

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES

PRESIDING OFFICER

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

County Executive and Legislative Building
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

2:27 P.M.

1

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

3

4 LEGISLATOR NORMA L. GONSALVES

5 Presiding Officer

6 13th Legislative District

7

8 LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

9 Deputy Presiding Officer

10 9th Legislative District

11

12 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

13 Alternate Presiding Officer

14 7th Legislative District

15

16 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

17 Minority Leader

18 1st Legislative District

19

20 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

21 2nd Legislative District

22

23 LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

24 3rd Legislative District

25

1

2 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

3 4th Legislative District

4

5 LEGISLATOR LAURA CURRAN

6 5th Legislative District

7

8 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

9 6th Legislative District

10

11 LEGISLATOR VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA

12 8th Legislative District

13

14 LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM

15 10th Legislative District

16

17 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

18 11th Legislative District

19

20 LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

21 12th Legislative District

22

23 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

24 14th Legislative District

25

1

2 LEGISLATOR DENNIS DUNNE, SR.

3 15th Legislative District

4

5 LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

6 16th Legislative District

7

8 LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

9 17th Legislative District

10

11 LEGISLATOR DONALD MACKENZIE

12 18th Legislative District

13

14 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

15 19th Legislative District

16

17 MICHAEL PULITZER

18 Clerk of the Legislature.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES:

3 Mr. Pulitzer, please begin with the roll
4 call.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you ma'am.
6 Deputy Presiding Officer Nicoletto.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
9 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

10 Legislator Seila Bynoe.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Carrie Solages.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Denise
15 Ford.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
18 Curran.

19 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: C. William Gaylor
21 III.

22 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

23 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Vincent
24 Muscarella.

25 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Ellen
3 Birnbaum.

4 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

5 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
6 DeRiggi-Whitton.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
8 Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James
10 Kennedy.

11 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
13 Schaefer.

14 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Dennis
16 Dunne.

17 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
19 Drucker.

20 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose
22 Marie Walker.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

24 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Donald
25 MacKenzie.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

3 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven
4 Rhoads.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

6 MR. PULITZER: Minority Leader
7 Kevan Abrahams.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Presiding Officer
10 Norma Gonsalves.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Present.

12 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
13 ma'am.

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
15 Mr. Pulitzer.

16 At this point in time I'm going to
17 ask Legislator Dennis Dunne to invite our
18 Marine Corp.

19 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Would you all
20 rise, remove your hats and welcome the United
21 States Marine Corp. color guard for our pledge
22 to the flag.

23 (Whereupon pledge was recited.)

24 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: They were
25 presented today by the orders of retired Major

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Charles Kilbride United States Marine Corp.
3 retired. Not retarded retired.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

5 Major, can you come up for one second? And is
6 Commissioner Krumpster, can you come up? I
7 just have to mention on December 4th we had
8 the Toys for Tots in Glen Cove, which is the
9 largest Toys for Tots collection in the
10 nation. We had over 1500 cars. I just heard
11 we received 50,000 gifts. I owe so much to
12 both of you. Not only did you organized such
13 a beautiful ceremony in memorance of a good
14 friend of mine's son who succumbed to post
15 traumatic stress syndrome but also
16 Commissioner Krumpster you were able to get
17 everyone safe from Glen Cove to Citi Field and
18 that was an incredible achievement. I still
19 feel so good about that day. Any time I'm
20 having a bad time I think about that day and
21 it's a good feeling. Thank you for all you
22 do.

23 MR. KILBRIDE: Delia, I just
24 wanted to say we made you a vice chairman
25 because of all the help you did for us that

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 day. My hat's off to you. Because we
3 couldn't have done it, the commissioner and
4 myself and Joe Lapidula from Glen Cove Martino
5 Auto Concepts could never have done it without
6 the influence and support of you. I don't
7 give credit away just because you're a
8 legislator. You got to do something for it
9 and you did something. We got 50,000 toys
10 that day. So my hat's off to you and thank
11 you and Merry Christmas.

12 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON:

13 Thank you so much.

14 COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: It was a
15 great day and it is something that was truly
16 special. Fifty thousand toys that were
17 gathered. I have to tell you there were some
18 great gifts throughout the day. With that
19 being said, what I will say is the credit
20 doesn't go to me in this particular case. It
21 goes to Detective Lieutenant Luke Grand and
22 all the members of the Nassau County Police
23 Department that pulled the detail together to
24 make sure again that we could move 1500 cars
25 from Glen Cove through the Long Island

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Expressway to Citi Field. You did a great
3 job. All the people involved did a great job
4 and we are very lucky here on Long Island and
5 we will be talking more about it. These
6 programs are truly special and they change
7 people's lives and Major Kilbride has been
8 someone that's been involved in this for a
9 long time and he leads the charge.

10 United States Marine Corp. is
11 worldwide. I was on vacation Thanksgiving
12 week in Costa Rico and there it is the Toys
13 for Tots box because the Marines are in
14 virtually every single country in the world.
15 They work this program and they are really
16 dedicated to it.

17 Thank you for all that you do.
18 Thank you Major Kilbride and I want to thank
19 you the members of the Nassau County Police
20 Department.

21 MR. KILBRIDE: Of particular
22 note, Dennis Dunne we asked that he show up to
23 Glen Cove on the weekend but I guess he
24 doesn't work the weekends. Merry Christmas.
25 Thank you.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Not in Glen
3 Cove I don't.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's
5 a North Shore thing.

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Minority
7 leader.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
9 Madam Presiding Officer. Actually
10 Commissioner I wanted to thank Major Kilbride
11 again. As many of you may or may not know we
12 host an event in Uniondale. We have been
13 doing it now for the last couple of years
14 Holiday Giving and major Kilbride has been
15 tremendous. We don't collect 50,000 toys but
16 we do very well. I believe we enrich the
17 lives of hundreds if not thousands of kids in
18 that area who are not able to have the
19 fortunes of being able celebrate Christmas
20 with gifts and so forth even though it's so
21 much bigger than that just by itself. But I
22 want to thank him publicly for helping us in
23 that endeavor now for the past couple of
24 years. He has been a tremendous asset for
25 that endeavor that we go through and thank you

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Major Kilbride.

3 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I don't
4 know if I'm going to be putting you on the
5 spot Major but every year Toys for Tots
6 donates toys to NUMC. I am looking forward
7 for that event happening again. So you're
8 on. Remember that. I don't forget. NUMC
9 needs the toys for the children who will be at
10 the hospital during the holidays. I thank you
11 for what you've done and what you're going to
12 continue to do.

13 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Norma can
14 I say one more thing? Over here. Not to be
15 redundant but for those of you who don't know
16 Major Kilbride runs Toys for Tots throughout
17 the metropolitan area and helps anyone and
18 anyone who needs it or wants to get involved
19 and Major Kilbride is a force of nature. If
20 anyone is interested in helping the Marine
21 Corp. or getting involved with Major Kilbride
22 I'd encourage you to. He's very receptive to
23 the help but he's going to make you work as he
24 said. But he does a wonderful job as do the
25 United States Marine. Thank you.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Well
3 deserved comments from the legislators.

4 Now, as it's always been our
5 privilege and honor to have to recognize a top
6 cop or more at each legislative meeting and
7 today is no different. I'm going to ask the
8 president of the PBA, the commissioner and the
9 honoree, who is Peter Ellison, and I believe
10 the president of the PBA is going to tell us
11 all about what Mr. Ellison did to deserve the
12 top cop of December.

13 MR. CARVER: Thank you very
14 much. Happy holidays to everybody. Healthy
15 happy New Year to all up there.

16 Month after month we come here and
17 talk about stories about what cops do on a
18 day-to-day basis. Taking guns off of the
19 street, drugs, saving people's lives. That's
20 only one part of what a police officer does
21 and to be honest with you, it's probably the
22 smaller part what they do day in and day out
23 while they're working. But there's another
24 life to police officers. One that we all
25 share in, especially with this theme today.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Chuck Kilbride finally got away from a
3 camera.

4 What today is so special about is
5 with the holiday season this theme of Toys for
6 Tots we were thinking who are we going to
7 honor this month for top cop? There's plenty
8 of stories out there we know. What the public
9 should know and I know everybody up there
10 knows is the good work that our officers do on
11 and off duty helping others. We're the
12 baseball coaches, football coaches, scout
13 leaders, just leaders in the community with
14 public service.

15 Pete Ellison is no different. He
16 joined the marines. And once a marine you're
17 always a marine, correct? The commissioner is
18 a marine also.

19 1984 he started to dedicate his
20 life prior to him coming into law enforcement
21 Toys for Tots. So 34 years he's been doing
22 this for. He was a county sheriff beforehand
23 and for the last 24 years been Nassau County
24 police officer. And the work that he's done
25 with the Toys for Tots. Putting a carton in

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 each precinct. Collecting them every year.
3 It's not done while he's working. This is all
4 done on his own time. And again, it's just
5 one of our many police officers that are
6 involved in community service every year. I
7 think no better time of year than a time of
8 giving to honor somebody who gives so much of
9 himself day in and day out.

10 Somebody asked me before from the
11 press you usually you come up and do it. How
12 does it feel to honor somebody that does good
13 in the community? I said the problem with the
14 media sometimes, the printed media, there's
15 not enough ink to write all the good stories
16 that police do day in and day out. But it's
17 funny, they find enough ink to write one bad
18 story. In the national media and everything
19 else.

20 So it's great to have a day like
21 this to honor somebody who is so deserving.
22 Somebody that should be looked up to. And we
23 look up to him not just because of his size.
24 He's a little taller than me. Maybe if I had
25 hair I'd be as tall as him. But it's really a

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 true honor. I've known Pete for a long time.
3 I call him a friend. He's one of my favorite
4 guys in the world. That's why he's going to
5 be the top cop of the month.

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Let me say
7 something. Commissioner would you like to say
8 something before I say something.

9 COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: Let me
10 start by wishing everybody happy and healthy
11 holidays. This is a great time of the year.
12 It is my favorite time of the year.

13 Police officer Ellison stands out.
14 Jimmy Carver is very humble. They started the
15 program a number of years ago with the
16 foundation and that will be again this year
17 where they will be shopping with
18 underprivileged children. And that's just an
19 example among others. The DAI runs a program
20 for jackets. The CSEA employees and the
21 ambulance bureau are going to be doing a toy
22 run to the local hospital for kids in there.
23 These are just a few examples of the great
24 work that our members do and returning to the
25 community.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Today we are on honoring Pete
3 Ellison. When you think about it, since 1984,
4 over 30 years, he's been working on the Toys
5 for Tots Program. One of the largest programs
6 of its kind. Probably the largest program of
7 it's kind. Here led by Major Kilbride. We
8 already talked about his great work. Think
9 about it. 50,000 toys were gathered in a
10 single drive. And that's only a fraction of
11 all the toys that Major Kilbride will be
12 handing out during the holiday season.

13 That doesn't happen without people
14 like police officer Ellison, who is out there
15 each and every day during this time of the
16 year working on this program. There are
17 literally hundreds if not thousands of
18 volunteers that work on this program. The
19 Marine Corp. dedicates a lot to this program.

20 I would like to thank Pete Ellison
21 and all the members of the department that
22 have given so much this holiday season to try
23 to make everybody's life a little bit better.

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I think
25 Jim and commissioner your choice was not only

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 appropriate but it was in keeping with the
3 theme of the holidays. Officer Ellison thank
4 you for what you have done and continue to
5 do. And I know that a lot of children are
6 going to be very, very happy this holiday
7 season. So God bless you and continued
8 success, and I thank you for choosing officer
9 Ellison as the top cop. Very appropriate.

10 You have a choice. I have a
11 citation on behalf of all of us up here for
12 officer Ellison and you have a choice of
13 coming up here to take the photo or we coming
14 down there.

15 I would like to say -- Minority
16 Leader you would want to say something too?

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
18 Madam Presiding Officer. I wanted to take
19 this opportunity for two things. One, as I
20 mentioned before with Major Kilbride, we host
21 a very, very large extensive effort where we
22 provide toys to kids from Hempstead,
23 Uniondale, all throughout Legislative District
24 One, East Meadow, Freeport, Baldwin to
25 thousands of kids that don't normally have the

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 gifts on Christmas Day. From that standpoint
3 that effort doesn't get done without folks
4 like Miguel I believe is here from Advantage
5 Care and Healing Souls. I see Steve in the
6 back.

7 One of our big, big supporters who
8 not only donates the gifts but drives them
9 there, I want to ask president Jimmy Carver
10 from the PBA to come up again. Jimmy and the
11 PBA have donated hundreds if not close to
12 thousands of gifts. They have demonstrated
13 that not just through the PBA but through the
14 goodness of these officers that actually spend
15 the day with these young children. I want to
16 thank Jimmy personally for committing to help
17 us now -- it's been a couple of years now
18 Jimmy I believe you've been helping us -- I
19 want to continue to thank you. Again, we are
20 going to have a very successful event this
21 Saturday where we are going to be able to give
22 these amounts of toys to young people.

23 But I would be remiss if I didn't
24 thank Jimmy Carver. As we all know, Jimmy is
25 moving on to greener pastures and this will be

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 the last top cop ceremony where we will see
3 him. I'm sure we will see him in other forms
4 and matters. But that being said, through the
5 ups and the downs I would say that Jimmy
6 Carver you have been a straight shooter. I
7 knew exactly where you stood. Hopefully you
8 knew that about me as well. I would be remiss
9 today if I didn't say we're sorry to see you
10 go. But we know obviously spending time with
11 your family is greatly important. But we want
12 to thank you for your service to the county
13 and continue to thank you and the PBA and the
14 good, honest police officers of this county as
15 well. Thank you Jimmy for everything.

16 MR. CARVER: Not necessary but
17 I'll just take a couple of seconds. 35 years
18 as a police officer. Started when I was 20
19 years as a thinner version of myself with
20 Airvac when I was 20 years old in New York
21 City Transit. Was fortunate to come on this
22 job when my father served for 22 years before
23 his death and very proud that my son followed
24 my footsteps here and hopefully he will be
25 here for 30 years. Public service is what we

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 do.

3 One of the most enjoyable parts of
4 our job has become when I became the president
5 one of the things is we tried to figure out
6 how to give back to the community in a lot of
7 ways and I think we do that. Seila, when you
8 came on board we do the book bag thing along
9 with the police foundation. And we coupled
10 up. We do the stuff with DSS on Christmas
11 Eve. This year I think it's going to be with
12 you guys. I will tell you that's the great
13 part of being a cop is being able to help
14 other people. And I enjoyed the relationship
15 we had over the years. And you will be seeing
16 this mug around every once in a while. Don't
17 worry about that. But thank you very much and
18 keep up the good work. You got a lot of work
19 ahead of you guys. But thank you very much.

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Don't go
21 away. Deputy Presiding Officer Nicolello.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I just
23 wanted to add to what Minority Leader Abrahams
24 said and just say you have been a tireless
25 advocate on behalf of the members of the PBA

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 in terms of all their terms and conditions of
3 employment. But most importantly that they
4 get to do their job as safely as possible.

5 From our standpoint, you are
6 nothing but a straight shooter. We always
7 knew where you were coming from. That's kind
8 of rare in politics but you have been. It's
9 been a pleasure to deal with you as the PBA
10 president. We wish you all the best.

11 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: In addition
12 through the chair. On Veterans Day the PBA
13 goes and does a food drive for veterans.
14 There's so many things that you've started in
15 your tenure that hopefully will carry on
16 forever.

17 MR. CARVER: I'm going to come
18 back and make sure they do.

19 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: God bless for
20 what you've done for the county. Thank you.

21 MR. CARVER: I'm actually running
22 off to New York City to see the Christmas
23 Spectacular with my daughter who is due
24 January 7 so have a great day and that's it.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Before we

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 do get to public comment I do have a point of
3 personal privilege put in by Minority Leader
4 Kevan Abrahams.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
6 Madam Presiding Officer. Just to piggyback I
7 left out a name or omitted a name from one of
8 our key sponsors. I believe Torrina is here.
9 Please stand up and be recognized. Torrina
10 runs Glory House but she's also been very,
11 very important, instrumental. Just a couple
12 of days ago they were working in our office
13 organizing the toys, getting everybody set
14 up. I want to thank Torrina Williams from
15 Glory House the CEO for her tremendous
16 effort. Thank you.

17 But today, I share this recognition
18 with my colleagues Laura Curran as well as
19 Legislator Steve Rhoads, something special
20 happened a couple of weeks back where we saw
21 the Freeport High School football team win the
22 Long Island championship over Floyd in
23 dramatic fashion. I actually saw some of the
24 highlights. I'm a Cablevision subscriber or
25 Optimum so I saw some of the highlights on MSG

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Varsity. I was truly impressed.

3 We decided to bring in these young
4 men to recognize them for this effort. It's
5 very rare when we have this opportunity to
6 show one of the goods things about what our
7 young people are doing. Under the direction
8 of several men, being coach Sellen, coach
9 Probst and coach Jimmy Jones, they were able
10 to do something that they're going to remember
11 for their lives forever in this achievement.

12 What I would like to do is have all
13 the coaches come up and then, if possible, the
14 quarterback, Rashad Tucker, speak on behalf of
15 the team as well. But please if the Freeport
16 High School football team let's join me in
17 recognizing them as well. I do want to extend
18 Madam Presiding Officer if you're okay with
19 it, while they approach the podium, the whole
20 entire football team, I do want to extend the
21 opportunity to Legislator Curran as well as to
22 Legislator Rhoads to also congratulate them as
23 well.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I had the
25 opportunity, while you're walking back to your

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 seats, I had the opportunity to come to your
3 game out at Hofstra for the Long Island
4 Championship. It was difficult not to be
5 impressed by the purpose and passion with
6 which you played that game and played the
7 entire season. You should be incredibly proud
8 of your accomplishment and we are certainly
9 incredibly proud of you. God bless and best
10 of luck in next season where we are looking
11 for you to repeat. Pressure is on.
12 Congratulations guys.

13 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I just want
14 to say it takes a lot of determination a lot
15 grit and you guys obviously had it. I'm on
16 your rival team, Baldwin, so I have to give
17 you my props. Well done.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm not
19 Rashad Tucker obviously. I'm a lineman,
20 captain. Rashad couldn't make it today. But
21 I want to thank you for having us and
22 basically that's it.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: To wrap
24 this up, on behalf of legislative districts
25 one, five and 19 to congratulate the Freeport

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 football team we have citations for each and
3 everyone of you to recognize your achievement,
4 for your coaches. We want to say that we
5 appreciate you and we want to congratulate you
6 on this great, great occasion.
7 Congratulations again. God bless all of you,
8 coaches, AD, superintendent, kids as well.
9 God bless you all.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Laura
11 Schaefer would like to recognize some very
12 special people.

13 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Good
14 afternoon. I want to recognize superintendent
15 Flatley from Carle Place High School who is
16 here today with some students from the
17 government class in Carle Place who are here
18 to observe the legislative process in action
19 relative to a community revitalization fund
20 project that we hope to be implementing in the
21 next couple of months in Carle Place. I don't
22 know if you want to stand up but you don't
23 have to if you don't want to. Just wanted to
24 say welcome and thanks for coming by. We do
25 do more than take pictures up here. Thank

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 you.

3 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Now it's
4 time for public comment and I know there are
5 people here waiting very patiently and I'm
6 going to begin with Dorothy Bheddah and you
7 can introduce the people that are with you.
8 Go ahead Dorothy, tell them why you're here.

9 MS. BHEDDAH: I would like to
10 introduce my fellow committee members and I
11 will tell you about the committee in a
12 minute. This is Martin and Judy and Barbara
13 and Lou Levitt. We're all committee members.
14 I will explain in a minute.

15 My name is Dorothy Bheddah. We all
16 come from Port Washington.

17 Ladies and gentlemen of the
18 legislature, Mr. Michael Setzer I believe he
19 is here, the CEO of NICE.

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Is he
21 here? I don't know. Is Mr. Setzer here?

22 MS. BHEDDAH: I've been
23 misinformed.

24 And citizens, fellow citizens. I'd
25 like to thank you for listening to us as we

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 talk about the need for public bus service on
3 West Shore Road in Port Washington.

4 Particularly I'd like to thank you Delia
5 DeRiggi-Whitton, legislator from our district,
6 for her encouragement, support and for giving
7 us the energy in our campaign to get public
8 bus service again on West Shore Road. A
9 petition containing 300 signatures has been
10 submitted to the clerk's office and I believe
11 all the legislators will receive emails of
12 this petition with the signatures on it.

13 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I have a
14 copy of that petition.

15 MS. BHEDDAH: This is a petition
16 requesting bus service again on West Shore
17 Road. We represent the 300 residents of the
18 Amsterdam at Harbor Side, which is a
19 continuing care retirement community for
20 seniors. We also represent the 150 employees
21 of the Amsterdam. Some of whom walk three
22 miles from the Port Washington train station
23 to get to work. Others walk two miles from
24 the nearest bus stop to get to work.

25 Our campaign is also on behalf of

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 the Harbor View and the Addison communities.
3 They're residential communities adjourning
4 us. And the Harbor Link Golf Course where
5 employees are known to walk long distances
6 because they don't have cars and they need to
7 get to work.

8 I'd also like to bring up that
9 there are 70 industries adjourning on West
10 Shore Road. Seventy industries with many of
11 them having more than 100 employees each.
12 These industries can't function without public
13 bus service.

14 So our campaign is on behalf of
15 these industries, on behalf of the Amsterdam
16 and let me say to you that we won't give up.
17 We will not give up. We are going to be
18 here. We are going to do whatever is
19 necessary. Right team? We are going to do
20 whatever is necessary to get the bus on West
21 Shore Road. It's a two mile strip. It's not
22 a big. Deal but it's a big deal to those
23 people who need transportation. Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
25 Dorothy. Is there anyone else in your group

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 that wishes to speak? And please give your
3 name.

4 MR. LEVITT: I'm Dr. Lou Levitt.
5 I'm a resident of the Amsterdam. I want to
6 talk to you about jobs. Our 150 employees, a
7 few are people who are professionals but many
8 are people who work in the kitchen, the dining
9 room, in our hospice, in our nursing home, in
10 our assisted living. These are people who
11 don't have a college education and these are
12 people who need jobs. And we at this point
13 have an unstable labor force because of the
14 difficulty of people reaching us. The
15 employers in the industrial park also have
16 jobs available.

17 What's critical in Nassau County is
18 an effective bus service. People can get to
19 New York easily. People can get to Brooklyn
20 easily via a branch on the Long Island
21 Railroad. But these are people with a college
22 education with professional careers and so
23 on. We're talking about jobs for people
24 without that education that are available in
25 the industrial park. A new hotel is going up

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 and they're going to need the same kind of
3 people we need.

4 So we are appealing to you to heed
5 our call for jobs and to take a lesson from
6 this past election. The American people have
7 said to the government we need jobs that pay a
8 decent wage. We need jobs that have
9 security. Here is your chance to use the real
10 resources that we have available in the
11 industrial park and help people have access to
12 those kinds of jobs. We need your help in
13 making it possible. Thank you very much.

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I have
15 Eric Alexander, who is speaking on the same
16 topic.

17 MR. ALEXANDER: Eric Alexander,
18 director of Vision Long Island. We are here
19 today presiding officer, members of the
20 legislature to support NICE Bus but obviously
21 oppose service cuts. We spoke before a prior
22 committee on a dedicated revenue source for
23 NICE Bus moving forward. Last year there was
24 an MTA -- to peel away some of the MTA payroll
25 tax dollars that seem to leave our region and

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 go to the five boroughs essentially for
3 transit service.

4 Jack Martins and Phil Ramos had a
5 bill to pool some of those dollars to bring it
6 back to Nassau and Suffolk County that could
7 be used for operating revenue. Which is very
8 important because a lot of federal and state
9 dollars, as you guys know, don't go to the
10 operating revenue.

11 So it was poorly presented last
12 session. The lobbying effort was fairly
13 weak. We want to see a bipartisan support
14 here at this legislature and certainly we've
15 spoken with the Suffolk County Exec and some
16 legislators in Suffolk to try to make sure
17 that in this next legislative session we get
18 that bill passed, signed and get some dollars
19 into the bus system.

20 More immediately, obviously NICE
21 Bus needs to have revenues raised. And if
22 that can come out of the county budget there
23 can be offsets, even an increment, to keep the
24 buses running. Of all of the things that the
25 county does one of the most important issues

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 is really is to get people to work, to get
3 people to college, to health care
4 appointments, whatever, the bus service is
5 critical. I think a lot of folks agree on
6 that. You will hear from others today.

7 We just came yesterday from a
8 groundbreaking at downtown Hempstead for
9 redevelopment. There's an economic growth
10 component to this. Five hundred people in the
11 Hempstead community were rallying around some
12 redevelopment downtown really close to the bus
13 station. Like a block away. We're seeing
14 groundbreakings all over in Nassau County and
15 Suffolk County on downtown redevelopment. You
16 need transit to tie into these
17 redevelopments. That's a critical piece.

18 As we see Nassau County grow, and
19 there will be more tax revenue and there will
20 be more rateables and there will be more
21 revitalized communities we need this service
22 to continue to all communities throughout
23 Nassau County.

24 We hope that you look through your
25 budgets, sharpen your pencils and find offsets

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 or seek to be courageous enough to raise the
3 taxes just a little bit enough to cover the
4 service. It's a very important service.
5 Thank you.

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank
7 you. For those of you who are here regarding
8 bus services and the possibility of bus cuts I
9 need to remind you that last year we were in
10 the same situation and after the beginning of
11 the year we were able to restore the cuts in a
12 bipartisan way and found the \$3 million that
13 was needed to restore those cuts. That
14 agreement with NICE Bus is in effect until
15 March. We have from January to March to find
16 the monies to keep those cuts from
17 materializing again and possibly doing more
18 for the bus riders here in Nassau County. So
19 it's not something that is done. It may have
20 been a possibility. But like last year, I
21 don't think that possibility is going to
22 materialize.

23 I know Legislator Curran was an
24 advocate as far as restoring some of those
25 cuts. And guess what? It happened then and

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 the communication will continue from now until
3 the time comes when that money dries up. But
4 I will tell you being very optimistic and I've
5 said this to other groups in the county, like
6 we were successful last year we are praying
7 that we are successful again this year.

8 Legislator Curran.

9 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I will keep
10 it brief. I know we have a lot.

11 Looking at fund balance, our fund
12 balance at the county is over five percent of
13 previous year expenses. Our policy at the
14 county is that it should be no more than five
15 percent. We're already over that. That could
16 help us for this year. And I think Eric
17 brought up a great point about recurring
18 revenue. That would be a one shot for this
19 year.

20 But recurring revenue, I think the
21 MTA payroll tax, if we get a piece of that, a
22 very small proportion, even one or two
23 percent, that could go a long way. We already
24 pay the MTA payroll. We pay much more than we
25 get back in transportation services. That's

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 what it's for, for transportation services.

3 So I've written letters to Senators
4 Martins and Ramos in the Assembly and the
5 Senate urging them to reintroduce this. And I
6 think perhaps we can all help them lobby for
7 this. I think this really how we will get
8 this done. So we're not every year having
9 this service on the chopping block.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Is it on
11 this topic?

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
13 want to thank everyone for coming. Michael
14 Setzer was here earlier from NICE Bus but I
15 did hand him your petition personally. He
16 actually mentioned that putting back this
17 route is exactly what he would like to see
18 happen. It's just a matter of us figuring out
19 the budget. We have a few ideas that we just
20 discussed that I think are going to make the
21 difference.

22 Eric Alexander this is you. This
23 is exactly what you have in mind when you
24 think of economic stimulation. It's really an
25 incredibly necessary part. Someone is going

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 to get hurt walking on West Shore Road. I'm
3 here to say that. I think it's a real danger
4 that we're letting this go on. The county
5 doesn't want to be responsible for that. On
6 top of everything else that's the other
7 reason. So thank you very much for coming.

8 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Before I
9 hear from any other legislator, there are
10 three individuals who put in slips regarding
11 the bus service and I have Richard from East
12 Meadow. Come on Richard.

13 MR. CLOLERY: I'm going to be
14 brief and blunt. To the legislature, let me
15 ask a question of you. What do you see when
16 you see people take the bus every day to work,
17 play or attend services? Do you view us as
18 half-paying citizens or as leaches on the
19 system? I feel that the answer is the latter
20 rather than the former. When you, the
21 legislature, decide to balance the books on
22 the backs of those who depend on the services
23 of the buses such as it is.

24 I'm here today for you to
25 reconsider cutting funding for these buses, to

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 plead with state for more funding and to force
3 NICE to find outside means of additional
4 funding for the bus service here in Nassau
5 County. Because each and every time that we
6 go through this fiasco that we call the budget
7 process rather than consider alternatives you
8 people refuse to cut funding for social and
9 alternate transportation. Especially when it
10 comes to the buses. Because each and every
11 time NICE has to balance the books on the
12 backs of the customers by cutting lines due to
13 lack of funding from the state and the
14 county.

15 Do you know what happens when this
16 occurs? It destroys livelihoods. Makes
17 seniors into disabled homebounds or so
18 dependent on others to get them out.

19 Why should you care about the
20 little guy? You, the legislature, get to
21 drive home in your nice cars and not have to
22 worry about us. You want to prove me wrong?
23 Then these things must happen. First,
24 increase funding for the buses.

25 Two, whenever there is a TAC

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 meeting people must be informed of this one
3 month in advance and there must be both online
4 and offline advertisements of this fact at
5 every bus stop and on the buses themselves.

6 And three, the TAC meetings must be
7 recorded so that the public that couldn't make
8 it to the meeting can watch in on the website
9 the way that this meeting is being recorded
10 right now. Thank you and have a good day.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I have two
12 more speakers on this topic. I believe one is
13 Robert Schoenfeld. Then I have Aaron Watkins.

14 MR. SCHOENFELD: My name is
15 Robert Schoenfeld. I'm the vice chairman of
16 the Transportation Accessibility Advisor
17 Committee for Nassau Bus. The chairman is
18 right over here, Jeanna Barbara.

19 We are bringing out where the
20 problem is when the bus service is reduced the
21 paratransit service is reduced. People with
22 disability need to get out and around. They
23 have to go to doctors' appointments. They
24 want to go to the beauty parlor. They want to
25 go to motion pictures. They want to do

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 shopping. If the paratransit is reduced they
3 will be stuck in their homes.

4 Also, a lot of them have people
5 that help them and these people also need
6 transportation to get to their jobs. So we
7 want to implore you to please, please don't
8 cut the service. Try to increase the service
9 so we can have more paratransit and more main
10 line transit service thank you.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I did call
12 Aaron Watkins. This is the last speaker I
13 have on the buses.

14 MR. WATKINS: Good afternoon
15 presiding officer. Good afternoon
16 legislature.

17 I'm here today to echo what Eric
18 Alexander said. I think that it's time for us
19 as a region as Long Island to call for more
20 funding. We need to take back this payroll
21 tax that we are feeding the MTA. You go to
22 these Long Island Railroad stations they're
23 closed. Not only are they closed there's no
24 one working in them. Why are we paying to
25 have them cleaned? We as Nassau County

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 residents pay the MTA through our Metrocards
3 yet we see no return back.

4 As a region it is doing ourselves a
5 disservice to not see this payroll tax come
6 back to Long Island and fund our
7 transportation systems to bolster their
8 systems and increase the amount of revenue
9 that we are making.

10 I'm also here because I think it's
11 time that we hold NICE Bus accountable. Not
12 just accountable for this year's budget but
13 for the last five years budget. Every time we
14 talk about why does NICE Bus get a profit we
15 always get well, they're a company. They're
16 supposed to make revenue. Sure. But when you
17 have a contract that says that they are
18 allowed to make a reasonable profit without
19 any repercussions for not reaching their
20 benchmarks that is a bad contract.

21 Currently, NICE Bus, over the last
22 five years, is \$117 million over their
23 projected budget for 2016. There is a problem
24 here. I'm not saying that NICE Bus does not
25 deserve to make a profit. But as partners

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 they should be feeling the heat whenever they
3 can't balance their budget. In 2015 NICE Bus
4 made \$3.8 million. This year they wanted to
5 save \$2 million by cutting two routes from
6 January to April. I beg you if we ask, not
7 ask but demanded that they return half of
8 their profits for 2016 we wouldn't have to cut
9 the buses for the coldest, worst part of the
10 year.

11 What I'm asking for is that we
12 amend their contract. Last year NICE Bus and
13 this legislative body set a precedent that
14 when NICE Bus was in trouble we could raise
15 the ceiling on their budget in order to
16 accommodate them. It's time that we
17 accommodated ourselves. Every time that
18 Nassau County bails out NICE Bus, every time
19 there is a fare increase on NICE Bus we the
20 taxpayers are paying. Nassau County money is
21 taxpayer money. It's time for NICE Bus to
22 step up. It's time for the county to hold
23 them accountable. And the only way they will
24 be held accountable is if we impact their
25 bottom line.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Lastly, we need to get NIFA to help
3 us and allow us to use this fund balance. At
4 least to get us through 2017. We're tired of
5 putting Band-Aids on a gaping wound. I thing
6 through this revenue stream we can get through
7 the payroll tax and through an amendment that
8 will hold NICE Bus accountable for the future
9 five years, because we are stuck with them for
10 another five years, I think we can fill this
11 \$12 million budget.

12 Presiding Officer, I'm happy that
13 you feel confident that we can fill this
14 money. But last year it was three and a half
15 million. This year it's 12. If the county
16 takes away the additional subsidy they are
17 providing I think we need additional revenue
18 sources and we need to hold NICE Bus
19 accountable. Thank you.

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
21 Rhoads and then I will move. By the way,
22 there are several speakers here today on
23 different topics and I'm trying to move the
24 public comment as quickly as I can but I don't
25 want to ignore anyone in so doing it. But

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Legislator Rhoads has something to
3 contribute.

4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The points
5 that you raised today are excellent points.
6 Our commitment to there being a strong public
7 transportation system is incredibly
8 important. I want you to understand however
9 that Nassau County, and you just alluded to
10 it, Nassau County is fully funding its subsidy
11 to NICE Bus both last year and this year. The
12 money that we're talking about is the money
13 that we use, the three and a half million
14 dollars, to fill the gap created by NICE Bus
15 that was above and beyond our subsidy.

16 You're right in that Nassau County
17 is bailing out NICE Bus when they have a
18 deficit to try and avoid cuts in service.
19 That can't continue forever. And as you are
20 seeing this year based on the county's
21 finances we are having difficulty doing the
22 same thing. In fact, at present may not be
23 able to do the same thing, cannot do the same
24 thing for 2017. We're hopeful that once the
25 budget closes for 2016 we may, with NIFA's

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 help, be able to use a portion of it to try to
3 restore those cuts.

4 But your point is excellent in that
5 there needs to be an examination both of the
6 way NICE Bus operates and we need to examine
7 the state's role in coming up with new funding
8 sources, perhaps through the payroll tax,
9 where we can get additional revenue so that we
10 don't have to keep trying to bail out NICE Bus
11 and so that you don't have to worry about cuts
12 in your service. I want you to understand
13 that Nassau County is fully funding its
14 subsidy again this year. We're talking about
15 the possibility of there being additional
16 funds that may not be available.

17 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
18 Bynoe.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Legislator
20 Rhoads, to your point about examining how NICE
21 Bus is operating. In my research it revealed
22 to me that in 2012 NICE Bus actually profited
23 a profit to the operator was \$2.8 million.
24 Now, in two thousand -- well, I'm going to use
25 2015 as the current benchmark. They actually

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 profited 3.8 million. There's a problem
3 here. So the problem to me even goes further
4 than the fact that the operator's enjoying an
5 increase in operation profit while the bus
6 services to our riders and our taxpayers goes
7 down.

8 I also think that the problem lies
9 here also, with the county, in that we, not
10 this body, but the county extended the
11 contract with a provider that we continue to
12 subsidize.

13 We extended in 2014 fully knowing
14 that these subsidies were required in order to
15 provide the level of bus service. To hold the
16 bus service at level. Why we at the county
17 would think that we can pull away those
18 subsidies after knowing that they were needed
19 without thinking it would impact ridership and
20 impact the taxpayers. There's an inherent
21 problem with the contract I believe because
22 not only do they benefit from the operator's
23 profit. There's also an issue we haven't even
24 touched which is the corporate overhead to
25 which there is money being funded and funneled

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 into the operator.

3 I think that Presiding Officer to
4 your point earlier that there was a bipartisan
5 effort last year to restore funding to NICE
6 But that we must come together as a body, put
7 together a special committee, whatever is
8 required of this body to make sure we apply
9 the appropriate pressure to the operator and
10 also to this administration to know that some
11 of this stuff was done to me in bad faith.
12 Because that extension never came to this body
13 for review or for any type of support from
14 this body. It was done in the dark. And now
15 in the light we've seen it's impacting our
16 constituency. And I think we have to come
17 together and move forward on this very
18 diligently.

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Now, I
20 need to advise you that we have approximately
21 ten minutes remaining. We have speakers on an
22 item on the calendar. I'm going to ask you to
23 be patient and it's one of the second items on
24 the calendar. So I will call upon you at that
25 particular time. But there are others who are

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 here who there are no items on the calendar
3 but there are several of you. I'm going to
4 try to -- I'm going to ask my colleagues to
5 please at this point in time if we have ten
6 minutes remaining let's keep it to the ten
7 minutes so I can get at least five or six more
8 to speak and express their comments. So,
9 without any further ado, I'm going to call on
10 Pat Boyle.

11 MR. BOYLE: I'm going to talk
12 quickly so we can get it in but that doesn't
13 mean I'm not feeling the same way about it as
14 if I spoke it slowly. First of all happy
15 holidays to everybody. I don't think we'll be
16 seeing each other again between now and
17 whatever holidays are out there. So happy
18 holidays to all.

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Happy
20 holidays to you and how are you feeling?

21 MR. BOYLE: I'm feeling fine.
22 Thank you very much.

23 One of the things is, within the
24 administration and also within the legislature
25 there's always been quite a great dedication

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 to youth services. We heard a lot before
3 about Toys for Tots and what's happening now
4 and parties and things of that nature. But
5 we're doing this year round and you know that
6 we're doing it year round to be able to help
7 young people in communities. I know that you
8 appreciate that. You really do seem to
9 appreciate the fact that we work hard and that
10 we try to be able to do everything we can for
11 children on a year-round basis. That
12 dedication is shown both between by what the
13 administration I believe has done to try to
14 keep youth services whole and also what the
15 legislature has done to try to keep youth
16 services whole.

17 Basically what I'm here to do is to
18 say thank you for keeping your promise. Thank
19 you for being able to keep youth services
20 whole and let us do our job the way we want to
21 be able to do it year round not just at the
22 holiday times. Although holiday times are
23 important. We have a party tomorrow for 400
24 young people coming to our agency who are
25 going to each receive a gift. Each receives

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 pizza and soda and a lot of other things. All
3 of which was donated by good people like
4 yourselves to be able to make that done.

5 Also, I want to say on a personal
6 note to Legislator Gonsalves. She's always
7 promised us that we would be happy. That we
8 will one day will be happy and okay with
9 everything. Well, Legislator Gonsalves, you
10 came through with that promise once again as
11 you did with the other members of the
12 legislature, and I really appreciate
13 everything that you've done.

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Tom Bruno.

15 MR. BRUNO: Good afternoon
16 everybody. My name is Tom Bruno. I'm the
17 executive director of the Hicksville Boys and
18 Girls Club. And echoing what Pat said, I
19 would like to thank you all, the
20 administration and the legislature, for
21 keeping the youth service budget whole. We
22 all understand how important what we do is.
23 The kids are there looking for support all
24 year. With your help we will be able to give
25 them that support each year and we will

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 continue to do that for our kids because
3 that's the next generation. That's what we
4 were and that's what they will become. So,
5 please, keep us whole like in the past.

6 This is the time of year when we
7 all have wish lists. My wish list is very
8 short. That is to take the youth services out
9 of the discretionary funded programs and if
10 it's possible see what we can do to make them
11 mandated. Thank you very much and all of you
12 have a wonderful holiday season.

13 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
14 Mr. Bruno. Jamie Bogenshultz.

15 MS. BOGENSHULTZ: Good afternoon
16 my name is Jamie Bogenshultz. I am the
17 executive director of Yes Community Counseling
18 Center. A youth and family service
19 organization.

20 Echoing what my colleagues have
21 said, it is very important for us to
22 acknowledge when good things happen because so
23 often we are standing in front of and not good
24 things are happening. I also want to express
25 my gratitude. Probably also because it's

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 really a good thing when both sides of the
3 room can agree on something. It's so very
4 apparent as I look around the room that this
5 is something that has been a bipartisan
6 agreement that you all really feel so strongly
7 about youth services. Here we were listening
8 to the Toys for Tots and all I could keep
9 thinking of is that it's such a wonderful
10 thing that everybody does, that everybody come
11 together once a year, twice a year to do
12 that.

13 As Pat pointed out, we're doing
14 this every year. It's not just about getting
15 toys for kids on one day. It's about filling
16 the holes and working with these kids and
17 these families day in and day out and day in
18 and day out. The toys are absolutely
19 wonderful. It makes some of that pain go
20 away. But for the other days of the year you
21 need to have us in place and we need to be
22 strong.

23 I was joking before when Pat came
24 back in I said do you think it's okay to ask
25 them for more money right now? He said no. I

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 can't walk away without saying as grateful as
3 we are we need more to do more. Some day, I
4 hope my train takes me out of here, I really
5 do hope that we can somehow find a way to
6 really, really strengthen the system so that
7 we can really respond to all the issues that
8 our children face. Thank you and have a
9 wonderful holiday and never forget what we do.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: The last
11 one I have on this issue is Linda Leonard.

12 MS. LEONARD: I'm Linda Leonard,
13 the director of Long Island Crisis Center but
14 I'm here today representing the coalition of
15 youth services and my colleagues. We want to
16 express, as my colleagues said, our
17 appreciation at least as of now the youth
18 services have remained whole in the budget.

19 Youth services are not a partisan
20 issue. They just make sense. Youth services
21 in Nassau County are not just bats and balls.
22 It's kind of a misnomer. What youth services
23 in Nassau County are is they deliver critical
24 services. Critical and life saving services
25 such as counseling, mentoring, family

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 counseling. Services for runaway homeless,
3 abused young people, including the only
4 shelter for runaway homeless youth. After
5 school programs, gang prevention, suicide
6 prevention, crisis intervention. It's clear
7 that youth services are cost effective. It's
8 really a matter of pay now or pay later.

9 Nassau County youth services serve
10 more than 40,000 young people and their
11 families. And as Tom DiNapoli, the
12 comptroller of the state said, "Programs
13 focused on children who are at risk of
14 becoming delinquent have demonstrated
15 effectiveness in preventing young people from
16 entering the juvenile justice system." Which
17 would save Nassau County \$210 per year for
18 every youth that is saved from entering that
19 system.

20 Our agencies has not received an
21 increase in literally decades. Yet, through
22 the resourcefulness and dedication of the
23 staffs of these agencies they still persevere
24 to continue their services. They literally
25 operate on a shoestring however. If youth

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 services are cut that shoestring is going to
3 be cut also. And the network goes away. And
4 let me tell you, you're not going to get it
5 back again for \$6 million. As I said, funding
6 for youth services are cost effective and they
7 just plainly make good sense. Thank you so
8 much and happy holidays.

9 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I'm going
10 to take two more speakers and then we have to
11 go to the calendar for today. It's my
12 pleasure to call on -- I'm sorry, I have to
13 move on -- Joanne Borden. We wish you a happy
14 belated birthday. Shoot for those nine
15 years. That would make you 100.

16 MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon to
17 everyone. This December maybe you will do
18 something for me.

19 Nassau County government should be
20 a leader in human rights. Besides human
21 rights being the root of Americanism, the
22 population that this legislature governs
23 exceeds that of the ninth largest city in the
24 United States. Instead we still have people,
25 transgender people without human rights

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 protection. Furthermore, over 680 counties
3 recognize the fact that by providing
4 transgender people with the protection from
5 the evils of discrimination in employment,
6 credit and other vital facets of life the
7 protection that everyone else has.

8 Again, we are followers not
9 leaders. Most industrialized countries
10 recognize the scientific findings that
11 transgender people are a variation created in
12 the womb of their mother. We ignore the
13 scientific fact that transgenderism is
14 inborn. More and more jurisdictions have
15 joined in protecting transgender people from
16 the evils of harmful discrimination.

17 The so-called bathroom issue
18 privacy issue we heard in this chamber is an
19 excuse and not a reason. Politicians and some
20 followers issue dire warnings in their
21 struggle to mask their un-Americanism and
22 Nassau Republicans become part of it and go
23 along with them by denying us what's supposed
24 to be guaranteed to every American. Wake up.

25 We now use the bathrooms and locker

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 rooms appropriate for our gender identity and
3 we hear no problems. We hear no problems
4 related to transgender rights laws anywhere,
5 including our neighboring counties and
6 neighboring states and more than half of our
7 country's population who live with transgender
8 rights laws when polled not one assault was
9 reported by police and human rights
10 organization going back to the first
11 transgender rights law in Minneapolis in
12 1993.

13 Besides, no one wants transgender
14 men with their beards in the ladies' room just
15 because they were labeled female at birth.
16 Define gender to include us into Nassau's
17 laws. God created us this way. So he must
18 have intended for us to be this way. Pass the
19 gender clarification law. Thank you for
20 listening.

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Is there
22 anyone in particular who would like to speak
23 for all of you? Otherwise, I will have to
24 wait until after the calendar. You have to
25 tell me who you are so I can pull the name. I

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 have a number of you here who put in slips.

3 Who are you?

4 MS. GOTTERHER: Thank you for
5 allowing us to speak. We have a large number
6 of good people here who are very concerned
7 about what is going on at the Nassau County
8 Jail.

9 My name is Susan Gotterher. I am a
10 resident of Rockville Centre and the director
11 of the Nassau County New York Civil Liberties
12 Union. I'm here to talk to you about the
13 Nassau County jail and more specifically about
14 the process of selecting a new medical
15 provider for the jail. Speaking about
16 contracts that are done in the shadows as far
17 as the process goes.

18 We've heard that the county is
19 currently in negotiation with the Correct Care
20 Solutions, a private medical provider, who
21 seems after much research is not much better
22 than Armor. So I ask how is this much
23 different?

24 As members of the community and
25 advocates for civil liberties and human

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 dignity, we would like to know about the
3 selection and hiring process since it is not
4 all that transparent. Is in fact the county
5 negotiating at this moment with Correct Care
6 Solutions? If so, when will the public be
7 invited in the process? Who is in the room
8 during the negotiations? Are there medical
9 experts representing the public in the room
10 helping to write the contract and set the
11 benchmarks for the criteria? Will there be
12 someone in the room who will ask what
13 percentage of staff will be carried over?
14 Will the new provider be responsible for the
15 costs of hospital transfers? This is a very
16 important question. If the medical provider
17 pays for hospital transfers this is a
18 disincentive to provide the transfer. Which
19 could have been the cause of many deaths in
20 the past at the Nassau County jail and deaths
21 in the future moving forward.

22 Again, I'm asking about contracts
23 that are being negotiated in the shadows in
24 Nassau County.

25 There is currently no infirmary for

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 women. Does the new contract include a new
3 infirmary for women? Will Correct Care
4 Solutions sign an MOU with the Mental Health
5 Department to participate in reentry and
6 health homework? Does the new contract
7 include addiction treatment? Will there be
8 oversight by an independent board? The same
9 board that was established and never seated
10 and may have never met. We don't know because
11 there are no records. This is known as the
12 Visitors Board, which is supposed to be up and
13 running and is not.

14 We as public advocates in the name
15 of the constitution and in the name of Nassau
16 County taxpayers and in the name of human
17 dignity demand transparency in the selection
18 of the new medical provider. We demand a
19 strong and independent oversight board with an
20 enforcement mechanism and we demand full
21 reporting from that board. This includes
22 monthly public reporting of performance
23 indicators in the contract.

24 Again, who is in the room right now
25 putting the contract together? As we speak

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 there is a man inside the jail whose detox
3 medication was suddenly removed. And then
4 after two weeks and a suicide watch he was
5 given it back again. And then he was taken
6 off of it again.

7 There is another man whose leg has
8 been broken since August who is receiving
9 Motrin.

10 We don't really know because we
11 aren't part of the process and we can't see
12 what the county is doing. We don't know what
13 is in the contract. Does Nassau County really
14 need another lawsuit? Do Nassau County
15 residents really want to be responsible for
16 the gaping human sore that is the Nassau
17 County jail?

18 We demand that costs associated
19 with running the jail stop being viewed as a
20 convenient and hidden way to save budget
21 money. We demand transparency, we demand
22 accountability and we demand humanity.

23 Don't hire Correct Care Solutions.
24 They have a history similar to Armor's and
25 they put profit over people. Thank you.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Susan,
3 there are a number of people -- we really have
4 extended public comment -- but if you would
5 like I can put their names in the record.
6 Otherwise, they have to wait until after the
7 legislative meeting.

8 MS. GOTTERHER: Put them in the
9 record. We have things to submit to you as
10 well.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You can
12 submit them to the clerk's office. That's
13 fine. Give it to Linda.

14 Let me read these names into the
15 record. I think we've gone well over an
16 hour. Part of it is our fault because we talk
17 too much.

18 Dr. Joseph Volker, Mary Dewar,
19 Sandy Guillaume I believe, I guess. Hopefully
20 I said it right. William Bailey, William
21 Jacobs, Diane Goins, Melissa Figueroa, Nichil
22 Goyal, Benjamin Britton, Joseph Morone, Susan
23 Faraone. And I believe there's one more.
24 Julie Grey-Owens. I think I have them all.
25 Those are the slips that were put here. I put

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 your name in the record. Dr. Joseph Volker.

3 Did you submit what you needed to?

4 They will submit that to us. Thank you so

5 much. This was the best way I could do it

6 rather than have you sit here until five

7 o'clock. Okay?

8 Legislator Bynoe, then Legislator

9 Rhoads and that ends the rest of the public

10 comment and we are going into the calendar.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said it

12 ends public comment but there are speakers

13 here from the Uniondale area.

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I saw her

15 but I don't see her again.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: They're

17 right there.

18 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I have

19 Willene Jacobs. But we have overextended. If

20 Willene can speak quickly I would be glad to

21 have her and that's the end.

22 MS. JACOBS: Ms. Gonsalves, have

23 you placed the B-11-16 contract on the

24 legislative agenda calendar? Uniondale

25 streetscaping?

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Are you
3 asking me? No. It hasn't gone through
4 committees.

5 MS. JACOBS: Again, it is
6 disappointing to learn that you chose not to
7 put contract B 11-16 on the legislative
8 calendar so that the Uniondale streetscaping
9 project can move forward. As president of the
10 Nostrand Garden Civic Association, member of
11 the Greater Uniondale Area Action Coalition
12 and member of the Uniondale Community Counsel,
13 I would convey to you that the Uniondale
14 residents are united and will not allow their
15 community to fall prey to the orchestrated and
16 manipulative tactics to divide Uniondale, a
17 vibrant and booming hub north of Hempstead
18 Turnpike and a deprived and marginalized
19 residential community south of Hempstead
20 Turnpike.

21 Uniondale Avenue is the Gateway to
22 the new Long Island hub. Uniondale in its
23 entirety should reflect one look. That being
24 one of inclusion, vision and vibrancy. Any
25 other look will paint a portrait of exclusion,

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 marginilization, red lining and
3 discrimination. We would hope that Nassau
4 County would not be the artist of such a
5 grotesque picture.

6 Heidi you can have my other minute.

7 MS. SANFT: Good afternoon.

8 Heide Sanft is my name. I'm the first vice
9 president of the Nostrand Garden Civic
10 Association in Uniondale. Supervisor
11 Gonsalves this is the fourth time our group is
12 coming here to speak with you. And when we
13 spoke on October 18th you told me there's a
14 process and that it has to first go to
15 committee. Well, it's now mid December and
16 you're saying this hasn't gone to committee
17 yet. What's taking so long? I'm asking you
18 what is taking so long?

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I'm not
20 going to answer your question. Not because I
21 don't want to I think it's not a good keeping
22 to do it.

23 What I would like to say is this.
24 It might seem unrelated but earlier today I
25 was reading in the Newsday that 16 year old

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 young man, young boy was shot in the head in
3 Uniondale on our streets. In the comment
4 section it's filled with statements like well,
5 nobody does anything in Uniondale. None of
6 the residents care. None of the residents let
7 the police know what's going on. None of the
8 residents lift a hand. No wonder why the area
9 is in such dire straits.

10 The truth is you're looking at one
11 of a good number of people who do a lot for
12 Uniondale. Who make sure that graffiti is
13 removed. Who make sure the streets are
14 cleaned. Who put so much of our own time into
15 trying to improve the quality of life in the
16 community. There are people doing so much
17 behind the scenes. And may I add that we
18 don't get one penny for it. I personally am a
19 business owner. My clients are some of the
20 most prestigious companies in the world. If
21 they knew I was doing this they would probably
22 say to me Heidi, why do you do this? You
23 don't have to do.

24 I have friends who own mansions in
25 Old Westbury who don't have to put up with

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 this. It's not right. When you get people
3 that really care about a community and do it
4 without making one penny -- I can be making
5 business deals right now but I choose to be
6 here. It's because we care. But if we don't
7 have your support eventually we just get tired
8 and we shut down and then the neighborhoods
9 deteriorate even more. Then one day you wake
10 up and you wonder how come it's now in my
11 neighborhood? It's because you didn't care
12 when it was right next door.

13 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I have two
14 comments by Legislator Bynoe and Legislator
15 Rhoads and then we are going into the
16 calendar.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
18 Presiding Officer. I just wanted to support
19 the comments and the sentiments of the speaker
20 regarding the jail and the potential for a new
21 provider to come on without possibly having
22 professionals in the room to realign some of
23 the benchmarks that actually dictated the
24 level of care that the inmates received at the
25 jail.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 So I had written a letter to the
3 sheriff regarding that matter and I'm going to
4 follow-up again this week because as usual I
5 have not received a response. But I think as
6 a body we should be concerned about what that
7 contract will look like and who played a role
8 in creating some of the provisions in the
9 contract. So I just wanted to put that on
10 record.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
12 Legislator Bynoe. Legislator Rhoads.

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you so
14 much Presiding Officer. I initially wanted to
15 make a couple of comments when Pat Boyle and
16 our speakers from youth services was here. Is
17 Jamie still here?

18 I have had the opportunity to visit
19 Long Island Crisis Center and I know a bit
20 about the work that you do being myself a
21 youth minister in a local parish. I can tell
22 you some of the issues and the challenges that
23 the kids face today are unfathomable. Things
24 that 30 years ago when dinosaurs roamed the
25 earth and I was a kid I wouldn't have imagined

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 that you would have had to deal with. The
3 work that you do is so incredibly important
4 and so valuable that when the possibility came
5 up that youth services was threatened again
6 this year it was a solution that we simply
7 couldn't accept.

8 By way of background, the budget
9 that Nassau County passed and that the
10 legislature passed this year was a budget that
11 was unbalanced. Nassau Interim Finance
12 Authority elected to disallow \$36 million in
13 revenue that we anticipated collecting as a
14 result of our income and expense law. That
15 blew a \$36 million hole in our budget and
16 unfortunately put youth funding, put crisis
17 intervention services, put volunteer training
18 for all of our volunteer fire fighters at
19 risk.

20 It was a struggle for us to be able
21 to come up with a solution to try and make
22 sure that all of that funding was restored.
23 And that is a combination of \$21 million in
24 cuts to various areas of the county that are
25 going to take place. Including cuts to the

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 budget of the Nassau County Legislature as
3 well as many other executive departments. And
4 also \$15 million in new revenue that is on the
5 calendar today as a result of an increase in
6 the tax map verification fee. Which I know we
7 have a few speakers in opposition.

8 I want you to understand that
9 budgets are about tough choices. We are
10 always, at least on our side of the aisle, we
11 are always going to try and make youth
12 services and training for our volunteer fire
13 fighters a priority. Whether or not this is
14 going to be a bipartisan effort, we certainly
15 hope that it will be, and we will find out
16 when item 600-16 comes up because that's the
17 \$15 million piece really that is the linchpin
18 to our being able to save youth funding and to
19 restore funding for VEEB and training for our
20 volunteer fire fighters.

21 I want to thank you so much for
22 being here, for voicing your concerns and for
23 the important work you do. We are working
24 very hard on our side of the aisle to try and
25 make sure that we continuously make sure we

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 come up with solutions to try to take you out
3 of harm's way and we will continue to do as we
4 move forward. Thank you so much for being
5 here.

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I would
7 like to move on to the legislative calendar
8 for December 14, 2016.

9 The first order of business is an
10 emergency, which is item 614-16, which is an
11 ordinance to include the town and special
12 districts into the tax levy ordinance and to
13 adjust the county tax level. I need a motion
14 to establish the emergency. Moved by
15 legislator --

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam
17 Presiding Officer are we talking about
18 emergency 611-16?

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: 614.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We just got
21 these emergencies. We need time to discuss
22 it. It's your call. But we just got this
23 like minutes ago. I don't know if you had it
24 before that but we need to discuss it.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: We didn't

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 establish the emergency. We will give you the
3 opportunity to take a look at it. But in the
4 mean time we can go on with the consent
5 calendar. How's that? So you can have an
6 opportunity to see what needs to be done to
7 establish this emergency and of course to
8 approve the emergency. I'm going to go with
9 the consent calendar first. There are a
10 number of items and this should move quickly.

11 And we begin with item 6 on the
12 calendar which is 598-16. Item 7, 585. Item
13 8 which is 586. Item 9 which is 587. Item 10
14 which is 588. Item 11 which is 589. Item 12
15 which is 599. Item 13 item 553. Item 14
16 resolution 554. Item 15 resolution 583. Item
17 16 resolution 595. Item 17 resolution 596.
18 Item 18 resolution 597. Item 19 and 20 which
19 are appointments to the Board of Elections
20 which is 274 and 574. Item 20, which is I
21 think I just said -- hold on. Item 21 which
22 is 575. And hopefully Frank you got 19 and 20
23 which were appointments 274 and 574.

24 Going to the next is item 22 which
25 is budget transfer 529. Item 23, budget

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 transfer 590. Item 24 budget transfer 591.
3 Item 25 budget transfer 592. Item 26 budget
4 transfer 593. Item 27 budget transfer 594.
5 Item 28, which is property tax exemption for
6 Oyster Bay, 556. Item 29 557. Another
7 property exemption for North Hempstead. Item
8 30 which is 558 restoration of property tax
9 for tax rolls for North Hempstead. Item 31
10 559, property tax exemption for North
11 Hempstead. Item 32 560, property tax
12 exemption again for North Hempstead. Item 33
13 561, property exemption for Town of
14 Hempstead. Item 34 562, property tax
15 exemption for Town of Oyster Bay. Item 35
16 563, property tax exemption for Town of Oyster
17 Bay. Item 36 564 annual assessment roll for
18 2017. Item 37 565 annual assessment roll for
19 2017. Item 38 566, annual assessment roll for
20 2017. Item 39 567. Another annual assessment
21 roll for 2017. And item 40, which is 568,
22 annual assessment roll for 2017. Item 41 569,
23 assessment roll for 2017. Item 42 570 annual
24 assessment roll for 2017. Item 43 571 annual
25 assessment roll for 2017. Item 44 572, annual

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 assessment roll for 2017. Item 45 annual
3 assessment roll for 2017. Items 46 576,
4 correct erroneous assessments for Town of
5 Hempstead. Item 47 577, property tax
6 exemption for the Town of North Hempstead.
7 Item 48 578, correct erroneous assessments for
8 the Town of Oyster Bay. Item 49 579, property
9 tax exemption for the Town of Oyster Bay.
10 Item 50 580, correct erroneous assessments to
11 the city of Long Beach. Item 51 581, tax
12 warrants time and date of issuance of tax
13 warrants of the town and city receivers. Item
14 52 603, correct erroneous assessments for the
15 Town of Hempstead. And item 53 604, property
16 tax exemption Town of Hempstead.

17 Just for the record, these items
18 went through committees and they were voted
19 upon unanimously. That's why they are part of
20 the consent calendar.

21 A motion to accept the items that
22 were called. Moved by Legislator Dunne.
23 Seconded by Legislator Walker. All those in
24 favor signify by saying aye. Any opposed?
25 Those items pass unanimously. Now we move

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 on.

3 We have something that needs to be
4 taken care of and it's not an item on the
5 calendar but however it's a procedural
6 resolution and that's the adoption of the 2017
7 calendar. Everyone has seen a copy of that.
8 I believe it was submitted to the clerk's
9 office. I think any other entity that needs
10 to have the calendar for 2017. If there are
11 no concerns or objections to the calendar I
12 would like a motion to accept the calendar for
13 2017. Moved by Legislator Gaylor. Seconded
14 by Legislator Schaefer. Any concerns or
15 objections to that calendar? There being
16 none, all those in favor of the 2017 calendar
17 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? The
18 calendar for 2017 has been adopted
19 unanimously. Thank you very much.

20 Now we go on to -- the first five
21 items are going to take us a while but that's
22 okay. We have the first item and there are a
23 number of speakers here on this item. So,
24 it's a hearing on a local law. I believe
25 Mr. Pulitzer would you like to call the

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 hearing for item one?

3 MR. PULITZER: Item number one on
4 the calendar is a hearing on a proposed local
5 law, clerk item 600-16, a local law to amend
6 the Nassau County administrative code in
7 relation to the verification of section, block
8 and lot information in instruments presented
9 for recording.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Motion to
11 open the hearing. Moved by Legislator
12 Gaylor. Second by Legislator Dunne. All
13 those in favor of opening the hearing signify
14 by saying aye. Any opposed? The hearing is
15 now open.

16 Now we need if there's anyone who
17 would like to speak on this item from the
18 administration please feel free to do this.
19 Then I have a number of speakers from the
20 communities who would like to speak but before
21 that I would ask the legislators to also weigh
22 in. Who is here to speak on the item that's
23 before us? The verification map.

24 MR. PODLESAS: For the record
25 Gerald Podlesak. This is the increase to the

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 section, block and lot. That's all we have to
3 say on the subject.

4 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any
5 comments from the legislators? Deputy
6 Presiding Officer Nicolello.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Do you
8 have a representation to make with respect to
9 the enforcement of this item?

10 MR. PODLESACK: Yes, we do. The
11 item is going to take some time in order to
12 become into actually being charged. It's got
13 to be teed up. It's going to take a few weeks
14 to do so. So even though it is effective now
15 it will only come into play on January 1 of
16 2017.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: For a
18 transaction between now and the end of the
19 year this additional fee will not be charged?

20 MR. PODLESACK: That is correct
21 sir.

22 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: If I
23 might just to clarify. I would assume that
24 that would mean that any closing that takes
25 place in the year 2016 would not be charged

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 the additional fee, but closings that took
3 place as of January 1, 2017 would?

4 MR. PODLESACK: Not to put too
5 fine of a point on it but the filing has to be
6 completed in 2016.

7 MR. MUSCARELLA: That bothers me
8 because the county clerk's office may not be
9 able to file the deeds that are now closed.
10 Even those that closed last week. The county
11 clerk's office may not be able to put those
12 deeds on record before January 1 of 2017.
13 Those closings took place. Those buyers were
14 charged certain fees. The title companies
15 then take those deeds, forward them to the
16 county clerk's office and if the county clerk
17 sits with those deeds for a week, two weeks, a
18 month or two months that shouldn't determine
19 whether or not the fee is charged.

20 What should determine whether the
21 fee is charged for this bill to operate
22 properly would be any closing that takes place
23 this year, in 2016, if the representation is
24 that in 2016 those closings will not be
25 charged the fees, regardless of when they're

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 filed. And in 2017, the closings that take
3 place as of January 1, 2017, that would then
4 make it easier to determine at a point certain
5 when the effective ordinance will be put into
6 effect by the county. You will have a sum
7 certain for those that closed this year they
8 will not be charged the fees. For any closing
9 that takes place January 1 going forward will
10 have those fees. So that you don't have a
11 situation where closings took place and monies
12 have been collected and now additional monies
13 are being charged to buyers and/or title
14 companies that closed those deals in good
15 faith maybe even before today.

16 MR. PODLESAK: It's an issue of
17 delivery. If the paperwork and the fees have
18 been delivered to the county clerk prior to
19 January 1 that's fine. It's whether or not
20 the clerk takes some time in order to
21 officially file it there's not going to be
22 anybody looking for additional money.

23 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: I would
24 say to you that doesn't really work. For
25 those of us who are in the industry, for those

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 of us who practice this kind of law on a
3 day-to-day basis, title companies close
4 files. They take them back to their offices.
5 They spend a day or two reviewing making sure
6 that the paperwork is proper and delivering
7 them to the county clerk. For those deals
8 that close as of December 30th or whatever it
9 is and they don't get to the county clerk's
10 office until January 2nd, to say that they
11 have to then pay the fee because it was
12 delivered at a different time.

13 Look, I will make it very easy for
14 you. You also have federal law called the
15 TRIG Law where you have closings that have
16 been set for next week where all parties have
17 to certify as of let's say today as to what
18 the closing costs are. You cannot have those
19 things that have already been set next week,
20 then go to a closing and have a title company
21 say we need the additional funds. Because
22 those closings will have to be adjourned. You
23 will have clients who will lose mortgage
24 commitments and the like.

25 The simplest thing, and I'm giving

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 you the answer, we are closing it with an
3 effective date as of today but do not
4 implement this law until any deal closes as of
5 January 1st of next year.

6 I apologize for speaking while you
7 were discussing it. It's simple. There are
8 federal laws involved also. A TRIG law.

9 MR. MEHRAN: Deputy county
10 attorney Robert Mehran.

11 My understanding is that January of
12 this year the laws changed taking effect in
13 closings that require not only the brokers to
14 put their license numbers on the closing
15 documents, but additionally for cost certainty
16 ideally a week out before the closing so those
17 numbers are then set.

18 At the closing date the checks that
19 are distributed or disbursed are done so
20 already knowing what the fees are. So in that
21 regard, in order to file, and I don't think
22 from a procedural standpoint the letter will
23 be purchased beforehand, it will be purchased
24 after the closing prior to recording it in the
25 clerk's office. But regardless it's cost

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 certain at that point to the respective
3 homeowner. There is not going to be an
4 additional fee levied upon them because
5 they've closed within the statutory time frame
6 and the fee is sum certain as all the fees are
7 sum certain for the closing. So there's not
8 going to be a bill sent out to the homeowner
9 for extra \$150 for the tax verification.

10 MS. D'ALLEVA: Roseanne D'Alleva
11 from the Budget Office. We wouldn't
12 anticipate that any time the document or the
13 requirements for any type of real estate
14 transaction is initiated, if at that point
15 that's what the fee is that is what the fee
16 will be. We will not either be going into a
17 refund status for anyone or on the other side
18 charge the individual an additional fee.

19 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: I still
20 don't understand what you're telling me. I am
21 making it very easy for you. If you say to
22 the title insurance industry, if you say to
23 the attorneys who practice real estate that
24 any deal that closes in the year 2016 will not
25 be charged the additional fee and any deal

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 that closes in the year 2017 will be charged
3 the fee you will make it very easy for this
4 law to be implemented. You will be able to
5 say that a deal when they do a TRIG if the
6 closing is anticipated to be in 2016 you don't
7 have to charge it. And at the closing you
8 don't have to ask for the money. And any deal
9 that closes January 2 you will have to charge
10 it and it will be included in the TRIG it
11 gives you a date certain as to when that will
12 be charged or not charged.

13 MR. PODLESACK: We will do it this
14 way.

15 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Would I
16 be correct in saying that although the law
17 says it takes effect immediately it will not
18 be implemented for any closing that takes
19 place in the year 2016?

20 MR. PODLESACK: That's correct.
21 As I attempted to say, there is a run up
22 period. That's why it has to take effect
23 immediately so that the actual implementation
24 can take effect later. But it will not be for
25 anything that closes in 2016.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any other
3 comments from the legislators? Yes, Minority
4 Leader.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Question
6 for the Budget Office. I assume Mr. Naughton
7 is here as well. This is probably more of a
8 question for the Budget Office.

9 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES:
10 Mr. Naughton I believe you are going to be
11 paged.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are you
13 Mr. Naughton? My question is probably tied
14 into the financing of it. The presentation of
15 it, based off of that raised by Legislator
16 Muscarella as well as Legislator Nicoletto,
17 this is a \$225 fee for tax map verification
18 and we're raising it to 355; am I correct.

19 MR. NAUGHTON: That is correct.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And that
21 fee is to generate \$16 million which is
22 necessary based off of what NIFA has
23 outlined.

24 MR. NAUGHTON: The \$16 million
25 estimate was from Budget Review. We have put

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 in 15.3 million into the plan.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So I guess
4 my greater question that ties into this is
5 obviously has the county looked to anything
6 else in order to stave off this \$36 million
7 cut and not to raise this fee on Nassau County
8 families?

9 MR. NAUGHTON: As you are aware
10 Minority Leader we submitted a list of \$36
11 million options. One of those options was to
12 not have to use pay-go funds for tax cert
13 payments. NIFA rejected that idea, which
14 created essentially a \$15 million problem.
15 And this revenue item was the only way that we
16 found to offset NIFA's directive.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Has the
18 Office of Management and Budget taken a look
19 at the possibility of cutting outside
20 counsel? I believe one of my colleagues,
21 Legislator Curran, also proposed the idea with
22 Legislator Bynoe the idea of cutting OTPS.
23 What about those ideas?

24 MR. NAUGHTON: As you are aware,
25 the plan includes cutting OTPS. There are

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 numerous cuts not only to the legislature but
3 throughout county departments that we went
4 through. The budget director, her team went
5 through this budget with a scalpel not a
6 hatchet, and they carefully looked at what the
7 impact would be on operations. Tried to
8 minimize that impact as much as possible. We
9 feel that we have gone as far as we can.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And in
11 regard to outside counsel?

12 MR. NAUGHTON: Outside counsel
13 was also looked at but I think we feel that
14 the cost and the success requires us to keep
15 outside counsel. We did make a minor cut I
16 believe to county attorney. Couple of
17 \$100,000. But to do any more would severely
18 impacted the operation.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said
20 the success what do you mean by that? The
21 success of outside counsel?

22 MR. NAUGHTON: Meaning that the
23 operation of the county attorney's office
24 requires a blend of outside counsel and
25 in-house counsel and the county attorney feels

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 that that blend works best.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Financially
4 the in-house versus the outside counsel what's
5 the makeup of what we spend in-house versus
6 what we spend on outside counsel?

7 MS. D'ALLEVA: Just to give a
8 little history. I would say back in 2008 or
9 even earlier we had a much higher head count
10 in the county attorney's office in terms of
11 attorneys versus spending on the OTPS DE
12 line. And you can see we easily spent close
13 to \$13 million in that department in terms of
14 salary and fringes compared to an OTPS budget
15 in terms of DE contractual services. So the
16 balance I think that Eric Naughton is speaking
17 to is that it's actually more conducive and
18 less expensive to have a balance of county
19 attorneys and a DE budget.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You believe
21 it's less expensive?

22 MS. D'ALLEVA: I know it's less
23 expensive. I've done the analysis.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Have you
25 provided it to us? Have we seen it?

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 MR. NAUGHTON: I believe you've
3 asked for it several times. I believe we have
4 shared it with you every time.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm
6 speaking to our finance and we just don't
7 believe. At one point, at some point it was a
8 wash we will agree but it seems like for
9 fiscal year 2016 it's an encumbrance of \$8
10 million. It's just can't be a wash anymore.
11 This body, the members of the Rules Committee,
12 we see hundreds of thousands of contracts that
13 come through. We hear in executive session, I
14 don't get the impression that anything is more
15 successful going to outside counsel than it
16 was when it was done by in-house counsel.

17 To be honest, for the settlements
18 that this legislative body approves I couldn't
19 see why we wouldn't give it to in-house
20 counsel because we're paying hundreds of
21 thousands of dollars for the Rivkin Radlers
22 and the Wilson Elzers of the world to get this
23 outside counsel and I do not see their
24 expertise minimizing these settlement costs.
25 I just don't see it. And we have requested an

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 analysis time and time again to show us what
3 we're spending in the settlement costs because
4 we are getting this great expertise from these
5 law firms and we still have not seen it. I
6 believe that there is no savings by using
7 outside counsel in terms of their expertise to
8 minimize these settlement costs. These
9 settlement costs are still the same amount as
10 they were seven, eight, ten, 20 years ago. We
11 are not getting the benefit of it by using
12 outside counsel. Someone would have to refute
13 that to me by showing me the analysis that
14 exists.

15 My finance person is also telling
16 me we requested that during the budget season
17 and we still have not seen it from the county
18 attorney. The bottom line is very simple, why
19 continue to pay for outside counsel? I
20 understand Roseanne that you believe it's a
21 wash. But why continue to pay for outside
22 counsel and we're having bus subsidies and
23 route cuts being susceptible to cuts, aid to
24 villages susceptible to cuts, a laundry list
25 of things that total \$20 million susceptible

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 to cuts, and at the same time we have a proven
3 model of in-house counsel when it works and
4 it's efficient can save this county money.

5 Instead we continue to hemorrhage
6 money from outside counsel. Prove me wrong.
7 I would love to see what we pay out in
8 settlements over the last 15 years because I
9 do not get the sense that this arrangement is
10 saving the county any money. Can someone
11 provide that to me? Eric? Jerry? Can
12 someone provide that to this legislature?
13 Because to me we are demonizing or hurting
14 bus, NICE Bus and other services in this
15 county until we get that. We have millions of
16 dollars being spent on outside counsel. Why
17 don't we look to cut that first before we look
18 to raise revenue to the tune of 225 to 355?

19 MR. NAUGHTON: Minority Leader we
20 will definitely share our analysis with you.
21 But even by your own argument if you cut
22 outside counsel you would hire more counsel.
23 So I don't see how you would save any money.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We would
25 save tremendous amount of money because we are

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 paying outside counsel hundreds -- look, I'm
3 on the committee. I've seen the dollar
4 amounts. We are paying outside counsel
5 hundreds, hundreds of dollars per hour and
6 hundreds of thousands of dollars per
7 contract. To me it's insane that we can bring
8 in somebody that probably can provide that
9 same level of service and can cover many, many
10 different levels of outside counsel at a
11 fraction of the cost. We just have to be able
12 to find and utilize those persons. You're
13 looking at one right there. I have great
14 respect for Jerry and we need to hire more
15 people like him. Not pay Rivkin Radler and
16 Wilson Elser of the world hundreds of
17 thousands of dollars if not millions in
18 outside counsel fees every single year.
19 That's how we get it done.

20 MR. NAUGHTON: Clearly I respect
21 your opinion but we disagree on this issue and
22 we will share our analysis with you.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I do have a
24 question in regards to the county clerk.
25 Obviously this is a very significant and high

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 raising fee going from 225 to 355 for the tax
3 map verification. Has anyone done an analysis
4 to determine that the county clerk's costs
5 have gone up by the same amount? This fee, if
6 memory serves me correctly, this fee has been
7 raised quite a bit in the last couple of
8 years. I just want to understand, before we
9 decide to raise a fee has anyone taken a look
10 at to see whether or not the cost of the
11 county clerk warrants an increase of this fee
12 to this magnitude?

13 MR. NAUGHTON: Just to correct
14 you, this fee is associated with the
15 assessment department not the county clerk.
16 The bottom line is if this legislature wants
17 us to fund VEEB, wants us to fund the youth
18 board, you need revenue to come up with that.
19 If you have an alternative revenue source we
20 are happy to hear it.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We don't
22 have an alternative revenue source but we have
23 an alternative expenditure reduction which
24 this administration hasn't even looked at.

25 MR. NAUGHTON: Legislator we

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 looked at your plan and I think you are well
3 aware that NIFA does not endorse your plan.
4 Therefore we cannot implement your plan.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:
6 Mr. Naughton I have never heard NIFA not
7 endorse us the need to reduce outside
8 counsel. I've never not once heard them say
9 that.

10 MR. NAUGHTON: If we could reduce
11 outside counsel trust me we would.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said
13 that NIFA rejected out plan. What part of our
14 plan did they reject?

15 MR. NAUGHTON: The part of the
16 plan that suggested that we use the tax cert
17 money to help offset the bus cut.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm talking
19 about outside counsel now. What part of the
20 outside counsel part of our plan did they
21 reject? We proposed a \$5 million cut to
22 outside counsel for numerous years now. I
23 have never seen a rejection on behalf of NIFA.

24 MR. NAUGHTON: I think NIFA
25 understands the amount of cases that come

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 before the county and they realize that we
3 cannot operate with that type of cut.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't
5 want to belabor this anymore. The bottom line
6 is we are not saying you cut and then you do
7 not hire. We believe you cut and you hire
8 in-house. I don't think anyone would dispute
9 the fact that hiring someone in-house at a
10 range of whether it's 75 to \$150,000 per year
11 and their expertise is a hell of a lot cheaper
12 than hiring outside counsel at millions of
13 dollars a month.

14 And to be honest, I don't even see
15 the success rate. Because I'm sitting in
16 these executive sessions and I'm hearing
17 hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars
18 hemorrhaging out of the county all being done
19 and conducted by outside counsel. Not one of
20 these cases have I heard in executive session
21 where we are settling these matters was
22 handled by in-house. Not one. I have been
23 here for 14 years. Not one. To me, why not
24 give them an opportunity because the success
25 rate as far as I'm concerned is awful from

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 outside counsel. I don't understand for the
3 life of me why we wouldn't change up and allow
4 in-house counsel to beef them up and give them
5 a greater opportunity to be successful. I
6 just don't get it.

7 MR. NAUGHTON: To beef them up we
8 would not save money and we will share the
9 analysis with you.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Deputy
11 Presiding Officer Nicolello.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I want to
13 respond to some of that rhetoric. Off the bat
14 there have been many, many cases that I have
15 been here for that were settled by the county
16 in which in-house attorneys were used. You
17 didn't come to Finance executive sessions so
18 you obviously don't know.

19 Secondly, savings. They're talking
20 about savings and how it's going to fill up
21 this \$15 million hole, pay for the buses.
22 Anyone in their wildest imagination does not
23 believe that you can save that money by
24 bringing people in-house. If you do an
25 analysis of settlements I just ask that you

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 compare apples to apples and oranges to
3 oranges. In cases that were settled in
4 previous years should be compared to cases
5 that are similar to today for that part of the
6 analysis.

7 With respect to some cases, you do
8 need outside counsel. No question about it.
9 Any of us who had resources would hire outside
10 counsel for many of these cases.
11 Environmental is just one. Civil rights.
12 Many other cases in which you need the
13 expertise of outside counsel. You have
14 instances like the Innocence Project, which
15 will sue municipalities, which will bring all
16 the resources in the world, multiple
17 attorneys, multiple experts and you're going
18 to throw some deputy county attorney against
19 them you are going to lose and lose big.

20 My last point is this. Before
21 County Executive Mangano, County Executive
22 Suozzi was in control of the county. The
23 county attorneys's office was filled with
24 patronage employees to fuel his run for
25 governor. These employees from New York, from

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Westchester et cetera the cost to the county
3 in salary and benefits was tremendous. We are
4 saving money every year by doing it with the
5 mix that we were talking about. In fact, I
6 believe we are saving up to a million dollars
7 a year. So the savings are there. The mix is
8 the appropriate way to do this. There's no
9 question what they're suggesting just doesn't
10 work. It doesn't fill the hole. It's a straw
11 man. When they make these arguments it's a
12 lot of rhetoric. It's a lot of hot air.
13 There's nothing to support it.

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
15 Rhoads.

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you
17 very much. I can speak to this based on
18 personal experience. I started out my career
19 in the county attorney's office. I became
20 deputy bureau chief of the Bureau of Torts and
21 Civil Rights litigation. We would handle all
22 of the cases against the police department,
23 against the District Attorney's Office for
24 false arrest, malicious prosecution. Cases
25 with respect to the jail involving accidents

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 that take place in the jail. 1983
3 litigation.

4 These are not the types of cases
5 where you can take an attorney that has a case
6 load of 75 or 100 cases and ask them to handle
7 complex civil rights litigation. It simply
8 cannot be done. These cases are incredibly
9 labor intensive. These case require hundreds
10 and perhaps in certain cases perhaps thousands
11 of hours worth of work and you simply cannot
12 do that with in-house staff. The only way to
13 accomplish that would be to hire dozens of
14 additional county attorneys. I would suggest
15 to you that the expense of doing that with
16 salaries and pension and benefits costs would
17 far exceed what we are paying in terms of
18 outside counsel.

19 Not that the deputy county
20 attorneys cannot handle the work, but deputy
21 county attorneys would need to be expanded but
22 such an exponential number in order to handle
23 those very complex cases that it just simply
24 wouldn't make financial sense to do.

25 We're happy. We would love to see

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 whatever numbers can be produced. But based
3 upon only my personal experience of having
4 worked in that office for almost five years I
5 absolutely know that you need to have the mix
6 between in-house counsel and outside counsel
7 to handle those types of cases.

8 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I know
9 it's you. Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
11 Thank you very much. Can I ask you a
12 question? Has the cost of verifying the tax
13 maps increased at all in the last year?

14 MR. NAUGHTON: As our
15 personnel -- each year the employees get
16 raises, so our cost does increase.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The
18 average is around three percent?

19 MR. NAUGHTON: Legislator I'm
20 going to clearly state to you this item will
21 raise \$15 million. It is helping to protect
22 the youth board and VEEB and not have to do
23 other cuts.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
25 appreciate that. I also looked at the line

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 for salaries like, if you look at what we're
3 still paying for salaries including the county
4 attorney's office it's higher than it was a
5 couple of years ago. Obviously. Now we're
6 having outside counsel being so much higher.
7 Both lines are going up. The savings in
8 salaries -- I understand raises and all but we
9 are not seeing this incredible savings with
10 not having the in-house counsel as much.

11 I agree with Legislator Rhoads that
12 there are conditions where we absolutely need
13 specialists for confidential reasons and all
14 that, absolutely. But there are a number of
15 items that we are seeing here that I think
16 used to be handled in-house and probably still
17 could be honestly.

18 The whole institutional knowledge,
19 as you know, I mean, I worked at State Farm.
20 You get familiar with the types of cases and
21 if you're handling the same cases over and
22 over again you really do get to know a lot
23 about them. So, to have some of those cases
24 being sent out as well is that is where we
25 have the question.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 I just want to say one more thing
3 that we're talking about \$15 million. One
4 contract was \$17 million. This is really
5 where the waste is. We need help in stopping
6 the waste. I think until we do that we can't
7 say we're doing everything possible.

8 MR. NAUGHTON: Legislator, my
9 basic comment is, you sat here, you took
10 compliments that you restored funding for the
11 youth board but now you don't want to vote for
12 the revenue. I don't understand that.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Did
14 you say 15 percent for the average salary
15 increase?

16 MR. NAUGHTON: No, I did not.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: What
18 would you say would be the average salary
19 increase?

20 MS. D'ALLEVA: Between steps and
21 COLA it's about five percent.

22 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Five
23 percent a year. And would you say the people
24 that verify the tax maps their salaries
25 increase approximately that much?

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 MR. NAUGHTON: Again, we are
3 looking for a method to the items that you say
4 are important to you. You have your choice.
5 But attorney Podlesak would like to make a few
6 comments.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: That
8 almost sounds like a tax increase more than a
9 fee increase because fee increases are
10 supposed to cover the expense of the fee.

11 MR. NAUGHTON: It sounds like we
12 are funding the youth board and funding VEEB
13 and we're not making the cuts.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
15 understand. But that's a tax increase. A fee
16 increase would cover the expense that is
17 attributed to that fee.

18 MR. NAUGHTON: Are you suggesting
19 that you want to vote for a tax increase?

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: What
21 would the tax increase be?

22 MR. NAUGHTON: If you want to
23 propose that go for it.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: What
25 we are doing right now is no different than a

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 tax increase. This is a tax increase.

3 MR. NAUGHTON: Feel free to
4 substitute the item for a tax increase. It's
5 your prerogative.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: This
7 is a tax increase. That's what this is.
8 There's no difference.

9 MR. NAUGHTON: Again, are you
10 voting to spend the money come up with a way
11 to fund it.

12 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I'm going
13 to ask Legislator Drucker.

14 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Just a
15 comment. As a real estate attorney who does a
16 high volume of this I personally was over in
17 the Nassau County Clerk's Office last week to
18 file a deed, which by the way, there's nothing
19 wrong with trying to find ways to increase
20 revenue by raising fees but there has to be
21 some rational explanation. For it to go up
22 400 percent in two years is ridiculous.

23 As an attorney in Queens when I
24 tell people what it costs to record a deed in
25 Nassau County they laugh. They're in shock.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 And this whole tax map verification
3 thing, which I'm familiar with, I personally
4 brought one over last week. I asked the clerk
5 when is it going up? She said January 2 it's
6 going up. Get it in today.

7 The tax map verification, so you go
8 into the clerk's office with your deed. She
9 says go up to the fourth floor, verify your
10 tax map. You go up to the fourth floor, you
11 go to the window, she looks at your deed,
12 looks at the tax map, compares it on her
13 computer thing, gives it back to you with a
14 little letter. You got to write a check for
15 \$225. Next month it will be \$350. Then you
16 back downstairs and you write another check
17 for 200 and some odd dollars the record it.
18 So the whole thing costs about \$800 or will
19 cost \$800 to record a deed. In New York City
20 it costs \$177.

21 To go upstairs and get your tax map
22 verified it's going to cost \$350 for something
23 that a clerk behind a window looks in a
24 computer screen and in five seconds gives you
25 a letter to walk downstairs. It's

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 ridiculous.

3 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
4 Solages.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
6 very much Presiding Officer. I would like to
7 commend our rookie, our new person on the
8 board, with such a great comment. I also am a
9 practicing attorney. Many closings or may
10 real estate transactions that people look to
11 do in my district, the Elmont, Valley Stream
12 district which borders New York City, will be
13 greatly affected I believe by this.

14 Has there been any financial impact
15 study as to the possible consequences of these
16 actions? Of raising the tax map verification
17 fee?

18 MR. NAUGHTON: I believe you have
19 an impact statement from the Office of
20 Legislative Budget Review and if you read the
21 section that says economic impact I believe
22 that they wrote they don't see any impact.
23 That's your office.

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood.
25 As a practicing attorney I have seen people

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 who come to my office looking to transfer
3 deeds and they will not do so anymore because
4 of the high cost. Besides that study, is
5 there any other study that was done by the
6 administration?

7 MR. NAUGHTON: We felt the same
8 that Budget Review felt.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Minority
11 Leader.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
13 Madam Presiding Officer. In response to some
14 comments on the floor -- I see there's some
15 folks from the public and I want to hear their
16 comments. But after this meeting today there
17 will be a Rules Committee meeting. But there
18 will a Rules Committee meeting and at that
19 Rules Committee meeting we are going to be
20 discussing the topic of outside counsel
21 again. This is not just the Democrats in the
22 legislature coming up with some pie in the
23 sky.

24 If I go through each and every one
25 of these contracts, E 276-16 a contract for

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Lockwood Kessler and Bartlett \$862,000. I
3 didn't interrupt you Rich. It's for DPW.
4 Okay.

5 County attorney, Rivkin Radler,
6 \$875,000. Are they a law firm? \$875,000 that
7 goes to Rivkin Radler. Bee Ready item 271.
8 Are they a law firm? That's 271-16. Same
9 thing. The list goes on and on. This is just
10 today in a special meeting for Rules because
11 we don't have a Rules Committee meeting
12 normally on today. This is the common
13 occurrence.

14 We want to be able to restore all
15 of the cuts to bus, obviously to youth, but
16 how in good conscience can anyone on this
17 legislative body continue to support contracts
18 to the tune of \$875,000. Which, by the way,
19 is a contract that is of the law firm of the
20 county executive. Former law firm from the
21 county executive. How in this day and age can
22 anyone support that? To me it's
23 unconscionable.

24 From that standpoint it's hard for
25 us to take what the youth are saying,

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 congratulating this legislative body for
3 getting things done. Well, I say it is
4 shameful that this administration hasn't even
5 looked properly to cut these contracts to the
6 tune of what we need, what is necessary to
7 make sure that we're whole. Haven't done it.

8 There's another one counsel just
9 provided for me. E-188-16 another Rivkin
10 Radler contract for \$101,000. This happens
11 every single day. When I go back there I
12 don't hear a success rate coming from these
13 outside counsel. Not one. Every single one
14 is hemorrhaging money out of the county. All
15 of them tell you this is the best settlement
16 we can get. And it happens to cost millions
17 of dollars on behalf of Nassau County
18 taxpayers. Every single one. But we are
19 thinking, at least on this side, that we have
20 done everything that we could to stave of
21 these cuts.

22 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
23 Curran.

24 Would you like to respond sir?

25 MR. PODLESAS: I have been a

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 deputy county attorney for 29 years. I have
3 been in the office where it has had a very
4 large staff which was doing a lot of work
5 in-house. It is better this way. It is my
6 experience over that time that a blend of
7 in-house counsel supplemented by outside
8 counsel works best. It's pretty much a matter
9 of a business model. The county attorney's
10 office is like any in-house counsel in any
11 corporation. Stuff comes in the door that has
12 to be handled and it is handled.

13 But when something comes along that
14 requires expertise it goes to a law firm. A
15 law firm's business model is different. They
16 wait for business to come through the door and
17 then they bring their forces to bear on it.
18 That is something that if you were to try to
19 do it, and it has been tried, it didn't work,
20 you have to have a large number of attorneys
21 to do it who are capable of only doing that
22 work. Believe me, it's a matter of
23 experience. I have seen it. The current
24 situation is the best method. I do not
25 believe that there is a waste of money here.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Is the
3 county attorney satisfied with the outcomes
4 that we hear in regards to settlements in the
5 matter of cases in this county?

6 MR. PODLESACK: If the county
7 attorney is not satisfied with a settlement
8 the county attorney will through it back to an
9 outside firm or to an in-house attorney.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How often
11 does that happen?

12 MR. PODLESACK: I can't give you a
13 number. My experience is it does happen.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Does it
15 happen more than the outcome we see in
16 executive session where it appears that you
17 are satisfied?

18 MR. PODLESACK: I would say that
19 most of the time when the matter is vetted and
20 the county attorney is satisfied you will get
21 the settlement if it's over \$100,000.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Jerry, I
23 respect you. I respect what you have done for
24 the last 29 years. But that being said, I
25 respectfully disagree. I have to tell you

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 from our standpoint we think the mix and the
3 model of providing more in-house counsel makes
4 better sense.

5 Look, the bottom line is this.
6 Administration made the decision to change
7 that course in 2009, 2010. I got to tell you
8 I'm looking at these settlements. We all
9 are. I have to say I'm shaking my head in
10 these executive sessions because I can't
11 believe that in-house counsel can't do better
12 at a lesser cost or just do the same. What
13 I'm hearing is awful. I can't imagine the
14 amount of money we are hemorrhaging out in
15 bonding for these cases. To me, we're not
16 getting a good bang for the buck. We just
17 aren't.

18 I'm still waiting for the analysis
19 to show me what we have spent case by case,
20 not just for outside counsel but what we have
21 spent in the settlement. Do we even look to
22 see their performance to get an idea of
23 whether or not based on their performance
24 would it make better sense to bring these
25 cases, at least a portion of them, to in-house

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 counsel to determine whether or not these
3 settlements or they're just mailing it in and
4 we're not getting the results we're hoping
5 for. We're going to hit the taxpayers up with
6 countless and millions of dollars in
7 settlement costs that gets bonded for that our
8 children will have to pay for.

9 MR. PODLESACK: Every settlement
10 that comes in is vetted. It is examined. Not
11 only that, the bills that come in from outside
12 counsel are examined too and they are edited
13 and reduced if they feel the sums that were
14 billed were incorrect. That they should not
15 have billed for certain items. Yes,
16 everything is looked at.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAM: I'll wrap
18 up. I don't want to get too much into the
19 weeds. Obviously we started out by talking
20 about the tax map verification fee which is
21 taking it from 225 to 355. But let the record
22 reflect very clearly and very resounding, this
23 side does not believe that we have done
24 everything we could to cut before we look to
25 raise a fee which has been raised in recent

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 years, now raising it again from 225 to 355.
3 We support the youth as well as VEEB as well
4 as all of those that are being cut. We would
5 like to see the village associations as well
6 as NICE Bus be restored.

7 But at the same time we have to
8 think about fairness and think about people
9 that are looking to buy homes and the fact
10 that cost is an enormous cost which is going
11 to be passed on to them as well.

12 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: With all
13 due respect, I'm going to say I have several
14 people who have been waiting for here to a
15 long time. I'm only going to call one more
16 legislator. Then after the people have a
17 chance to speak then anybody else who wants to
18 contribute -- I know you want to say something
19 again Legislator Drucker but I believe
20 Legislator Curran hasn't spoken. So please
21 speak on this and then we will go to the
22 people who are here to speak.

23 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I have a
24 question why is this being done out of the
25 assessment office and not the clerk's office

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 since the clerk normally does this kind of
3 fee?

4 MR. NAUGHTON: No, Legislator,
5 the tax map verification fee is done through
6 the assessment office. It always has been.

7 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I thought it
8 was the clerk last time. The original law had
9 the clerk doing it?

10 MR. NAUGHTON: I think going back
11 to 2013. As far as I know it's always been
12 the assessment office.

13 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: All right.
14 News to me. Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Do you know
16 how it is in Suffolk?

17 MR. PODLESACK: It's done the same
18 way. There's a separate tax map verification
19 charge in addition to the filing fee.

20 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: And through
21 the assessment office?

22 MR. PODLESACK: Through the
23 assessment office, yes.

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
25 very much. Now for the public please.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 MR. NAUGHTON: I'm sorry. Just
3 to correct Jerry, Suffolk County does not have
4 an assessment office.

5 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Let's go.
6 Are we ready? I have several speakers here,
7 so I don't know who's first but I'm going to
8 take them in the order I received them.
9 Charles Barredo.

10 MR. BARREDO: I'm Charles Barredo,
11 a Wantagh resident. I want to thank the
12 legislature for providing the opportunity.

13 I'm also in the title business.
14 Just to validate what we have been talking
15 about in terms of the increase in cost. In
16 2017, if this fee goes through, typical
17 purchaser who is going to take out a mortgage
18 and record a deed is going to have almost
19 \$1,500 in recording fees. That includes
20 mortgage recording, deed recording and this
21 tax map verification. So, it becomes more and
22 more a significant amount of a transaction and
23 it's the third increase. In 2014 it was only
24 about \$800 to do that. It's already doubled.
25 It's significant. Kevin Moran from Long

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Island Village, when he gets the opportunity,
3 is going to read from a Long Island Builders
4 document.

5 And I want to say for my record I
6 respectfully request that the proposed
7 increase to this tax map verification fee be
8 rejected. Thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
10 very much Charles. Jack McCloy.

11 MR. McCLOY: Presiding officer
12 members of the legislature, thank you for
13 allowing me to address you today.

14 For those of you who haven't seen
15 it yet today's Newsday cover story is Nassau
16 Property Taxes, Record Year for Challenges,
17 which is really the basis of a lot of
18 resources going in that direction and the
19 reason that you're looking at having to cut
20 back in certain areas.

21 I dropped something off to each of
22 you that I hope you have that identifies a
23 suggestion that I made years ago to the
24 legislature. And for the edification of the
25 new members here who haven't been part of the

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 legislature at that time I wanted to revisit
3 this again. Which is basically changing the
4 way we assess property in Nassau County from a
5 subjective system, which repeats the series of
6 challenges over and over netting the \$327
7 million that's referenced in the Newsday
8 article as backlog, to a situation where we
9 deal with this once and we put it to bed and
10 anybody that doesn't agree with the challenge
11 has an opportunity to voice it once and then
12 it will be fixed.

13 The specifics are mentioned in the
14 document that I proposed for you and it
15 basically boils down to two different
16 situations, residential versus commercial.

17 I want to thank my legislator,
18 Laura Curran, having a few minutes of time
19 with me for me to discuss this previously
20 because I think it's really an important item
21 that should be a topic of concern for both
22 sides of the aisle.

23 If we could address legislative
24 changes that would allow for a study to look
25 at the specifics of what I'm suggesting it

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 could get the situation changed from this
3 repetitive subjective system that has to be
4 visited over and over and is the root cause of
5 what Kevan Abrahams is mentioning that the
6 results in these expensive challenges to a
7 situation where we deal with them, we put them
8 to bed and we visit other areas of important
9 business. I think that that would be the best
10 course of action.

11 I would suggest that you look at
12 what I submitted. Discuss a study. I think
13 it will be a study that will benefit every one
14 of you up there. And other than that I wanted
15 to wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy
16 Hanukkah.

17 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Philip
18 Malloy.

19 MR. MALLOY: Thank you Madam
20 Presiding Officer and all the legislators for
21 giving us the time to speak. I'm the
22 president of VEEB, which is the Vocational
23 Education Board. Today I have with me
24 director Ray McGuire and Ralph Esposito over
25 there and also our chief instructor Bobby

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Hughes.

3 First I want to thank you for last
4 year. It came down to the 24th hour and we
5 were going to take and close VEEB, which
6 trains all our fire service in Nassau County.
7 Which obviously all of you represent. It's
8 coming down to that again this year it seems
9 and we are hoping and praying that you guys
10 will get us our funding. We have no other
11 funding. We get our funding from Nassau
12 County. We do all the training for Nassau
13 County fire. We do EMS services. We are
14 doing more classes and more things that
15 everybody is requesting that we do. After
16 Sandy we did water rescue classes with no
17 increase in our budget. Which we understand
18 the constraints on the county but we just want
19 to make sure we get our budget this year.

20 Every one of us are volunteer fire
21 fighters. We take pride in what we do. We
22 don't get paid for it. We are not exempt from
23 any of the training that the professional
24 career fire fighters do. We have to do the
25 same training. The only difference between a

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 career fire fighter and us is a paycheck.

3 We cover our districts. We cover
4 all our firemen with training. It's kind of
5 sad that we're going to do this every year to
6 put our funding back on. I hope and pray
7 maybe we can wind up on a budget line instead
8 of a contract so we don't have to go through
9 this every year.

10 Like I said, we did water rescue
11 training. We are involved with the active
12 shooter with the county where we're putting
13 classes at the fire academy for active
14 shooter. We have the EMS academy that does
15 all our EMS personnel and trains them in first
16 aid. We also added another part of that this
17 summer. We had an emergency responders for
18 special needs children and adults, and it was
19 something that really hit the road running and
20 everybody wants it. It's going to be part of
21 our yearly training for our EMS people.

22 Chief Hughes can give you more
23 statistics on how many responders and fire
24 service personnel that we represent and what
25 we train every year. Everybody gets trained

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 at one location and that's the fire academy.

3 Chief, you can give more specifics.

4 MR. HUGHES: There are just under
5 10,000 volunteer fire fighters in the fire
6 service in Nassau County. There is attrition
7 in the fire service of course but we train
8 annually between four and 500 new fire
9 fighters every year. The state requires a
10 minimum of 100 hours of training between the
11 hands-on fire fighting and hazardous
12 materials. For every one of them. Obviously
13 they have to come out and continue to train on
14 that stuff every year.

15 This week alone since Sunday we've
16 had five serious residential structure fires.
17 Two in Elmont. One just this morning. One in
18 Plainview. One in Hempstead. I forget where
19 the other one was. That's just a small sample
20 of the hundreds and hundreds of calls that our
21 first responders go to on a daily basis.
22 Responding to auto accidents, hazardous
23 material alarms, water rescues as well as
24 medical emergencies.

25 We put 10,000 fire fighters through

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 the academy every year. The EMS academy is
3 also training around 1300 EMTs and paramedics
4 every year. What I'm happy to say is that
5 those five serious fires we have had this week
6 there were zero fire fighters injuries and
7 zero civilian injuries and that's due to the
8 training they are receiving from us. So we
9 need to continue that. Thank you.

10 MR. MOLLOY: I just want to thank
11 the legislators for last year. It came down
12 to the 24th hour like I said and all of you
13 contacted me and got us our funding before our
14 deadline for our payments. Thank you very
15 much. We appreciate that and have a happy
16 holiday.

17 MR. McGUIRE: I realize the time
18 constraint. The one thing I think is very
19 important that the president mentioned before,
20 this is something you all know, the population
21 in Nassau County is bigger than 16 states in
22 this nation and the demands on the volunteer
23 fire service is increasing daily. I'm very
24 proud to serve with a board that has taken the
25 fact that the budget is a constrained budget,

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 but all the additional training we are doing
3 we are doing with no increase in the budget.
4 I think it's very important to realize and
5 understand. We're trying to do our part as
6 best we can. It's very detrimental if we're
7 not able to get the proper training for the
8 fire fighters so they are able to perform
9 these services on behalf of you.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Would you
11 give your name.

12 MR. McGUIRE: Raymond F. McGuire,
13 director of the Vocational Education Extension
14 Board.

15 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Ray McGuire, I
16 just want you to know, and the entire fire
17 services, as chairman of the Public Safety
18 Committee we do everything we can to equip you
19 as well as possible. As a result, you've
20 gotten accolades from across the country. I
21 know that other fire departments from other
22 governmental bodies come and train at our
23 facility it's such a great facility. And we
24 are going to do everything we can to make sure
25 you stay one, alive and well and two, well

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 equipped. So thank you for coming and
3 testifying today.

4 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
5 Rhoads.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I just wanted
7 to add to Legislator Dunne's comments. I've
8 had the opportunity to be a customer of yours
9 over the last 24 years. I can't tell you how
10 many classes I've taken at the Nassau County
11 Fire Service Academy through the Wantagh Fire
12 Department. The training that you go through
13 is top notch. The professionalism with which
14 Nassau County Fire Service Academy is run is
15 second to none.

16 I hope that while we're talking
17 about this increase in fee that everyone
18 recognizes what is at stake if we do not act
19 today. Nobody likes talking about fee
20 increases. Nobody likes talking about the
21 possibility of tax increases. But as a county
22 and legislators we have a responsibility to
23 make sure that we protect the public safety.
24 That we protect our youth. And it's
25 absolutely necessary for us to be able to have

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 both cuts, which we've come up, and revenue
3 which this vote will present that makes sure
4 these functions can be performed.

5 While we talk about how much we
6 respect VEEB and we talk about how much we
7 respect our youth services, the reality is
8 that pixie dust is not a currency and you
9 cannot pay your bills with good intentions.
10 So the reality is we have a responsibility to
11 make sure that we can fund the needs of VEEB
12 and youth services and that's what we are
13 hoping to do today. And I want to thank you
14 for coming down today so we can see in person
15 what's at stake for our failure to do so.

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I need to
17 comment. Last year I had the opportunity to
18 go and witness for myself firsthand what goes
19 into the training at the fire service academy
20 and I was quite impressed. And I certainly
21 know that it is extremely vigorous and the
22 young people that are being trained certainly
23 have a great deal of commitment to the fire
24 service. Because if I were one of those kids
25 I don't know if I would do. And I say thank

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 you for all you do on behalf of our young fire
3 fighters.

4 Legislator Walker.

5 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I'd just like
6 to comment and certainly send you accolades
7 too. I've had the pleasure too of going to
8 the fire academy. I've also had the pleasure
9 of attending graduation for the nursing
10 program that we have over in the former Saint
11 Ignatius School in Hicksville. And certainly
12 as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the
13 Hicksville Fire Department I see firsthand
14 when we attend fires to assist our firemen in
15 any way we can, even if it's with warm drinks
16 or cold drinks or something to eat, what their
17 training enables them to do. I just cannot
18 thank you enough for all that you do for each
19 any every one of us and certainly all our fire
20 fighters do on a daily basis and remembering
21 that it's a volunteer fire department that we
22 have all through our county. God bless you,
23 stay safe and Merry Christmas.

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Philip
25 Raices. You have to correct me if I'm wrong.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 MR. RAICES: I'm not Spanish I'm
3 Spanish origins but Raices means roots and I
4 was a landscape designer for 25 years and bien
5 raice means real estate in the Spanish yellow
6 pages. So I have a great name.

7 Thanks for inviting me up. I just
8 want to say one thing. I have a column that I
9 write every week in a paper that gets 115,000
10 readers. It's the Island Now dot com Great
11 Neck News Port Washington.

12 What I see the problem is, Jack had
13 very well said, you have to do something with
14 the grievance system. I have two stores in
15 Great Neck which I own. I pay \$22,000 a year
16 for 1,200 square feet. So you can't blame me
17 for wanting to grieve my taxes because it's
18 absurd. My sisters live in Atlanta, Georgia.
19 They have a mini mansion and their taxes are
20 \$5,500 a year on two acres of property.

21 I know our schools are important.
22 I know 65 percent of our taxes are school
23 taxes. But the issue is, if people in
24 government don't stop spending and not put all
25 the burden on us that's where the other

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 problem is. You guys spend so much money
3 between the lawyers and everything else. If
4 you don't start cutting your stuff -- I don't
5 care if this country has a vat tax, a flat tax
6 or any other type of tax, if you continue to
7 spend and not cut back on what you're doing
8 then it doesn't matter what you do. You're
9 going to spend more than you take in.

10 And with the Internet nobody is
11 taxing the Internet. So there's no real sales
12 tax coming in. You're killing retail because
13 people are buying it on the Internet. So
14 brick and mortar is suffering. Great Neck and
15 a few other towns, which is now coming back,
16 but all this money that's going out you don't
17 have enough coming in.

18 Upstate they're doing something
19 with the garbage on the road. They'll
20 collecting more money now. So why don't you
21 put some cameras on some roads where you have
22 the most garbage. You'll save time and labor
23 and charge these people \$1,000 every time they
24 throw garbage out of their window. That might
25 be a way to collect more money. But there's

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 got to be some creative ways to figure out and
3 stop taxing the people that buy houses.

4 Listen, it's a domino effect. When
5 people don't buy houses refrigerators don't
6 get made, stoves don't get made, dishwashers
7 don't get made and you collapse the economy.
8 That's exactly what happened eight years ago
9 because we lent out money to people that could
10 not afford to pay it back. So it's important
11 that you really be creative and try to figure
12 out what's the best way to approach this so
13 you don't put the burden on purchasers who
14 make this economy. That's all I have to say.

15 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
16 Birnbaum.

17 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Mr. Raices
18 I just want to thank you for taking the time
19 to come because I know you had a three o'clock
20 real estate closing. Because I understand and
21 you do to how hard it is to come up with ideas
22 to find the revenue and yes, we can cut the
23 expenditure side and I do agree with you and a
24 lot of the things you said. So thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Kevin

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Moran.

3 MR. MORAN: Good afternoon my
4 name is Kevin Moran I'm a representative of
5 the Long Island Builders Institute and a
6 lifelong Nassau County resident.

7 The Long Island Builders Institute,
8 New York State's largest residential trade
9 organization, would like to express its
10 opposition to the proposed tax increase of the
11 tax map verification fee. This is the same
12 fee that was recently hiked by 200 percent
13 from \$75 to \$225. Now, if passed, the fee
14 will increase to \$350 just a year later.

15 After having the proposed budget
16 rejected it is understandable that the county
17 is looking for ways to increase revenue.
18 However, this should not and cannot be the
19 answer to the budgetary woes. Raising fees on
20 real estate transactions will have an adverse
21 effect on potential buyers. Particularly
22 young people and those who are seeking access
23 to affordable housing.

24 It has been widely acknowledged
25 that many young people are leaving Long Island

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 to seek careers in housing and more affordable
3 areas of the United States. Excessive fees
4 that will contribute to massive closing costs
5 will do nothing but make Nassau County less
6 attractive to people looking to move to or
7 stay on.

8 The foundation of the American
9 dream has always been home ownership. While
10 this fee increase may be seen as solution to
11 Nassau's budget problems, it will only make
12 homeownership on Long Island further out of
13 reach for potential buyers.

14 Real estate transactions already
15 have a positive economic impact on the
16 community but it's extent can be stifled by
17 creating more financial obstacles. It is
18 unfair to continue to single out one industry
19 and one set of residents to pay for the
20 expenses of the county which are open for
21 all.

22 Based on the foregoing it is
23 respectfully requested that the proposed tax
24 increase should be rejected. Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Timothy

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Lachapelle.

3 MR. LACHAPELLE: You have in
4 front of you some statistics about the Nassau
5 County real estate market and the National
6 Real Estate Market and I would like to put
7 that in context. Last week I spoke in front
8 of the Finance Committee against this proposal
9 for a \$125 hike making the argument then that
10 it was counterproductive. The logic being
11 that these fees hurt the real estate industry
12 and that's one of the most important engines
13 of the local economy. I was unable to
14 convince you guys but I'm back with some
15 statistics that support my argument.

16 Let me start by saying that the
17 real estate market in Nassau -- your first
18 page -- is in decent shape. Last year the
19 average sale price of a home in Nassau County
20 rose from 569,000 to 591,000. A healthy 3.8
21 percent rise. But if you turn the page and
22 look over at Queens you can compare our 3.8
23 percent growth to the 9.6 percent growth and
24 it looks rather meager.

25 Please keep in mind that the recent

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 rate rise in home values is consistent with a
3 trend in the rest of the United States. And
4 if you flip again you will see the average
5 home sale price in the United States. The
6 home price index over the past four years.
7 Home values have been accelerating for the
8 past four years and are just now reaching the
9 premortgage crisis levels. This was largely
10 because of the zero interest rate policy by
11 the federal reserve and made it very
12 inexpensive to get a home loan.

13 Now, as the central bank slowly
14 begins to raise rates, and they did that
15 today, thank you for your timing Janet
16 Dillon. But now as the central bank begins to
17 raise rates the national real estate market is
18 going to be challenged. Growth may not be
19 continued with the furious pace that it's been
20 going at the last four years.

21 The health of the local real estate
22 market will be largely determined by the
23 policies that this county abides by. By
24 approving fees that ultimately are a transfer
25 tax you're limiting the potential of our

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 current real estate market rally. There's
3 evidence that these fees have already been
4 harmful in certain communities. Although I
5 think for the most part the negative effect
6 will be felt over the long term rather the
7 short.

8 For example, in Malverne December
9 2014 the average sales price was \$391,000 and
10 in that year it rose to \$439,000 the average
11 sale price. 12.4 percent rise. Very nice.
12 But in the years since the fees have been
13 passed growth has been stagnant. Now the
14 average home price sits slightly higher at
15 \$440,000.

16 Lynbrook stagnant as well. The
17 price rose from \$347,000 to 386 between 2014
18 and 2015. Since the fees have been passed
19 growth has been negative growth, 1.1 percent.
20 If I could put in a few more statistics. The
21 average home sale price in Hewlett rose 7.7
22 percent in 2015. 403,000 to 444,000. Nice
23 seven percent gain, but since the fees have
24 been implemented that's been completely
25 reversed.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Now the cases that I have presented
3 don't tell the picture of the whole county. I
4 want to make that clear. But it should be
5 enough evidence that the recent fees will have
6 a negative effect on the real estate market.
7 The real estate market is one of the most
8 important engines of the local economy and
9 luckily the demand for homes in Nassau County
10 will always be kept afloat by our great
11 schools, our beautiful parks and proximity to
12 New York City. But overtaxing an industry in
13 recovery limits its ability to grow and I
14 believe that's what you're doing here.

15 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
16 Timothy. Alan Kennamer.

17 MR. KENNAMER: Good afternoon.
18 My name is Alan Kennamer. I am a resident of
19 East Meadow for the past 17 years. I'm also
20 the cochair for the Community Outreach
21 Community for the Long Island Builders.

22 I moved here in 1999 from Texas
23 where I experienced a major sticker shock in
24 the cost of living. Primarily housing. My
25 wife and me have been very fortunate over the

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 last 17 years. We've raised our 14 year old
3 son. I work in Hicksville and am very proud
4 to live in Nassau County.

5 As Kevin spoke, the American dream
6 has always been homeownership. I want to see
7 young families be able to buy homes in our
8 neighborhoods instead of being forced to leave
9 Long Island due to the high cost of
10 homeownership. By continuing to increase fees
11 like the tax map verification fee we are only
12 making Nassau County less attractive to people
13 looking to make this their home.

14 Another recent proposal that was
15 raised was to increase the fee of speeding
16 tickets by \$105 to close the budget gap. I
17 would much rather see this proposal be
18 approved. Why would we punish people seeking
19 their dream of homeownership and not those
20 breaking our traffic laws? I recommend the
21 increase to the tax map verification fee be
22 rejected. Thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: John
24 Succoso.

25 MR. SUCCOSO: I'm a real estate

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 broker, a manager for our offices and part of
3 LIBOR. I was just ask to come down and talk
4 about what's been going on in the real
5 estate. And what happened is yesterday we
6 heard from a mortgage banker that they are now
7 raising the estimated cost of closing a house
8 by \$1,000 just in fees. This is the second
9 time in two years that we're going after this
10 particular hike when we were told it was going
11 to be a one time deal last time.

12 I don't know if anybody has taken
13 things into consideration but it seems like
14 according to the National Association of
15 Realtors that the typical real estate
16 transaction brings on average \$69,000 in
17 economic stimulus to an area. This is the New
18 York State number but it's a New York State
19 number. When you come in to Nassau County
20 it's actually a higher number. This is the
21 kind of thing that does not work when you keep
22 on raising fees and not raising taxes but
23 you're still going after the public and
24 particularly home buyers. I think that you
25 are hurting the American dream as it was said

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 already and I would ask that this does not
3 pass.

4 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: There are
5 no other public speakers and since there's no
6 other comments from the legislators I'm going
7 to ask for a motion to close the hearing.
8 Moved by Legislator Dunne. Second by
9 Legislator Nicoletto. All those in favor of
10 closing the hearing signify by saying aye.

11 Now I ask all the legislators to
12 please take their seat. We're going to go to
13 item three, which is a vote on proposed Local
14 Law 600-16, a local law to amend the Nassau
15 County Administrative Code in relation to the
16 verification of section, block and lot
17 information in instruments being presented for
18 recording.

19 A motion please. Moved by
20 Legislator Dunne. Second by Legislator
21 Nicoletto. Who has something to say? Any
22 other comments from our legislators?

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just
24 request that the vote be a roll call.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: No problem

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 with that. So there being no comment or any
3 additional public comment, I'm going to ask
4 that the clerk now call the roll. I believe
5 we made a motion to put it before us and it
6 was seconded. Now there being no other
7 discussion please call the roll.

8 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Deputy
9 Presiding Officer Richard Nicolello.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yes.

11 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
12 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

13 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Absent.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Seila
15 Bynoe.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
18 Solages.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Denise
21 Ford.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: I have
23 something to say. This is a difficult vote as
24 I feel the county administration could have
25 done a better job I guess with bringing up

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 revenue. For example, if they had properly
3 rolled out the speed camera program I believe
4 we would have had enough revenue so we would
5 not have to raise these fees. The Republican
6 caucus search for other means to help balance
7 the budget. This year for the first time our
8 friends in the Democratic caucus did not
9 submit any proposals.

10 There has been very little
11 assistance from New York State and even NIFA.
12 But I am grateful that NIFA did not give in to
13 the political maneuvering on the part of one
14 of their members. I believe and it seems I'm
15 the only one on this issue that it's time we
16 raise taxes. Even an increase of \$10 a month
17 per household would generate enough revenue to
18 cover the gap and reduce some of these fee
19 increases. And it would be shared by all of
20 the residents who live in Nassau County. By
21 doing so it would also help us start the
22 police class in December rather than delaying
23 it in March. We would be able to hire more
24 workers for example in DPW, parks and
25 assessment, funding for the Long Island

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 Regional Counsel would remain intact. There
3 would be revenue for NICE as well.

4 I know that any increase can impact
5 our families but these fees impact them as
6 well. If we do not pass this NIFA will make
7 cuts. Youth services will lose their funding
8 and VEEB will also be cut. This is not
9 acceptable to me and while I'm not in heart --
10 I would prefer not to vote for this fee, my
11 vote will be yes on this.

12 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.

13 Legislator Laura Curran.

14 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: No.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.
16 William Gaylor III.

17 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Yes.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Vincent
19 Muscarella.

20 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Yes.

21 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Ellen
22 Birnbaum.

23 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: No.

24 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
25 DeRiggi-Whitton.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No.

3 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James

4 Kennedy.

5 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Yes.

6 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura

7 Schaefer.

8 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Yes.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Dennis

10 Dunne.

11 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Yes.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold

13 Drucker.

14 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: No.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose

16 Marie Walker.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Yes.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Donald

19 MacKenzie.

20 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Yes.

21 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven

22 Rhoads.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I will be

24 voting in favor of saving youth funding and

25 saving funding for VEEB and voting in the

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 affirmative on it.

3 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.

4 Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just to let
6 the record reflect that this caucus, our
7 caucus, has demonstrated for the last I don't
8 know how long, has proposed every single time
9 amendments to the budget in hopes that the
10 majority would work in cooperation with us.
11 And I listened to Legislator Ford's comments
12 in regard to this time around and I have to
13 tell you not once in this time since I have
14 been leader of the legislative Democrats, nor
15 have we been in the legislative minority for
16 the last seven years, have they accepted one
17 of our dozens upon dozens of amendments. Not
18 once.

19 So, to me, I think it's a bit
20 disingenuous to say that the Democrats have
21 not been a part of the solution. As they see
22 it we have not been able to fix things as they
23 want to do it, not for what's best for Nassau
24 County taxpayers. This fee increase is
25 horrible for Nassau County taxpayers and I

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 vote no.

3 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.

4 Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves.

5 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Yes.

6 MR. PULITZER: The total vote is
7 11 to 7. It passes. Thank you.

8 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Item two
9 is a hearing. Would you read the hearing
10 notice.

11 MR. PULITZER: Call a hearing on
12 proposed local law clerk item 605-16, item
13 number two on the calendar is a hearing on the
14 proposed local law clerk item 605, a local law
15 to amend the Nassau County administrative code
16 in relation to granting a real property tax
17 exemption to certain veterans who participated
18 in Operation Graphic Hand.

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Motion to
20 open the hearing by Legislator Gaylor.
21 Seconded by Legislator Dunne. All those in
22 favor of opening the hearing signify by saying
23 aye. Any opposed? The hearing is now open.
24 Who do we have to speak on this item?

25 MR. MERHAN: This law reflects

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 the change in the state law to make eligible
3 for veterans who participated in Operation
4 Graphic Hand to allow them to get the
5 veteran's exemption.

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
7 Gaylor would you like to comment on this
8 legislation and what we are talking about with
9 Operation Graphic Hand?

10 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Sure. This is
11 a piece of legislation that was introduced and
12 is being introduced for a vote today that
13 passed through committee unanimously having to
14 grant those veterans that participated in this
15 operation which was a military augmentation of
16 the postal services back in the '70s by
17 directive of the President. So, this piece of
18 legislation would allow those veterans that
19 participated in this specific operation to be
20 eligible to receive tax credits for their
21 service in the military.

22 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
23 Dunne.

24 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: The reason
25 they haven't received it in the past you might

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 be wondering, you had to have served 180 days
3 of active duty for other than training
4 purposes. Ad dutra it says on the DD214.
5 Right now there are men and women that are in
6 the reserves that are going to war and not
7 spending a full 180 days in and they're
8 eligible for benefits. So why would we
9 exclude this handful, which is not a lot of
10 people. Why would we leave them excluded?

11 So, this is a wonderful thing we're
12 doing to add them into the mix and be proud of
13 their service thank you.

14 MR. MERHAN: To your point
15 Legislator Dunne, an initial analysis from the
16 Department of Assessment puts the number of
17 denied from last year at 114 and the
18 Department of Assessment will be reaching out
19 to those individuals. We do not know how many
20 more are out there that simply did not apply
21 but those are the ones that did apply and were
22 denied for reasons stated, active duty,
23 training et cetera.

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any other
25 comments on the part of the legislators? I do

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 have a slip on this I believe Ms. Mereday.

3 MS. MEREDAY: Thank you good
4 afternoon and happy holidays. I didn't speak
5 on the previous issue because I felt it was
6 largely a waste of time since the decision was
7 already going to be made and the vote was
8 already going to be in.

9 But with regard to this issue now I
10 am concerned because at the previous meeting I
11 guess the public in essence was led to believe
12 there was a larger number that this impacted.
13 I'm glad that we're talking about 114 that
14 will be receiving this benefit. But I'm also
15 concerned as to how this will actually be
16 implemented in terms of the paperwork, the
17 fiscal liability on the county and what are
18 the actual outreach methodologies that are
19 going to be put into place to reach out to
20 these veterans. Because if some of them are
21 already out of their homes what is the county
22 then going to do to help them be reinstated
23 into their homes or to outreach to let them
24 know that this service is available to them?
25 I'm just curious.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 This just seems to me it's a
3 worthwhile and definitely long overdue as so
4 many services to our veterans are long overdue
5 because they continue to be underserved in
6 this county. I'm just concerned that once
7 again this will be something that looks good
8 in the newspaper but it's not going to really
9 scratch the surface of the needs of our
10 veterans in this county and on Long Island.

11 To the other point about how we can
12 do some other things to raise revenue in this
13 county as opposed to continuing to expand it
14 to pay for patronage and the cronyism and the
15 nepotism that's running rampant as more of our
16 young people, our senior citizens are living
17 as hostages in their homes, we need to
18 continue to look at other methodologies to
19 raise revenues and to reduce the tax loads.
20 Because we have zombie houses.

21 So, I still don't understand how
22 this short stop measure is going to do
23 anything as we continue to subsidize these
24 programs. We privatized the buses and that
25 didn't work because we're paying more for

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 those buses and we're cutting buses for the
3 people that actually need them.

4 So I still question how this
5 particular program is going to be
6 implemented. How all of the veterans are
7 going to be benefitted by this and if this new
8 tax map charge is going to be affecting them
9 as well for those who might have to do
10 something different to reinstate their homes.
11 Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
13 Ms. Meredith.

14 MS. MEREDAY: Mereday not
15 Meredith.

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I'm sorry.

17 MS. MEREDAY: And for the person
18 that sent me the letter because I'm getting
19 letters here from executing my right for free
20 speech. Apparently someone who has heard me
21 on the system has felt it necessary to write
22 me at my home. I just want it to be known
23 that I don't live in fear. I cannot live in
24 fear because I stand on the shoulders of too
25 many people who went before me who did not

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 have any rights.

3 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You have
4 every right to speak Ms. Mereday. I'm not
5 going to ask who it was because if she wishes
6 to reveal it she can do it privately.

7 MS. MEREDAY: They didn't reveal
8 themselves.

9 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: It was
10 anonymous?

11 MS. MEREDAY: Yeah.

12 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You know
13 what I think about anonymous letters. I'm not
14 going to tell you.

15 Any other comments? A motion to
16 close the hearing. Moved by Legislator
17 Dunne. Second by Legislator Gaylor. All
18 those in favor of closing the hearing signify
19 by saying aye. Any opposed? The hearing is
20 now closed.

21 Now a local law that's related to
22 that hearing which is Local Law 605-16, a
23 local law to amend the Nassau County
24 Administrative Code in relation to granting a
25 real property tax exemption to certain

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 veterans who participated in Operation Graphic
3 Hand.

4 Moved by Legislator Gaylor. Second
5 by Legislator Dunne. Any further questions or
6 comments from the legislature or the public?
7 There being none, all those in favor of item
8 four signify by saying aye. Any opposed?
9 It's unanimous. Thank you very much.

10 The last item I believe, if I'm
11 correct, is item five which is ordinance 555,
12 an ordinance to amend ordinance 13-2016
13 adopting the capital budget for the year 2016
14 for the county of Nassau, corresponding to the
15 first year of the four year capital plan,
16 pursuant to the provisions of Section 310 of
17 the County Government Law of Nassau County.

18 Motion please. Moved by Legislator
19 Dunne. Second by Legislator Walker. Any
20 comments regarding -- is there anyone who can
21 speak on this item? Who is going to speak on
22 this item? Come on Ms. Murray.

23 MS. MURRAY: Good afternoon.
24 Kate Murray representing Nassau Community
25 College. This piece of legislation and I want

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 to thank the legislators for their continued
3 support for Nassau Community College would put
4 I believe eight projects that were originally
5 in the 2017 capital improvement plan for
6 Nassau Community College into the 2016 capital
7 improvement plan.

8 This was brought about by a new
9 SUNY policy which requires us to send them a
10 certified resolution. And I'm looking at our
11 clerk of the legislature to make sure we can
12 do that by December 15th, tomorrow, in order
13 for us to save \$9.8 million in matching SUNY
14 funds.

15 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any
16 questions of Ms. Murray? Go ahead.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Not for
18 Kate Murray. It's more for Jerry. We had
19 brought up concerns and questions regarding
20 from what I understand the appendix is the
21 wrong appendix. From what I understand from
22 counsel they put in the wrong appendix to the
23 second version.

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES:
25 Mr. Podlesak is here so ask the question.

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 MR. PODLESAC: I wasn't paying
3 attention.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There was a
5 question that came up for appendix D. This is
6 for the capital plan. We're on 555 and this
7 is in regard -- the one you discussed with him
8 and from what I understand we put in the wrong
9 appendix?

10 MR. PODLESAC: When we filed the
11 second amendment there was a mistake. It was
12 taken off of our shared drive and instead of
13 taking the appendix that should have been it
14 was the original appendix.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If you
16 could by acknowledging on the record that it's
17 going to be replaced. Jerry, just for the
18 record, which one are we voting on?

19 MR. PODLESAC: I missed. Was
20 there a further amendment in the nature of a
21 substitution? So the one that is before you
22 is the original one which has the SEQRA
23 language in it but the appendix does not show
24 an additional project.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Counsel

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 advises that it still has the negative
3 declaration in it.

4 MR. PODLESACK: In the appendix or
5 the actual language? My opinion on that has
6 been that it's a nullity because there's no
7 actual project. And even if you're making a
8 finding it should not make any difference as
9 long as there's no actual project.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: That SEQRA
11 determination it doesn't apply to the project
12 that's at our disposal today?

13 MR. PODLESACK: No.

14 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: It doesn't
15 impact on that?

16 MR. PODLESACK: Nothing that is
17 contained in the version that is before you is
18 impacted by the SEQRA. There has already been
19 SEQRA determinations when they were first
20 brought forward.

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: That's
22 what we need to put on the record. Now is
23 that okay with you guys?

24 I have a question. This has
25 nothing to do about the possibility of a

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 parking garage. If that parking garage comes
3 before us wouldn't it be that a SEQRA
4 declaration needs to be included?

5 MR. PODLESASAK: If it should come
6 before you as another legislative item and it
7 is the first appearance before the legislature
8 there would have to be a SEQRA determination.

9 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: But it's
10 not in this particular item?

11 MR. PODLESASAK: It is not in the
12 item before the legislature.

13 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Therefore
14 a SEQRA declaration is not required?

15 MR. PODLESASAK: It's not required
16 and the one that's in there is a nullity in my
17 opinion.

18 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Are you
19 okay guys?

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just want
21 to make sure in response to Madam Presiding
22 Officer Gonsalves' question. It's your
23 opinion we are not giving a negative
24 declaration to the parking garage?

25 MR. PODLESASAK: Correct. As I

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 said it's a nullity. It's useless language
3 that's in there.

4 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any other
5 questions? Any public comment? There being
6 none, item five, which was ordinance 555,
7 there being no other comments, all those in
8 favor of ordinance 555 signify by saying aye.
9 Any opposed?

10 Thank you.

11 We have an emergency item. You
12 want to take a few minutes? You want to go
13 look and review? You want five minutes, ten
14 minutes? We are now in recess until we can
15 find answers.

16 (A recess was taken.)

17 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: We have to
18 establish the emergency.

19 MR. PULITZER: An emergency
20 resolution declaring an emergency for
21 immediate action upon an ordinance fixing the
22 tax rate and levying taxes for the 12 month
23 2017 fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and
24 ending December 31, 2017, upon taxable
25 properties within the town and cities of the

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 county of Nassau for county, county fire
3 prevention, safety communication and education
4 fund, county police headquarters, county
5 police districts, Nassau Community College,
6 county New York State property tax refund,
7 county environmental bond fund, Nassau County
8 sewer and storm water resource districts,
9 county disputed assessment fund, and for the
10 aforementioned 2017 fiscal year for town, town
11 highway, town general fund, town general fund
12 part town, town special districts, unpaid
13 water charge in arrears, town sidewalks and
14 curb assessment, and other lawful purposes and
15 allocating revenues from certain sales taxes
16 imposed within the county of Nassau outside
17 the city of Long Beach and determining the
18 equalization rates in relation thereto and
19 authorizing and directing the county executive
20 and the clerk of the Nassau County Legislature
21 to execute separate tax warrants addressed to
22 the receivers of taxes of the towns and cities
23 within the county of Nassau for the collection
24 of the several sums mentioned therein.
25 Pursuant to the provisions of the county

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature
2 government law of Nassau County and the Nassau
3 County Administrative Code, the Real Property
4 Tax Law, the County Law, the Local Finance
5 Law, the Tax Law, the Town Law and the
6 Education Law, of the State of New York and
7 chapter 14 of the laws of 1995.

8 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Motion to
9 establish the emergency. Moved by Legislator
10 Dunne. Second by Legislator Walker. All
11 those in favor of establishing the emergency
12 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? The
13 emergency is established.

14 Now for the item and it was already
15 read into the record. A motion on the item.
16 Moved by Legislator Dunne. Second by
17 Legislator Walker.

18 Who wants to speak on this? Is
19 there anyone who wants to speak on this item?
20 Do you have my questions?

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Go ahead
22 Legislator Drucker.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just want
24 to confirm that the Town of Oyster Bay has not
25 yet filed its budget; is that correct?

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 MR. PODLESAK: That is correct.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Although the
4 charter says that they must before the
5 ordinance is passed?

6 MR. PODLESAK: That is also
7 correct. They did in fact furnish us with the
8 data for the production of the ordinance, and
9 it's my understanding that they have filed in
10 February of this year for this year. This is
11 not the first time they have not filed.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But to pass
13 it now would be in violation of the charter,
14 would it not?

15 MR. PODLESAK: I wouldn't say
16 it's in violation of the charter. I would say
17 we have the information and we're capable of
18 passing it and that it's necessary to pass it
19 or none of the towns will be able to collect.

20 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Except all
21 the other towns have filed their budgets?

22 MR. PODLESAK: That is correct.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any other
24 questions or comments? Legislator Birnbaum.

25 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Could you

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 just explain for the record what the time
3 period is when do they have to file by and why
4 it came to this body today as an emergency?

5 MS. D'ALLEVA: The towns have
6 different time periods in terms of when they
7 have to pass their budgets in terms of their
8 localities. So, normally the respective three
9 towns are passed, their budgets are passed
10 some time in November. Then this item it's
11 like a pro forma. This body always votes on
12 it by emergency for the end of the year.
13 Actually this year we have been able to
14 accomplish it much earlier because of the data
15 that was sent to us from the towns because we
16 knew that this was the last leg session for
17 the year. So we wanted to be able to
18 accomplish the goal this year.

19 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: What's the
20 explanation why Oyster Bay has not filed?

21 MS. D'ALLEVA: I couldn't tell
22 you why they're not filed. I know last year
23 they filed in February. They filed in
24 February of this year for the previous year.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm sorry. If

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 we know that we need this budget to move it
3 forward I'm at a loss as to why the county is
4 not putting some level of pressure on the town
5 to get it here.

6 MS. D'ALLEVA: We put pressure on
7 the town by asking for their tax levy
8 requirement so that this body can vote on the
9 tax levy ordinance. Because they will know
10 that the ordinance needs to be passed by this
11 body. So our main concern is that they give
12 us their levy requirement and they have done
13 so. So once you vote on this tax levy
14 ordinance that's the tax levy that they have
15 to live by because January 1st those tax bills
16 go out.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It's my
18 understanding because I just asked legal
19 counsel, if the budget of the Town of Oyster
20 Bay passed and it was reported that it
21 actually passed on November 29, 2016 so why it
22 wouldn't have been forwarded to the county for
23 the purpose of this particular item today
24 really is at a lost. They should be made
25 aware that this is not something that we want

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 to make common practice. In all fairness, I'm
3 led to support this today because the Town of
4 North Hempstead is on there and the Town of
5 Hempstead is on there and they have complied.
6 But the Town of Oyster Bay needs to know that
7 we're not going to consider this business as
8 usual and they need to comply and get the
9 paperwork here timely. I don't know what part
10 of the administration deems it appropriate to
11 convey that but I think it's appropriate that
12 they know that.

13 MR. PODLESACK: I will take it
14 back to my office and see what they plan on
15 doing with it.

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Any other
17 comments from the legislators? Any public
18 comment on this? There being none, all those
19 in favor of --

20 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding
21 Officer, my intent is to vote no on this
22 because of issues with the Hempstead IDA that
23 I have addressed before on prior occasions. I
24 do think that the tax roll is incorrect
25 because it lacks accurate information and

1 12-14-16 Full Legislature

2 there are a number of errors committed by, in
3 belief, by Fred Parola, the executive director
4 of the IDA. So I will be voting against
5 this. Thank you.

6 MR. PODLESACK: Just for the
7 record, the tax roll, with all due respect to
8 the legislator, the tax roll is correct.

9 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: There
10 being no other comment, all those in favor of
11 item 614 signify by saying aye. Any opposed?
12 We have three ayes.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Then you
14 have one no. Carrie. Then you have three
15 abstentions.

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Here we
17 go. Three plus 11 is 14. 14 in favor and
18 three abstentions and one no. The item
19 passes.

20 I regret to say that I need to put
21 this legislative session in recess. I'm sorry
22 to say that this legislative session is now in
23 recess.

24 (Meeting was recessed at 5:01 P.M.)

25

12-14-16 Full Legislature

CERTIFICATION

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

THAT the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this 27th day of
December 2016

FRANK GRAY