show for it. And there is money out
13 there that we can get from the federal government
14 if we expanded, cut back on all these lawyers
15 that we have to keep supporting because we keep
16 getting sued for something else.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Any other public
19 comment?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 That was on 246-16. All in favor signify
22 by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 Any opposed?

25 Then that will move on to Finance also.

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2 There are no other items before us. May
3 I have a motion to adjourn?
4 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.
5 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.
6 CHAIRWOMAN WALKER: Motion by Legislator
7 Gaylor, seconded by Legislator Kennedy.
8 All in favor signify by saying aye.
9 (Aye.)
10 We are adjourned.
11 (Whereupon, the Health and Social
12 Services Committee adjourned at 3:01 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 state:

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 5th day of July, 2016.

FRANK GRAY