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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
Presiding Officer

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS DUNNE, Chairman

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, February 13, 2017
3:37 P.M.

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

3

4 DENNIS DUNNE,
Chairman5 DONALD MACKENZIE,
Vice Chairman

6

VINCENT MUSCARELLA

7

DENISE FORD (substituted by Rose Walker)

8

9 LAURA CURRAN,
Ranking

10 KEVAN ABRAHAMS

11 SIELA BYNOE

12 MICHAEL PULITZER
Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

LIEUTENANT GREG STEPHANOFF..... 5
DOUGLAS LANDSMAN..... 8
VICTORIA ROBERTS..... 11
TIMOTHY HAHN..... 17

1 Public Safety Committee/2-13-17

2 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Will the members
3 of the Public Safety Committee please take
4 their seats? Will the clerk please call the
5 roll?

6 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
7 Public Safety. Legislator Siela Bynoe?

8 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
10 Kevan Abrahams?

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
13 Laura Curran?

14 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

15 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose
16 Walker?

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

18 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
19 Vincent Muscarella?

20 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairman
22 Donald MacKenzie?

23 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Chairman Dennis
25 Dunne?

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2 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Here.

3 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
4 quorum, sir.

5 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you. Just
6 note that Legislator Rose Walker is subbing
7 for Denise Ford.

8 The first item to come before
9 this committee is Item 27-17, it's an
10 ordinance supplemental to the annual
11 appropriation ordinance in connection with
12 the Police Department fund and a transfer of
13 appropriations also. Who do we have with
14 us?

15 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

16 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by
18 Vincent Muscarella, seconded by Rose Walker.

19 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Good
20 afternoon, Lieutenant Greg Stephanoff from
21 the Police Department.

22 Item 27 of '17 is a transfer.
23 It's in the 2016 headquarters salary fund.
24 The money came from the county's general
25 fringe benefit fund and the police

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2 headquarters, OTPS, other than personal
3 services, surplus into the headquarter
4 salary line just to cover a deficit to pay
5 salaries. This was for the 2016 budget.

6 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any questions
7 from any legislators?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 Is there any public comment?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 There being none, all those in
12 favor indicate by saying aye. Okay, we have
13 Legislator Abrahams. Minority Leader has a
14 question.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sorry.
16 This is the \$2.6 million board transfer.
17 This is more of a general question not
18 really tied to the department. We have
19 always asked questions in regards to -- and
20 I know Legislator Birnbaum has fought
21 tirelessly to try to reopen the Sixth
22 Precinct.

23 It seems like we always hit the
24 road block that we don't have the money to
25 make the change.

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2 However, it seems like this is a
3 year end budget transfer, but it seems like
4 we do have resources to make at least the
5 shifts to the department to fund salaries
6 and transfer to the headquarter funds.

7 I would strongly suggest to the
8 commission to give it a second look. If we
9 are going to continue to support board
10 transfers like this, we would want to see
11 that the priority is fitting so that the 6th
12 Precinct can be reopened.

13 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: I'll
14 bring it back to him. We'll take it under
15 advisement.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any other
18 statements or questions from any of the
19 legislators?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 Is there any public comment?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 There being none, all those in
24 favor indicate by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

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2 Any against?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 This moves on to Finance.

5 The next item is 46-17, it's an
6 ordinance supplemental to the annual
7 appropriations ordinance in connection with
8 the Probation Department.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Moved by
12 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
13 Muscarella. Who do we have?

14 MR. LANDSMAN: Good afternoon,
15 Douglas Landsman, Nassau Probation. The
16 item that you have before you is a
17 supplemental appropriation request for the
18 Nassau County Reentry Task Force. It runs
19 from October of '16 to September of '17. A
20 total of \$212,850.

21 The vision of the Nassau County
22 Reentry Task Force is to provide a greater
23 level of safety to Nassau County residents
24 while reducing recidivism, assisting
25 offenders with re-integration into the

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2 community, along with their families, and
3 providing them the opportunity to become
4 responsible productive residents.

5 This grant developed strategies
6 to provide individuals, parolees, released
7 from prison with coordinated effective
8 evidence-based treatment through the
9 utilization of services from public and
10 private agencies. By the way, this grant
11 was assumed from DSS in October of 2016.

12 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: When I saw
13 reentry, reentry back into jail?

14 MR. LANDSMAN: No. Back into
15 society.

16 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Anyway, is there
17 any questions from any of the legislators?
18 Legislator Bynoe.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
20 Chairman Dunne. Good afternoon.

21 Could you tell me the total sums
22 of money that this department receives, or
23 this entity, this group, receives for this
24 service?

25 MR. LANDSMAN: Well, this

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2 particular grant is \$212,850. This contract
3 started in October of last year. The last
4 previous contract, last full year, which
5 would have run from '15 to '16 was \$165,000.
6 So this grant is an increase of \$50,000 from
7 the previous grant.

8 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So this is the
9 only money received for this particular
10 initiative? You don't receive any other
11 funding from any other source?

12 MR. LANDSMAN: That I'm not sure
13 of. This would just be the grant that we've
14 assumed. I don't know about any other
15 grants related to reentry.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Do we know how
17 people we have that it services?

18 MR. LANDSMAN: Yes, we do. On
19 the '15, '16, last full year, we serviced
20 about 207 parolees. On this new grant now
21 starting in October, with the increased
22 funds, we are now going to be up to 247 for
23 people that need service.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So we're
25 releasing people in excess of 227 or 207 a

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2 year. So how do we determine who receives
3 this service?

4 MR. LANDSMAN: Well, this is on a
5 voluntary basis when they leave jail. It's
6 an incentive to help people get back into
7 productive society. It fills in the gaps.
8 Many of these people have been in jail for
9 many many years. They are now coming back
10 into society and this program will help them
11 with getting a resume prepared, getting them
12 to help them find housing. Even down to
13 toiletries. It's basically a full
14 re-integration into society.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So it's a
16 voluntary basis. I can understand what the
17 program does. I'm concerned, are we turning
18 people away? Do we enough money?

19 MR. LANDSMAN: That I'm not sure
20 of. I have a coordinator who is here with
21 us today who can answer some of those
22 questions.

23 MS. ROBERTS: Good afternoon,
24 everyone. I'm Victoria Roberts. I'm the
25 Nassau County Reentry Coordinator. How is

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2 everyone today?

3 To answer your question, the
4 reentry program is voluntary. The
5 participants in the program are parolees.
6 They are assigned to the Nassau County
7 parole office which is in Hempstead.

8 They are mandated to treatment
9 for various issues, substance use disorders,
10 parenting, housing or any other issues
11 related to transitioning.

12 The Reentry Task Force has been
13 asked to assist in these endeavors. We have
14 identified the barriers and the gaps to
15 treatment that these individuals are faced
16 with.

17 The program allows for a person
18 to voluntarily participate in reentry.
19 However, once you agree to participate in
20 reentry, you are mandated by parole to take
21 part in the services that the reentry
22 provides.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So I'm just
24 interested to understand what is the ratio
25 of individuals that are receiving this

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2 service versus the number of people that are
3 actually released to parole? I don't expect
4 that you'd have that answer today, but I
5 would be interested to know that and have
6 some of that data.

7 MS. ROBERTS: Of course.

8 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Legislator
10 MacKenzie just had a great question. How do
11 you educate them that this program is
12 available?

13 MS. ROBERTS: Well, the task
14 force itself, we actually go into
15 correctional facilities. Our latest
16 endeavor was Walkill Correctional Facility
17 where there are various resource fairs that
18 are held throughout the state.

19 Nassau County is one of 20 task
20 forces. I do have a list of the task forces
21 available if you guys would like them. I
22 actually brought the list with me.

23 We, also, by word of mouth and, I
24 just found out two weeks ago, the Reentry
25 Task Force, that my name and phone number is

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2 on the wall at Sing Sing, which means it is
3 by word of mouth. And people are doing
4 really well. I'm okay with that. I see
5 your face.

6 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Your name is on
7 the wall at Sing Sing? Wait a minute.

8 MS. ROBERTS: I'm okay with that.
9 To give you an example of what the task
10 force actually does, I work with a gentleman
11 who has been gone for 25 years.

12 We were actually able to have him
13 participate in our employment workshop, our
14 resume writing workshop, our interview
15 program, and our work readiness initiative.

16 He is currently employed at the
17 Marriott as a cook. During his time away,
18 he was a cook in the facility. So we use
19 those transferable skills and applied them
20 to his resume and he was hired.

21 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: I wish it was
22 mandatory that they go through this program
23 because it sounds terrific. It really does.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any questions

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2 from any legislators? Rose Walker has a
3 question.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Just to make
5 a comment. I, too, think the program sounds
6 wonderful. For a period of time I was
7 working over at the one stop centers as an
8 employment training counselor, I often had
9 people who had been incarcerated and they
10 came in for an orientation and go through
11 the whole process with them. Even sitting
12 and have them working on their resume. They
13 have to be honest. Some of them were gone
14 for a long period of time and they're going
15 to be asked, what did you do? Where were
16 you? It's not like you were on vacation for
17 ten years.

18 But often they use the skills
19 that they had learned while they were away.
20 And some of them, I had one gentleman who
21 was my success story, also he worked as a
22 cook in the jail, and he sat there and
23 worked on his resume, walked, he was in a
24 shelter here. He walked from place to place
25 to place to place giving out his resume.

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2 Told them, I will work for you for a week
3 for nothing, and if you are happy with me
4 maybe you will give me that opportunity.

5 He did and one day he called and
6 said, you have to come over, I want to show
7 my boss, these are the people who helped me
8 and we went to the deli and got lunch where
9 he was and he now is working in a restaurant
10 in the city.

11 It just makes me so proud to
12 think where he was and where he went. You
13 see the turnaround for some people. It's
14 great. The more we can help and get them --
15 it's hard enough looking for jobs, but when
16 you've been away for a while, for reasons
17 that are not good, it's even harder. So
18 thank you for all you do.

19 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Thank you. Any
20 other legislators have any questions?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 Is there any public comment?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 There being none, all those in
25 favor indicate by saying aye.

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2 (Aye.)

3 Any against?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 So passes, moves on to Finance.

6 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: The final item
8 on the agenda is 47-17, an ordinance
9 supplemental to the annual appropriations
10 ordinance in connection with the Department
11 of Toxicology, Medical Examiner. May I have
12 a motion, please?

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

14 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by
16 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
17 MacKenzie. Whom is here before us?

18 MR. HAHN: Tim Hahn, Medical
19 Examiner's Office. Item 47 is in relation
20 to the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science
21 Improvement Grant. It is a federal
22 pass-through grant through New York State
23 DCJS. It is in the amount of \$24,112.

24 It is used to reduce case backlog
25 in the toxicology lab and to improve the

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2 quality assurance, quality control program
3 of the lab.

4 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Any legislators
5 have any questions?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 Is there any public comment?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 There being none, all those in
10 favor indicate by saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Any against?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 So passes.

15 Motion to adjourn.

16 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

17 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN DUNNE: Motion by
19 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
20 Muscarella. All those in favor indicate by
21 saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any against?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 We are adjourned. We now move on

1 Public Safety Committee/2-13-17
2 to Planning.

3 (Whereupon, the Public Safety
4 Committee adjourned at 3:51 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 23rd day of February, 2017.

FRANK GRAY