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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

NORMA GONSALVES,
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, May 22, 2017
1:10 P.M.

1

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

3 NORMA GONSALVES, Presiding Officer

4 RICHARD NICOLELLO,
5 Deputy Presiding Officer6 HOWARD KOPEL,
7 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

8 STEVEN RHOADS

9 DENISE FORD

10 LAURA CURRAN

11 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

12 VINCENT MUSCARELLA

13 ELLEN BIRNBAUM

14 LAURA SCHAEFER

15 DONALD MACKENZIE

16 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,
17 Minority Leader

18 ROSE MARIE WALKER

19 DENNIS DUNNE (Not present)

20 ARNOLD DRUCKER

21 JAMES KENNEDY

22 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

23 CARRIE SOLAGES

24 SIELA BYNOE

25 MICHAEL PULITZER,
 Clerk of the Legislature

LIST OF SPEAKERS

JAMES MCDERMOTT.....	4
ACTING COMMISSIONER THOMAS KRUMPTER.....	6
DAVID GROSS.....	22
PETER GAFFNEY.....	34
JOANNE BO.....	38
JOANNE BORDEN.....	54
HOWARD KROPLICK.....	57
JACK MCCLOY.....	60
NICHOLAS STIRLING.....	63
ZEFY CHRISTOPOULUS.....	73
META MEREDAY.....	157
DOUGLAS LANCEMAN.....	168
HOWARD KROPLICK.....	175
ANN TINDER.....	175

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We will
3 begin with Legislator Gaylor, please lead us
4 in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 (Whereupon, the Pledge of
6 Allegiance was recited.)

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: A moment
8 of silence for Legislator Dunne's mother who
9 I believe passed last night. Please
10 remember her in your prayers. Her name was
11 Yolanda. He's not with us today because
12 that's where he rightfully should be.

13 (A moment of silence was
14 observed.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

16 As we've done for several months
17 over the past year or so, we have two top
18 cops. First one, yes, we have two; Sean
19 Murtagh and Kirsten Lorenzo. Who will be
20 here to speak about our two top cops for the
21 month of May? Introduce yourself, Mr.
22 McDermott.

23 MR. MCDERMOTT: You just did.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: But they
25 don't know who you are.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 MR. MCDERMOTT: Thank you. I'm
3 James McDermott. I'm the Nassau County PBA
4 President like for four months.

5 On March 16th of this year,
6 around 5:42 in the afternoon, Nassau Police
7 Officer Kirsten Lorenzo while on routine
8 patrol observed black smoke in the sky.

9 She followed the smoke into Great
10 Neck Estates where she found a house that
11 was fully engulfed in flames. We have some
12 pictures, props, of the house before the
13 fire department even got there, the house
14 was fully engulfed if in flames.

15 The garage had two cars in it and
16 the officer, Kirsten Lorenzo, asked around
17 and found out they didn't, the two occupants
18 of the home didn't get out.

19 Great Neck Estates Officer Sean
20 Murtagh showed up soon after that. The two
21 of them without hesitation went into the
22 house and took out the two people, the
23 elderly couple that were in there.

24 Officer Lorenzo assisted the
25 female out and Officer Murtagh actually had

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 to carry the elderly gentleman out of the
3 house.

4 Both officers were treated for
5 smoke inhalation and I want to honor both of
6 them for their work, their bravery, going
7 into a house. Like I said, you can see the
8 pictures. That's some scary stuff.

9 We are honoring them today for
10 their bravery disregarding their own
11 personal safety. They called upon their
12 training and saved the lives of these two
13 people, this couple, this elderly couple.

14 I want to say congratulations to
15 the both of you and thank the leg again for
16 having us today in honoring our police
17 officers.

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER:
19 Legislator Gonsalves, Minority Leader
20 Abrahams, I want to start by thanking you as
21 I always do because the support you show
22 this department is unwavering and today is
23 very special.

24 Police Officer Lorenzo, Police
25 Officer Murtagh, this is an example of how

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 well the Nassau County Police Department
3 works with our village partners, and they
4 are partners, they work as one unit. They
5 work together.

6 In this case Police Officer
7 Lorenzo sees smoke and follows that smoke
8 into Great Neck Estates, and then Police
9 Officer Murtagh and Lorenzo heroically go
10 into a fire at great peril to their own
11 safety and really putting their lives on the
12 line.

13 They saved two people. It's
14 quite clear that if not for the actions of
15 these officers today, they would not be
16 alive. It is truly heroic and it
17 demonstrates the great work that our police
18 officers of Nassau County and villages do
19 day in and day out and that are countless
20 examples and they are truly shining examples
21 of the men and women of the police of Nassau
22 County and I mean all of Nassau County.
23 Thank you very much for honoring them. It
24 is truly worthy and fitting. Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Officer

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Lorenzo, Officer Murtagh would you like to
3 say something?

4 OFFICER LORENZO: I'll just say
5 thank you very much.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You are
7 most welcome. What about Officer Murtagh?

8 OFFICER MURTAGH: I'm going to
9 say the same, thank you very much.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're
11 welcome. Legislator Rhoads.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
13 Presiding Officer Gonsalves.

14 I just want to offer my personal
15 congratulations having spent the last 25
16 years as a fire fighter in Wantagh myself, I
17 know first hand the tremendous risk that you
18 took.

19 I hope that the public has an
20 opportunity to see the photographs that have
21 been passed along here as to the conditions
22 on arrival.

23 There's no doubt in my mind that
24 were it not for your quick actions and risk
25 to your own personal safety going in without

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 protective clothing that we firefighters
3 have, without the benefit of an SCBA, self
4 contained breathing apparatus, to protect
5 our lungs, going in without all those
6 materials, and being able to rescue not just
7 one life but two lives, that certainly would
8 have perished because their home based on
9 those photographs would have been fully
10 engulfed within a matter of minutes as I'm
11 sure that it was. That's probably the
12 finest act of heroism there possibly could
13 be.

14 As a fire fighter and legislator
15 I just wanted to offer you my thanks and my
16 personal congratulations for your amazing
17 effort. You are a true credit to the Nassau
18 County Police Department. Thank you so
19 much.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
21 Birnbaum.

22 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I want to
23 add as a resident of Great Neck I know that
24 the whole community saw the black flames and
25 was in an uproar that day and we are so

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 thankful and grateful to the Nassau County
3 Police and Great Neck Estates Police for
4 your efforts and heroism that day.

5 I also understand there is
6 contact with Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, I
7 believe Officer Murtagh's wife grew up next
8 door to her, Justine.

9 So we thank you so much for what
10 you do every day. And this was really an
11 example of you going above and beyond what
12 you normally do. So thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now it's
14 picture taking time up here.

15 (Recess for photographs.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Please
17 take your seats.

18 Again, congratulations, and many
19 thanks to Officer Lorenzo and Officer
20 Murtagh.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Madam
22 Presiding Officer, I have a quick point of
23 personal privilege.

24 I want to congratulate you, Madam
25 Presiding Officer, in that your son Greg is

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 receiving his PhD today from Yale University
3 in public health. It's quite an
4 achievement. You must be very proud.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
6 very much, Deputy Presiding Officer
7 Nicolello, as any mother would be proud for
8 a son or daughter achieving such a great
9 accomplishment.

10 I know he is in the field he set
11 up for Yale University, now has a special
12 program in public health, and that's a major
13 reason why of course I'm proud because he's
14 pursuing his lifelong dream of working for
15 public health.

16 So, thank you again, Deputy
17 Presiding Officer Nicolello, and, of course,
18 I am proud of my son for his
19 accomplishments.

20 Now I have two other points of
21 personal privilege. I'm going to begin with
22 Legislator Bynoe know. I know that she's
23 got a number of admirers in this room that
24 are waiting to be acknowledged so Legislator
25 Bynoe.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
3 Madam Presiding Officer. I would like to
4 have the opportunity to welcome the fifth
5 grade class from Drexel Avenue School.

6 The principal is Dr. Toledo and
7 the teacher who is joining them today is
8 Ms. Lorraine Massilione and also
9 Ms. Dellarusso. If they would stand up,
10 fifth graders, stand up.

11 We have spent the morning
12 together and they learned about Nassau
13 County government and they were able to see
14 a little bit of it in action today. So
15 welcome and thank you for taking part. Have
16 a good afternoon.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority
18 Leader Kevan Abrahams has a point of
19 personal privilege.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
21 Madam Presiding Officer.

22 Before I begin with my points of
23 personal privilege in recognizing the
24 Varsity Freeport varsity softball team as
25 well as the Freeport wrestlers that placed

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 in the Nassau County wrestling championship,
3 I think I would be remiss if I didn't take
4 the opportunity to thank as well as wish
5 nothing but good wishes for two of our
6 colleagues who will be moving on to
7 different endeavors; Presiding Officer
8 Gonsalves, as well as Legislator Dennis
9 Dunne will no longer be members of this
10 legislative body come January of next year.

11 But in my capacity as the leader
12 of the Democrats, the minority side of the
13 Legislature, in working with Presiding
14 Officer Gonsalves, though we may have
15 disagreed on some issues, I truly believe we
16 both felt and knew that our hearts were in
17 the right place in serving the taxpayers of
18 this county regardless of our beliefs.

19 And I want to take this
20 opportunity to thank you her for her service
21 and wish her continued success in her
22 personal endeavors with her grandchildren,
23 her family and celebrate obviously the
24 achievements of her son; and also to take
25 this opportunity to wish Dennis success. I

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 served with Dennis since I have been in the
3 Legislature for now, since 2002, as I did
4 with the Presiding Officer, and, again, I
5 want to continue to wish both of you
6 continued success in Dennis' political
7 endeavors and the Presiding Officer in your
8 family endeavors as well.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
10 Minority Leader.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And just so
12 you know, the Presiding Officer, I mentioned
13 to her about five minutes ago I was going to
14 do this and she told me don't do it.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: He doesn't
16 listen.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I do no
18 listen, as you can probably tell.

19 That being said, it gives me
20 great honor and great pleasure and I know we
21 are joined by some of our Freeport elected
22 officials, I saw Village Trustee Debra Mule'
23 as well as Freeport school member and
24 trustee, vice president of the board Anthony
25 Miller, who is also here with us as well.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Today it gives me great honor to
3 recognize two of our distinguished teams in
4 Freeport. I will start with the ladies that
5 placed in the spring season in the --
6 they're the conference AA three champions,
7 the Freeport women's softball team. Please
8 join us.

9 They are led by Coach Danielle
10 Seckerson who is also named the conference
11 coach of the year. As all of you know, I'm
12 also a proud resident of the village of
13 Freeport. It makes me nothing more proud of
14 these young ladies achieving this goal of
15 this height and magnitude.

16 I would love to be able to
17 present citations to each and every one of
18 you, but I would love to give you, coach, or
19 any of young ladies to talk about your
20 season talk about some the challenges and
21 talk about some of the successes as well.

22 UNIDENTIFIED ATHLETE: We just
23 wanted to say thank you for this opportunity
24 to be honored here and be recognized for our
25 hard work and wanted to thank our amazing

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 coaches, Danielle Seckerson, Gabby Loper.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Go ahead.

4 COACH SECKERSON: And just really
5 quickly, I wanted to make sure everyone knew
6 how amazing these girls are. Besides
7 finishing in first place for the first time
8 in 16 years, only twice in the past 35 years
9 have Freeport softball placed as conference
10 champions.

11 This team was also the scholar
12 athlete team which means 75 percent of them
13 had a GPA of 90 or better which means they
14 are the true definition of a student
15 athlete.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If we had a
17 home run contest I'm willing to bet the
18 ladies up there would definitely beat the
19 folks up here. These guys wouldn't get it
20 out of the infield. So I want to thank you
21 again.

22 I'm also want to recognize the
23 men from the wrestling team, so I will join
24 you guys in the back. It brings a great
25 amount of admiration as well as a feeling of

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 being proud for each and every one of you
3 the fact that number one you have achieved
4 this achievement on the field but what you
5 are achieving in life and academically is
6 even more important and hopefully this is
7 only a vehicle to open doors for you
8 academically as well as in life down the
9 road. I'm proud of each and every one of
10 you.

11 So I have citations for each and
12 every one of you and we'll present those in
13 the back.

14 I also want to take this
15 opportunity to share this distinguished
16 occasion with Legislator Curran who also
17 shares Freeport with me as well as
18 Legislator Rhoads who both cover the
19 Freeport area and if they want to join us we
20 will do pictures in the outside ante-chamber
21 then we can join there later on.

22 That being said, Freeport is
23 doing many great things and I also want to
24 take this opportunity to recognize I believe
25 we have five wrestlers today who -- Dennis

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 would -- one of our colleagues, Legislator
3 Dennis Dunne is a big wrestling fan, former
4 wrestler, inducted in the Hall of Fame.

5 One of our legislators, Dennis
6 Dunne, you've heard before obviously he's
7 mourning the loss of his mother, was also
8 inducted into the hall of fame for
9 wrestling. So Dennis has a tremendous
10 amount of admiration. I know he would love
11 to appreciate each and every one of you that
12 are here today.

13 Please stand up, gentlemen. The
14 Freeport wrestling team is coached by Joe
15 Chetti, as well as assistant coach Matt
16 Sellin. But I do want to take the
17 opportunity, coach, to give you an
18 opportunity to speak.

19 Before I do so I want to
20 recognize the fact that these gentleman here
21 have carried themselves with a great amount
22 of ability, I'm sure as well as on the mat.
23 But in addition to probably as well as in
24 the classroom.

25 We are here today with Deshawn

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Thomas, I have five down. Tell me who is
3 not here.

4 Here, Frankie Polito, Chad Elder,
5 Ikey Kehelis, and Freshman Lee Morris and
6 from what we are reading here, also Lee also
7 placed first in the 2017 War at the Shore
8 tournament held at Wildwood Convention
9 Center in Wildwood New Jersey which earned
10 him the national title and All American
11 status in the 120 pound weight class as
12 well.

13 Coach, please, as we did before,
14 with the softball team, share with us the
15 challenges and some of the accomplishments
16 we would love to hear how your season went
17 and how it progressed.

18 COACH CHETTI: First of all, we
19 want to take the time to thank you, the
20 chamber itself, we are very humbled and very
21 appreciative that we are here today.

22 I don't want to take the time
23 away from these young men, they're the guys
24 that really really worked hard. I have been
25 coaching for 26 years at Freeport High

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 School and this is a very hard working group
3 that has a brotherhood of bond that lasts
4 forever. They push each other and it's just
5 magical to me when you see at the end of the
6 season everything comes together and all
7 five of them were on the stand this year
8 giving the team a top ten finish again, but,
9 more importantly for them, the goal in
10 wrestling for people who don't know, you
11 want to get on that stand and be honored
12 forever.

13 Of course, winning the county
14 title would be better, but four of the five,
15 these four gentleman will be back. So there
16 is promise again. I know that's in their
17 goals and dreams to do that so I want to
18 wish them well and I'm sure with the hard
19 work they are putting in it's going to
20 happen.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I can tell
22 you on behalf of not just the village of
23 Freeport and the school district, but on
24 behalf of also the residents of the county,
25 we are all extremely proud of each of your

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 achievements. You've made Nassau County,
3 especially in a national championship, you
4 have made us tremendously proud, not just on
5 the county but on the national stage as
6 well.

7 So, at this time I will ask
8 Legislator Rhoads as well as Legislator
9 Curran to join me in the anteroom so we can
10 properly present each of the gentlemen as
11 well as the ladies their proclamations and
12 certificates of recognition as well.

13 Before that, would you like to
14 say anything?

15 COACH CHETTI: Thank you for
16 honoring us.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Short and
18 sweet. Sounds good. I will join you in the
19 back.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now it's
21 time for public comment and I have a few
22 slips before me. I'm going to begin with
23 the first one, David Gross. Remember,
24 there's a three-minute limit and I would
25 appreciate that you stay within that limit.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Mr. Gross.

3 MR. GROSS: Thank you very much,
4 Legislator Gonsalves for this opportunity to
5 speak before the Legislature today.

6 My name is David Gross. I reside
7 at 545 East Beach Street in Long Beach here
8 in Nassau County.

9 My home is my only piece of real
10 property that I own. It is my primary
11 residence and the upstairs apartment is my
12 primary source of income at this time.

13 I wanted to share with you what
14 happened to me last year. I had a couple,
15 two tenants that lived upstairs in the
16 apartment. They decided they were going to
17 stop paying rent one day. I gave them
18 various notices and so forth. I followed
19 the rules of law.

20 I then hired an attorney. We
21 brought a summary eviction proceeding in the
22 city of Long Beach. It took approximately
23 two and a half months for the case to wind
24 its way through the landlord tenant process.
25 Ultimately I ended up with a warrant of

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 eviction and the judgement of possession,
3 warrant of eviction. I served that upon the
4 sheriff.

5 It took about another two months
6 for the sheriff to show up with the moving
7 and storage company. I was out about six or
8 seven months rent at that time and then I
9 was required to pay a \$5,000 moving bill to
10 remove my tenant's belongings. Those
11 belongs included all sorts of collectibles,
12 Lladros, Hummels, crystal wine glasses, and
13 even a baby grand piano.

14 I was informed that this is a
15 requirement of the Nassau County sheriff's
16 department and without agreeing to pay this
17 they would not assist me in removing my
18 tenant.

19 It seems to me this rule of the
20 Nassau County sheriff is a rather unfair
21 burden on our landlords of this county and
22 with some research I determined that I think
23 we are the only county in the state and
24 perhaps the only county in the country that
25 has such a rule.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 This rule is not a regulation.
3 It is not a law. It is simply a sheriff's
4 rule. Most of you I have contacted your
5 offices one way or another. Some of you I
6 have spoken with you personally to let you
7 know about this, I can go on for quite some
8 time about the genesis of this Nassau County
9 sheriff's rule. If you do want to speak to
10 me about that, please feel free to contact
11 me.

12 But, the bottom line is, it's a
13 simple rule of the Nassau County Sheriff's
14 Office that can be changed as quickly as it
15 was enacted back around 2001, 2002.

16 This is a tremendous burden on
17 landlords, not just landlords, but anyone
18 who owns a home in Nassau County because
19 that home might at sometime be a rental
20 property.

21 I see I'm out of time. I thank
22 you. If you have any questions, I would be
23 happy to answer them.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
25 very much. Legislator Ford would like to

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 comment.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
4 much for coming, Mr. Gross. We have been in
5 discussions with this and you are one of a
6 number of people that have been impacted
7 negatively by this legislation by this law.
8 Because I know so many people who own one
9 family homes and they might have an
10 apartment and the same thing has happened to
11 them where they would have someone living in
12 their home for a year not paying any rent.

13 Then, really, the kick in the
14 pants happens to be that you have to hire a
15 moving company to take all of their
16 possessions out. You have to provide
17 funding for other things. The sheriff, it's
18 just one nightmare after another.

19 We did have a discussion. That's
20 why I brought my counsel down. We were
21 surprised it hasn't been put on the calendar
22 yet.

23 Rest assured, I know that we had
24 discussed this in our caucus and we are
25 prepared to pass this legislation so look

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 for it on the June calendar.

3 MR. GROSS: Legislator Ford, I
4 would just respectfully point out to you you
5 used the term law and regulation with
6 respect to this rule. It is neither law nor
7 regulation, it is simply the sheriff's
8 department's way of doing business. That's
9 all it is.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: But we will
11 discuss this in our caucus but we are
12 looking to make this change.

13 MR. GROSS: Thank you, Legislator
14 Ford.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
16 Bynoe.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
18 Presiding Officer. It's my understanding
19 that this is actually legislation that was
20 actually introduced by Roger Corbin some
21 years ago and I'm in housing so it
22 negatively impacted the Housing Authority as
23 well. I do understand the purpose of the
24 law.

25 It's to protect those that might

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 already be disenfranchised or disadvantaged
3 and unable to make their rent, that their
4 own personal belongings don't get stolen
5 from the curb.

6 So while I understand that as a
7 landlord it's a monetary burden to you, I
8 believe that it's more of a burden to those
9 that already might be in a circumstances
10 where they can't pay their rent may end up
11 in fact without being rendered homeless and
12 then being rendered without any of their
13 personal belongs.

14 I understand your plight but if
15 we are looking to roll that back, I would
16 really seriously implore this body against
17 that. I suggest that may look at some other
18 options including potential opportunities
19 for them to self store. It might be cheaper
20 for them to store the property in the home
21 for 30 days and this way they're not
22 burdened with the cost of actually having to
23 move it.

24 Then at that point look at
25 something different. But I definitely do

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 not support the fact that we roll this back.
3 I think it protects a lot of low income
4 individuals who are in some way or another
5 impacted with eviction. So that's just my
6 two cents.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
8 Ford.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Legislator
10 Bynoe, you bring up an important part. The
11 law however we want to categorize it. But
12 when we were looking at this, and we were
13 aware of the fact that this law was passed
14 or whatever it was, was passed to protect
15 those because many many years ago we
16 witnessed in the papers pictures of people
17 who were evicted and then had all of their
18 household belongs placed on the curb so they
19 lost everything.

20 But when you look at the Housing
21 Authority, those are multiple family
22 dwellings. I think that the people who are
23 getting hurt in this instance happens to be
24 that person who has one tenant in their
25 two-family house or they're renting the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 house out.

3 So we have seen it maybe they're
4 the ones protecting the possessions of those
5 people, but I think that I have had
6 instances where a woman lost her husband,
7 wanted to get back in the house, had to rent
8 someplace because she couldn't get the
9 people out the house, she didn't have the
10 rent coming from them, then had to rent
11 somewhere else. All she wanted to do is be
12 back in her home for the holidays. Couldn't
13 do that. Then she found out on her little
14 bit of income, getting any type of revenue,
15 she then had to pay to hire a moving company
16 and then protect everything. It was like a
17 nightmare.

18 So you need to have a balance. I
19 think that in this case a lot of the
20 landlords that are being impacted with
21 something like this happens to be those that
22 may rent out their home or may have the
23 tenants living in their but the multiple
24 family dwellings, no.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I actually

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 believe there is a bigger issue here too.
3 Once you put people's belongings to the
4 curb, then you lend for a different level of
5 lawlessness. Then you have people that are
6 going to come and start picking through
7 people's belongings. If it's on a main
8 street, now you are creating and putting
9 people in harm and in danger.

10 So I think that if you have a
11 concern about this law, it's something that
12 we should look at, but I don't think rolling
13 it back and simply allowing people --
14 landlords to put people's belongings to the
15 curb is the way to go.

16 They allow it in Suffolk and we
17 don't want to be amongst Suffolk County when
18 it comes to this law. We want to stand out
19 and protect the tenants. Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
21 Bynoe, I have Legislator MacKenzie, but,
22 before I do, Mr. Gross would like to say a
23 comment.

24 MR. GROSS: Legislator Bynoe,
25 with all due respect, I would like to point

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 out a common misconception that you stated a
3 moment ago.

4 This rule of the sheriff has its
5 founding in a case of 2001 Village of
6 Hempstead versus Jerblonski. That case
7 didn't relate to public safety particularly.

8 What it related to was the
9 Village of Hempstead brought an action
10 against the sheriff saying that he was in
11 violation of 116-6 of the local municipal
12 law that had to do with anti-littering.

13 The sheriff was putting things
14 out on non garbage pick up days. That was
15 the genesis of the problem.

16 Now, there is an easier solution
17 for that. If the sheriff would simply work
18 with the local municipality to put things
19 out on bulk pick up day, or arrange for a
20 special pick up day, the whole problem is
21 resolved.

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: We will get
23 you a copy of the legislation that was filed
24 by Legislator Corbin and it specifically
25 dealt with the fact that we did not want to

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 further negatively impact those who were
3 unable to pay their rent, that their
4 personal belongings were then being stolen
5 from or taken from the curb once it was put
6 out into a public area.

7 So the intent of the law had
8 nothing to do with littering, had nothing
9 to do with garbage pick up, and has
10 everything to do with the fact that we were
11 protecting those who may have already may
12 have in some way fallen on hard times and
13 were unable to pay their rent and they
14 didn't feel it was right to put their
15 belongings to the curb. It is in protection
16 to the tenant.

17 So I will be happy to talk to you
18 in more depth about this issue at a later
19 time. I know the Presiding Officer has been
20 patient in allowing me to speak on this.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
22 Bynoe, I believe that the legislation you
23 are alluding to which was sponsored by
24 Legislator Corbin at the time did pass.

25 So it is on record. That

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 protects the tenants rights.

3 MR. GROSS: Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're
5 welcome. Except, Mr. MacKenzie, would you
6 like to say something?

7 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: I think a
8 lot has been said already. We are well
9 aware of the unique scenarios that you point
10 out. I've had people complain to me, older
11 woman can no longer afford her home, was
12 renting it out, and gets beat out of a few
13 months rent before they are able to evict,
14 but then, to add insult to injury, the
15 possessions were left in the home, but,
16 beyond that, they left abandoned cars on the
17 property which she was also required to tow
18 and store and it amounted to thousands of
19 dollars for a senior who was just trying to
20 keep her home.

21 So we are aware of the extreme
22 situations that can occur, particularly in
23 single family homes and the results that you
24 mentioned. So we are working on it.

25 MR. GROSS: Thank you.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Peter
3 Gaffney.

4 MR. GAFFNEY: Thank you for
5 listening to me. My name is Pete Gaffney.
6 I reside at 215 Harbor Street in Westbury,
7 New York. I come before the Legislative
8 Chamber just to talk about traffic safety.

9 There is a lot of civil discord
10 out there with regard to speeding, traffic
11 violations, and things like that. It's
12 rampant. It's really bad.

13 Just take the roads around here.
14 You take Clinton, probably 80 to 90 percent
15 of the people there excess speed, probably
16 excess of over ten miles an hour.

17 Trucks on the roadway are
18 speeding excessively including the post
19 office trucks, the Fed Ex trucks. School
20 buses are speeding.

21 I travel those streets every day
22 and there isn't one person on a regular
23 basis that drives at the posted speed limit
24 of 30 miles-per-hour.

25 You also take Old County Road

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 over here especially at rush hour, I mean,
3 the amount of speeding that goes on, even
4 with the high volume traffic, people are so
5 impatient. They go into that maximum left
6 turn lane and continue to go for three
7 quarters of a mile just to get to their
8 destination. I've even see people make
9 illegal U turns on Old Country Road. It's
10 ridiculous.

11 There needs to be something done.
12 I'm going to suggest a possibility of
13 looking at speed cameras to generate income
14 so we can have more community policing.

15 Currently right now, the Third
16 Precinct, I think now they've increased it
17 to four people.

18 Back in December there used to be
19 two. They hired one additional. Now it's
20 up to four people to cover the entire
21 precinct for community violations.

22 Again, I live if Westbury up
23 along the Carle Place School District.
24 There's a small town gas station that right
25 over around Westbury Avenue. I'm going to

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 tell you this, there's 15 to 20 people that
3 cut through the gas station just to beat the
4 traffic light. It's out of control.

5 To say that New York City with
6 their zero vision policy, maybe there's
7 something to it, not as extreme, but I'm
8 just saying to you, I've just seen some
9 crazy things.

10 You look in Newsday you see
11 horrific crashes. They just showed a
12 picture of a 17 year old hitting a tree. It
13 wasn't a dent. The car is wrapped around
14 the tree. The speeding is ridiculous. It's
15 become absolutely crazy.

16 You're the people that are
17 supposed to make and protect the citizens
18 and make it work. This is something that
19 both parties need to come together and come
20 up with some sort of a solution. Thank you.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
22 Mr. Gaffney. I want to say that Carle Place
23 is not alone. And this is something that we
24 face in each and every one of our districts.

25 I have three main county roads in

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 my district; Bellmore Avenue, Merrick
3 Avenue, and Jeruselum Avenue, and speeding
4 is a problem.

5 Only last week I implored the
6 police department to go out there and give
7 tickets and they did but that's only
8 temporary.

9 I can understand where you are
10 coming from because it is a major problem
11 and it does put the safety of our
12 pedestrians and residents at risk. So I
13 thank you for being here today.

14 MR. GAFFNEY: Thank you but I
15 still would like you all to do something
16 about it because it's a problem in every one
17 of your districts. You just said so.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Absolutely.
19 And I know you made a suggestion and that
20 suggestion from two years ago did not
21 survive here. So I don't know whether or
22 not --

23 MR. GAFFNEY: It's time to
24 rethink it.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Rethink

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 it. It's always time. Thank you,
3 Mr. Gaffney. Joanne Bo.

4 MS. BO: Good afternoon. My name
5 is Joanne Bow and I'm a board member of the
6 South Bellmore Civic Association which was
7 formed after Super Storm Sandy and a member
8 of the Bellmore Moms and Dads Group which
9 together has 4,000 members.

10 I'm here today on their behalf to
11 request that Merrick Road in Bellmore be
12 repaved.

13 We have been told by the county
14 for many years that this project would be
15 completed.

16 As the years passed, Merrick Road
17 continues to deteriorate. It's become a
18 patchwork of filled pot holes. The road is
19 so bad that even our pot holes have pot
20 holes.

21 As we do our civic association
22 cleanups on Merrick Road, we pick up large
23 chunks of the road that are literally
24 crumbling every day. These chunks on the
25 road are lying on curbs and sidewalks.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 The roads are dangerous. They
3 are uneven. And one section even has a
4 large steel plate covering the road.

5 The road is dangerous not only to
6 motorists, but extremely dangerous to motor
7 cycles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

8 Merrick Road in Merrick was
9 resurfaced a few years ago with black top
10 which has drastically improved the safety
11 and appearance. The next section of Merrick
12 Road in Bellmore is only 1.5 miles and that
13 desperately needs to be resurfaced with
14 black top.

15 We are aware that one vote is
16 holding up the capital project and we are
17 pleading with you to do the right thing and
18 stop putting public safety at risk and help
19 a community that was devastated by Super
20 Storm Sandy still working on repairing our
21 community.

22 South Oyster Bay Road was
23 completely overhauled with resurfacing
24 sidewalks, pavers and trees.

25 We are asking that the 1.5 miles

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 of blacktop on a very busy Merrick Road that
3 is the center of our community and
4 businesses be repaved. Thank you.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
6 Rhoads.

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: First off,
8 Ms. Bo, I want to say thank you so much for
9 taking the time to come down here and voice
10 the concerns stressed by so many residents
11 along the south shore and of course by the
12 South Bellmore Civic Association.

13 The reality is that we have over
14 \$120 million in capital infrastructure
15 projects that are being held up by funding
16 because of the absence of one additional
17 vote, a 13th vote, so that we can actually
18 do those infrastructure projects.

19 It is everything from police
20 technology upgrades to upgrades for
21 maintenance of our sewage treatment and
22 infrastructure system, pump station upgrades
23 are one of the items on the calendar today,
24 along with Clerk Item 466 of '16 which is \$1
25 million for improvements to Merrick Road and

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 specifically Bellmore Avenue which would
3 encompass part of the area that you spoke
4 about.

5 But it's road reconstruction,
6 traffic safety, parks improvements,
7 environmental safety projects, housing
8 improvements for veterans, there are a wide
9 variety of projects that are being held up
10 because of the absence of one vote from a
11 single member of the minority caucus.
12 That's what's preventing it from happening.

13 Just so I can explain to you
14 what's going on on Merrick Road for those of
15 who happen to not live in that area, I did
16 participate along with Ms. Bo in the South
17 Bellmore Civic cleanup, that they diligently
18 do every year, and how silly is it that a
19 civic association has to actually go out and
20 try to do maintenance that we should be
21 doing if we had the ability to be able to do
22 it.

23 This is actually, if I can
24 demonstrate, this is actually part of
25 Merrick Road. This chunk of concrete,

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Merrick Road in that particular area is a
3 concrete bed roadway.

4 This particular chunk of roadway
5 was laying on the side of the street because
6 we don't have the infrastructure money that
7 we need to be able to prepare these things
8 properly and be able to resurface Merrick
9 Road.

10 Instead we put in patch. This
11 bag and I could have filled a thousand bags
12 like this, this bag is gravel. This is the
13 patch that we actually try to fill the
14 concrete bed roadway with that disintegrate
15 in a very short period of time.

16 These things are symbolic of what
17 happens when you ignore infrastructure and
18 what happens when you use capital spending
19 as a political tool to make a point.

20 We have work that has to be done.
21 We have people that we all represent. There
22 are projects that are being held up all
23 across the county including in each one of
24 our Legislative districts including your
25 districts, so, please, let's do the business

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 the people. Let's take care of our
3 infrastructure structure. Let's approve our
4 capital spending. Let's do the business
5 that the people sent us here to do so we
6 don't have to force people like Ms. Bo to
7 come down here and plead for this not to
8 exist on a busy roadway.

9 Bellmore Avenue, for example, it
10 says Bellmore Road, but Bellmore Avenue,
11 for example, there are portions of Bellmore
12 Avenue don't have sidewalks.

13 What winds up happening, in the
14 wintertime, nobody shovels the grass in
15 front of their homes so that kids can walk.
16 The reality is is that kids are walking to
17 and from school, they have to walk along
18 Bellmore Avenue, a busy roadway, and they
19 put themselves at risk just to get to
20 school.

21 These are things that we have the
22 responsibility to take care of. There are
23 things we can take care of if we work
24 together instead of opposing each other on
25 our capital projects.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 So I appreciate you coming down
3 here, Ms. Bo, very much on behalf of the
4 civic association to express your concerns
5 and I hope they have not fallen on deaf
6 ears.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have
8 three or four other speakers of residents
9 who would like to comment today. I'm going
10 to ask my colleagues, after you Minority
11 Leader, to be brief so we can move on.

12 I would like to have each and
13 every one that has submitted a slip to be
14 called before I call public comment to a
15 halt. Minority Leader, go.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I want to
17 respond because there's a constituent who
18 has a very valid claim and Legislator Rhoads
19 had some very theatric type of presentations
20 there. But let's just be clear what we're
21 talking about.

22 Ms. Bo, I'm sure, I don't know if
23 you know or do not know, but the county in
24 October passed over \$20 million in road
25 resurfacing projects. So that bonding is

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 done. That money is in place.

3 Legislator Rhoads, standing here
4 with pieces of asphalt, which I don't
5 undermine the fact that he probably got them
6 from Merrick Road, but the fact remains this
7 Legislative body, to the disapproval where
8 we stand in this procurement process, but
9 I'm not going to bring that up, this
10 Legislative body approved bonding for road
11 resurfacing which would include Merrick
12 Road.

13 So the problem is not the 19
14 Legislative members, or point out the
15 Democratic ones, like Legislator Rhoads
16 pointed out, that's beyond the point.

17 The problem, it needs to happen,
18 it requires the Department of Public Works
19 to actually procure it for the procurement
20 to come forward.

21 So I don't understand the need
22 for holding up asphalt, or gravel, if you
23 have the money. That's what you're here
24 for. That's what you're here for. You want
25 to make sure the Legislative body has done

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 their job which is to provide the money.

3 The Legislature has done their job.

4 So the next step would be -- if
5 you want to come to the mike because I can't
6 hear you, the next step would be that County
7 Executive, the administration, would
8 actually enter into an RFP process, that RFP
9 process would generate an award, and that
10 contract would be sent to the Legislature
11 for approval and would be heard in the Rules
12 Committee meeting. That's where it stands
13 going forward.

14 But, to me, casting blame is not
15 why you are here today. You represent a
16 group of people, a civic association, they
17 just want to see their tax dollars at work.
18 They don't want to see their tax dollars
19 being spent on all kinds of things that
20 you're reading about in the paper. They
21 want to see their tax dollars go towards
22 community protection and public safety.
23 That's why you are here today.

24 I strongly disagree with
25 Legislator Rhoads. I don't know why he did

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 what he did today in terms of making it a
3 partisan issue. He knows full well that
4 this money has been there, been there for
5 over six months, seven months it's been
6 there.

7 I don't know why he would go into
8 that big presentation but I'm here to rest
9 assured to you to give you the facts. The
10 facts are that the money is bonded. The
11 money is there. And now it requires the
12 administration to take some action to be
13 able to procure it so it could come down to
14 the Legislature so we can move forward.

15 I'm sure Legislator Rhoads has a
16 response as well.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
18 Rhoads.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The reason,
20 Minority Leader, that there isn't a specific
21 project for Merrick Road and Bellmore Avenue
22 is because it was not included within the
23 \$20 million and you should know that.

24 The reason that we raised it
25 today is because the approval hasn't been

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 given for this particular stretch of roadway
3 and I would urge every one to come down and
4 take a look at the condition of that
5 roadway.

6 That road needs to be repaired
7 and it has not been included in any project
8 that's been approved by this body because we
9 are waiting on that additional vote.

10 If, in fact, we are so concerned
11 about the roadway, can we advance this item
12 today and have your commitment that you are
13 going to vote for it so we can approve it?

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It is an
15 item on the calendar today.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The item
17 that I have before me is a street scaping,
18 North Merrick Road.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Well,
21 that's what I'm looking at, it's on
22 Jerusalem Avenue, not Merrick Road. I'm not
23 too sure what Legislator Rhoads is referring
24 to. 466, 416. Let's read it into the
25 record and find out what it is.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The item
3 on the calendar, for the record, hold on, it
4 is a bond ordinance for that particular
5 project.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam
7 Presiding Officer, this is for a
8 streetscape.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No, it's
10 not. It's a road resurfacing.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no.
12 Let me read it into the record again. This
13 is the Merrick Road, Bellmore Road
14 improvement for street scaping. This is not
15 bonding for a resurfacing. This is not
16 going to fix what we are hearing today.
17 This is for a street scape. This is for
18 pavers, decorative lighting.

19 61587 is the capital project for
20 road resurfacing and that's not on today.

21 This is not road resurfacing.
22 Legislator Rhoads, can you clarify? I'm not
23 too sure I understand what you're talking
24 about.

25 I have seen these all the time.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 You guys put these up all the time. These
3 are street scapes. This is decorative
4 lighting. This is park benches.

5 Norma, I'm reading the item.
6 It's right here.

7 MS. BO: Does it have the streets
8 that would be done, Merrick Road?

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It has
10 Merrick Road. I would have to look it up in
11 the back. I'm looking at a summary. It's
12 not repaving. I'm not too sure what -- if,
13 Legislator Rhoads, can you comment, please?

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I certainly
15 can. We will take a look at that particular
16 grouping.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Now we are
18 going to take a look at it. Before you said
19 I should know this.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The reality
21 is yours and --

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Let's put
23 it this way. We will find out exactly what
24 Merrick Bellmore Road improvements are.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: There is an

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 issue, because Merrick Road and Bellmore
3 Road don't even intersect.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Get it
5 right.

6 MS. BO: Well, I called on
7 another issue that came up recently with the
8 improvement of the water plants that was
9 voted down, recently and when I called
10 Mr. Abrahams Office, and I called I spoke to
11 someone in Glen Cove and I was told that
12 things weren't being processed because
13 everything was being held up. We are not
14 doing capital improvements. Things were
15 being held up because of county politics.
16 And I thought this fell into the same
17 category.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Folks can
19 categorize it any way they want in terms of
20 county policy.

21 MS. BO: But it's not getting
22 done. Things are not getting done.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I agree
24 with you, it's not getting done because this
25 legislative body can't come to an agreement

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 on how we procure and how we protect
3 taxpayer dollars in this county. That's the
4 problem.

5 MS. BO: That is a problem.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We believe
7 on this side that we need to have an
8 Independent Anti-Corruption Officer to
9 oversee the procurement process so some of
10 the stuff that you read about does not
11 happen again. They believe we have enough.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I would
13 like to move on. I'm sorry that we have
14 such a debate up here. I have three other
15 people.

16 MS. BO: That's oversight. We
17 should really worry about contracts.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You are
19 absolutely right, but I'm not going to
20 debate that. We have a procurement director
21 in this room today to verify.

22 MS. BO: To make sure all
23 contracts are legal, and --

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes,
25 absolutely. And let's move on and thank you

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 for coming.

3 MS. BO: I hope we get something
4 done and can move and fix our water
5 treatment plants and fix our roads and do
6 the jobs that you're supposed to be doing.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I ask my
8 colleagues to hold their debate. There are
9 three other speakers and right now I can
10 call public comment to a halt until after
11 the legislative meeting.

12 Rather than do that, I'm asking
13 my colleagues to hold their comments and
14 their debate, primarily because this is the
15 time for public comment. That's it.

16 I think I have been very, very, I
17 guess, obliging, in having this so-called
18 debate going on.

19 I want to now call Joanne Borden
20 because she has been sitting here for a
21 while. Okay, Joanne. I have three others.
22 I intend to have all three before we go into
23 the Legislative meeting. Nothing else prior
24 to that. I ask you to hold your comments,
25 legislators.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 MS. BORDEN: Before I begin, I
3 just want to say, I just want to address
4 Ms. Gonsalves and express my gratitude for
5 her courtesy even though she disagrees with
6 me and I'm actually sorry to see you go. I
7 would like you to be in the minority but I'm
8 sorry to see you go.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: If I
10 stayed, I don't think I would've been in the
11 minority. No comment, Joanne, it's nice to
12 see you.

13 MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon
14 everyone. Legislator Nicoletto's
15 interpretation of our Human Rights Law for
16 transgender people says they are protected
17 in the law.

18 Mr. Drucker's interpretation says
19 that it is not. This demonstrates our law
20 is uncertain and all lawyers learn a law
21 must be certain, interpreted only one way.

22 Last time I read the County
23 Attorney's ruling stating we are not
24 explicitly covered by Nassau's law.

25 This time I will read the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Republican legal counsel's letter,
3 Mr. Astuni's letter to me in 2010.

4 "Dear Ms. Borden, pursuant to
5 your request, I have analyzed the relevant
6 case law and have concluded that a court
7 would likely conclude that the Human Rights
8 Law is protected of transgender individuals.

9 He said a court would likely
10 conclude, likely fails to meet the laws
11 certainty requirement because likely allows
12 other possibilities, other choices.

13 The change we propose merely
14 defines the word gender to include us with
15 certainty in our law. Race and religion are
16 protected not likely to have protection.

17 Put the transgender Human Rights
18 Law to a vote so a court would have no
19 choice in determining if we are covered.
20 Medical researchers say we are a natural
21 occurrence of exposure to hormones in our
22 mother's womb. Such that as our physical
23 body and our brain develop along different
24 gender path by allowing a law to be
25 uncertain in protecting us, and to encourage

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 haters to deprive us of jobs and other human
3 needs, and murderers to kill more and more
4 of us each year.

5 You give young bigots a license
6 to taunt and beat transgender children,
7 drive them out of school and drive many to
8 suicide.

9 Do not allow your inaction to
10 encourage this unnecessary harm and unGodly
11 slaughter. Put the transgender Human Rights
12 Law to a vote.

13 Thank you, Mr. Pulitzer. Please
14 put Mr. Astuni's document into the record.
15 I gave it to the clerk.

16 In it he sites a case, Hispanic
17 Aids Forum v estate of Bruno. In defense of
18 Mr. Astuni perhaps the appeal of the case he
19 cited came after the letter to me.

20 But the New York State Appellate
21 Court reversed that division and
22 Mr. Astuni's conclusion.

23 It demonstrates that we are not
24 protected. I'm also asking you to include
25 the County Attorney's letter into the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 record. Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Howard
4 Kroplick.

5 MR. KROPLICK: Presiding Officer
6 Gonsalves, Legislators. Thank you for the
7 opportunity to discuss one of my favorite
8 subjects, the Roslyn Gristmill. I'm Howard
9 Kroplick, 33 Wren Drive, East Hills, New
10 York. I'm the account historian of North
11 Hempstead. I'm also on the Board of
12 Trustees of the Roslyn Landmark Society and
13 SPRIA, and I'm here to discuss our support
14 for Resolution number 129-2017.

15 The Roslyn Gristmill is a rare
16 surviving early 18th Century Long Island
17 building purposely built for industrial use
18 in the heart of the Village of Roslyn,
19 historic Roslyn.

20 The building features unique
21 Dutch framing methods and it was the center
22 of business activity in the village for over
23 200 years. It was acquired by Nassau County
24 in 1976. That's 41 years ago. And it has
25 been vacant.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 When it was acquired by Nassau
3 County it with the promise that it would be
4 restored. Unfortunately, over these 40
5 years it has become somewhat of an eyesore
6 in the center of the village.

7 Restoration and preservation of
8 the Roslyn Gristmill will preserve an
9 important piece of Long Island heritage
10 while encouraging tourism to one of the most
11 historic villages in Nassau County.

12 As the editorial board in Newsday
13 said just last year, it is a gristmill and a
14 past worth saving.

15 Now, I have good news. Over the
16 last year we have had a committee together
17 to generate funds for the preservation of
18 the Roslyn Gristmill; this includes Nassau
19 County, the village of Roslyn, the Town of
20 North Hempstead, private foundations, New
21 York State, and the Roslyn Landmark Society,
22 as well as surrounding Hempstead Harbor
23 communities.

24 We've revitalized the restoration
25 effort and we raised \$1.2 million to date,

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 so we're ready to begin Phase One.

3 This restoration funding began 11
4 years ago by Nassau County when you approved
5 \$250,000 in EPA funds. We are now on the
6 verge of starting the restoration of Phase
7 One. The only thing holding up is you
8 signing the approval of the IMA between the
9 Village of Roslyn and Nassau County.

10 I would like to personally thank
11 the bipartisan effort here. We have had
12 discussion on both the north and south wings
13 concerning this project. We've gotten very
14 positive response.

15 And I do appreciate hopefully the
16 approval today of the final step in the
17 process of authorizing the County Executive
18 to execute the grant agreement between the
19 county and Village of Roslyn.

20 The downside is, if we don't get
21 this approved, this project cannot go
22 forward. We need that additional \$250,000
23 to start Phase One.

24 Again, thank you for everybody
25 who has been involved with this historic

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 project. We are going to take an eyesore
3 and make it a beautiful location for the
4 people, the residents of Nassau County, to
5 really enjoy a really important part of the
6 history of Nassau County. Thank you very
7 much.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.
9 Jack McCloy.

10 MR. MCCLOY: Members of the
11 Legislature, thank you for allowing me to
12 address you today.

13 I would like to mention, I want
14 to talk about two topics and I'll make them
15 both quick. The first one is the traffic
16 safety issue.

17 I would like to point out, yes, I
18 am running for the seat that Laura Curran
19 will be vacating in Legislative District 5
20 and on my website I have something posted
21 that Judy Jacobs had written a couple of
22 years back.

23 It was a response to a proposal
24 that I addressed to the Legislature at that
25 time about traffic safety and how to

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 eliminate wrong way driving or at least
3 seriously reduce the incidents of wrong way
4 driving.

5 She was in favor of that idea. I
6 would like to mention to you again that that
7 would be one way that we can improve traffic
8 safety on Long Island.

9 I would like to mention I just
10 got back yesterday from Seoul, South Korea,
11 and if there's one thing that's completely
12 different here on Long Island than what
13 happens over there is the driving.

14 The streets are narrow. The cars
15 go fast. They have a lot of motorcycles
16 traveling in between the cars and the
17 pedestrians, and they don't seem to defer to
18 the walking traffic.

19 The reason why I mention this, I
20 want to mention the reason I mention this,
21 the reason I went is my son got married
22 there last week and it was a joyful
23 occasion.

24 But one of the things that
25 occurred, and the reason why I mention this,

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 while I was there, they had the national
3 elections occur.

4 I spoke to a number of people
5 that were on my son's, now wife's family
6 side that had given me a greater insight
7 into what was happening there politically
8 than I think I would have been enable to
9 absorb if I was here.

10 When I walked around in south
11 Korea person after person would come up to
12 me, because I looked different, and they
13 would say, where are you from. I would say
14 New York. They would say, we love America.
15 We love Americans. There is a fondness for
16 Americans there that I had no idea about.

17 Yet, when they had their last
18 election, there was a sweeping change in the
19 political dynamic there.

20 I asked some of the elders of the
21 family members that we were talking about,
22 why did such a tremendous change occur?
23 They basically said that the ruling party
24 previously headed by Mrs. Park did not have
25 other political members that vigorously

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 opposed her viewpoints and ethics, lapses
3 and they swept most of the candidates out
4 including the ruling leader.

5 I mention this, not focused on
6 one party or another, and I will wrap this
7 up in a few seconds, but just as a comment
8 to state that I hope that it's possible that
9 our Legislature can get along with regards
10 to issues that are for the benefit of the
11 general public because what I saw there was
12 the result of something that they said, or
13 was the dynamic between the two parties and
14 the inability of them to get along.

15 I hope that you are all
16 successful in your upcoming races and I just
17 wanted to point out that that situation I
18 hope does not occur here with our sitting
19 legislators. Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
21 Mr. McCloy. Nicholas Stirling.

22 SUPERINTENDENT STIRLING: Good
23 afternoon. I'm sorry that the students that
24 were here just a while ago had to leave, but
25 I'm very excited and happy to see that this

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 body continues to support our students as
3 well as taking the time to recognize their
4 accomplishments. You are obviously a group
5 of people who obviously care about the
6 students here in the Nassau County area.

7 I'm the superintendent of Valley
8 Stream 30. I'm here to ask for some help.
9 As you're aware, the revocation of the Green
10 Acres Pilot has occurred and we really feel
11 that this revocation should not negatively
12 impact student services and/or programs and
13 should not result in a disproportionate
14 shift of taxes to our homeowners.

15 As such, the district is
16 respectfully requesting that you work with
17 the industrial with the IDA, the Hempstead
18 IDA, the assessor, the Assessment Review
19 Commission, and any other appropriate
20 department within Nassau County to take
21 whatever actions are necessary to restore
22 each of the Green Acres Mall's property to
23 taxable status 2017-18 fiscal year.

24 Please note that August 15, mid
25 August, is a critical time for the school

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 districts because at that particular time we
3 must report to the state as well as to the
4 county what our tax levy will be.

5 We have two scenarios looming.
6 One, approximately \$10 million in a possible
7 shortfall due to possible litigation or
8 nonpayment that will ultimately devastate
9 our district.

10 Or, two, the unnecessary
11 collection of \$10 million from our residents
12 which ultimately could be returned to them
13 the following year and you have gone through
14 that this year.

15 We are really trying to avoid a
16 situation that puts children and programs at
17 risk.

18 The taxpayers of 30, 24, and 13
19 and other neighboring Valley Stream areas
20 should not have to bear another year of tax
21 increases because the school districts are
22 not given the appropriate information to
23 calculate the tax levy.

24 Please help us to return the mall
25 to the rolls immediately in the name of

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 children and taxpayers who only want to pay
3 their fair share. Get them all back on the
4 tax rolls and we would truly appreciate your
5 help.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
7 very much, superintendent.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding
9 Officer?

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have one
11 more comment.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'll be
13 brief.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. You
15 open the door --

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you,
17 Presiding Officer. First of all, I would
18 like to thank you first of all for your many
19 years of service and thank you back in
20 October you stated that if the Pilots were
21 revoked that you would assist in helping to
22 make sure that the property is back on the
23 tax roll.

24 This is an example of justice
25 delayed being justice denied. The more time

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 that we wait, or the more time that goes on,
3 the school districts are not aware of what
4 payments may be made, puts them further in a
5 difficult position from their budgets.

6 So I'm just asking respectfully
7 that we put more pressure -- I know that you
8 reached out to the IDA and I appreciate that
9 we put more pressure on the IDA and all the
10 other actors involved here to make sure this
11 gets done. That's all. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now
13 Legislator Gaylor.

14 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you,
15 Presiding Officer. Thank you, Dr. Stirling
16 for your comments.

17 A couple of points that I would
18 have to bring up that I don't necessarily
19 agree with your total assertions that you've
20 made.

21 I know that school district 30
22 has an overage of money that was collected
23 due to budget miscalculations whereby
24 taxpayers were overcharged and that money
25 could've been returned this year to the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 taxpayers and should have been returned.

3 Thus, through the reluctance of the school
4 district, it wasn't.

5 As you are aware last week I sent
6 a letter to you, a copy of the letter I sent
7 to you, our state legislators, with proposed
8 legislation to place the Green Acres
9 property back onto the tax roll. Did you
10 get a copy of that letter?

11 DR. STIRLING: On Friday.

12 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Yes. You
13 did. So you know the actions we are taking
14 here in the Legislature to try to help the
15 tax paying citizens who have rightly or
16 wrongly suffered throughout this whole
17 process.

18 In order to put the Green Acres
19 property back on the tax roll, there is
20 required state legislation.

21 And, as such, I have asked our
22 state legislators to introduce the
23 legislation I've proposed so we can quickly
24 get this property back onto the tax roll.

25 I think it's kind of disingenuous

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 for you to neglect bringing these facts up
3 to the public and before this board.

4 Equally I believe it's
5 disingenuous by our legislator on the other
6 side who is aware of the actions being taken
7 not to recognize that fact. So I think that
8 the --

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You are
10 incorrect in your alternative facts.

11 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: You have the
12 right to disagree with me and I appreciate
13 that. The actions that were taken here --

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You should
15 be helping us with the school districts and
16 not hurting them. Please.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Didn't I
18 just say --

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Mr. Gaylor,
20 stick to your district. You, of course,
21 want Green Acres Mall on the tax roll, do
22 you? Are you defending Green Acres Mall?

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Sounds
24 like Legislator Solages doesn't want to
25 listen.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: You had an
3 opportunity to speak and I think I should
4 have an opportunity to speak freely without
5 interruption. You like to grandstand, Mr.
6 Solages.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No more
8 interrupting, Mr. Solages.

9 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: That's your
10 mode of operation, to grandstand and grab a
11 headline here.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You're just
13 jealous. No one is listening to you. No
14 one cares about you.

15 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: You are
16 disrespectful.

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Legislator
18 Solages, you're out of order.

19 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: You are very
20 disrespectful. But it's me who is the
21 person who is introducing the legislation
22 repeatedly.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You are not
24 doing anything but distracting people.

25 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: To our state

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 representative in order to help the citizens
3 in Valley Stream.

4 I will continue to work and fight
5 for the citizens of Valley Stream for all
6 our taxpayers. There are certain processes
7 and steps that have to be accomplished that
8 we are taking to accomplish. We are not
9 grandstanding like you are and throwing a
10 barb at people because you think that gets
11 you some kind of --

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You are
13 jealous. Nobody cares about you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You are
15 being rude, Legislator Solages. Stop
16 interrupting.

17 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: You are very
18 disrespectful. I think the superintendent
19 now can recognize the fact of the caliber
20 the person that you are, Mr. Solages, and
21 you should be ashamed of yourself, quite
22 honestly.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You should
24 be ashamed of yourself because you submit
25 letters in support of liquor stores in my

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 district. You should be ashamed of yourself
3 for that.

4 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I think, Dr.
5 Stirling, you --

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: And it was
7 denied by the way. Wasted your time.

8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I thank you,
9 Presiding --

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm
11 serious. You're not going to interrupt and
12 be rude.

13 SUPERINTENDENT STIRLING: Thank
14 you very much for hearing me this afternoon.
15 I just want to share with you just briefly
16 that I am not disingenuous and I'm not here
17 to debate Legislator Gaylor, what he has is
18 incorrect and I am always open to work with
19 him and anyone else on this body to do what
20 is right for children. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're
22 welcome, superintendent.

23 The last speaker is Zefy
24 Christopolous.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Presiding Officer, it has always been the
3 practice of this Legislative body that
4 individuals that are here before us that are
5 announced candidates should not be able to
6 stand at the podium and criticize --

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're
8 absolutely wrong. They can as long as they
9 announce that they are a candidate for
10 office. We can not deprive them of speaking
11 at the podium.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So we just
13 want to make sure that the disclosure is
14 there.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Zefy,
16 please.

17 MS. CHRISTOPOULUS: My name is
18 Zefy Christopoulos. I live at 8 Alex Lane
19 in Glen Cove. Yes, I am the Republican
20 candidate to represent the 18th Legislative
21 District, a fact of which I'm quite proud
22 and I would have said anyway.

23 I'm here to talk about the
24 capital projects being held up by a single
25 vote.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Legislator Rhoads showed us a
3 piece of road. I could have brought with me
4 a sewage pump but I don't think I would have
5 been able to drag that thing in nor did I
6 wish to subject any one of you to the let's
7 say malodorous stink that would be emanating
8 from a sewage pump.

9 So, surely, surely there is a
10 common sense way to address whatever is
11 going on that is holding up the vote which
12 directly affects the health, safety and
13 welfare of residents of all constituents.

14 That one vote affects 19
15 districts, if I'm not mistaken, including
16 several on the minority side.

17 One on the minority should know
18 very well the direct impact her lack of
19 voting has on our Hempstead Harbor, our
20 clear water and the health, safety and
21 welfare of our swimmers.

22 So, common sense I believe should
23 prevail. Elected officials are there for
24 the health, safety and welfare of their
25 constituents.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 We are most grateful for the
3 volunteers and civic associations who pick
4 up, roll up their sleeves, and get to work
5 doing what one vote is holding up. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Not now.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh no. We
9 have to. You cannot allow someone to throw
10 out disparaging comments about a sitting
11 legislator and take time out of our schedule
12 to do it. So we have to respond. I'm going
13 to respond nonetheless.

14 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I don't think
15 we do because I just got verbalized by
16 another legislator over there which was
17 totally unnecessary, so I don't think you
18 get the chance --

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Guess
20 what? Guess what? Public comment is over.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let the
22 flood gates open.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Maybe it's
24 time to change.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Public

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 comment is over.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's not
4 over. Public comment is not over. You guys
5 just had your convention last week, I
6 congratulated all of you on your nominations
7 but --

8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I think you
9 should let people --

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You knew
11 full well --

12 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: You like to
13 be spoken over, so I think you should accept
14 the fact that we're going to do that now.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's talk
16 the facts.

17 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: That Mr.
18 Solages is very rude.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You are
20 going to cut me off?

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You didn't
22 do it, I did it.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: She turned
24 my mike off, not me, by the way. What I'm
25 saying, Bill, you're cutting me off, with

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 all due respect, you are cutting me off
3 because you saying Legislator Solages cut
4 you off?

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Get to the
6 point, please.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I would
8 love to get to the point but I was told by
9 the Presiding Officer she was going to shut
10 down public comment.

11 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: The point I
12 was going to make is everybody deserves a
13 right to speak. They shouldn't be stepped
14 on. They should be allowed to speak, and --

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No one is
16 saying that Zefy is not entitled to her
17 right to speak.

18 What I am saying is, if she's
19 going to sit here and attack a sitting
20 legislator on misinformation we should have
21 a chance to respond. It is misinformation.
22 If I have chance to I would clarify that
23 now.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I take it
25 that one of you are going to vote for the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 sewer pumps?

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can I
4 clarify the point?

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I guess
6 not.

7 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Just to
8 finish our discussion, Minority Leader, if
9 we could, I recognize the fact of what
10 you're saying and I agree with you.

11 The point is I'm hoping you go
12 back to talk to your members of the minority
13 so that we can have a little bit more
14 fruitful interchange rather than the
15 negative attacks on one another and the
16 overstepping. That's not appreciated and
17 that's not good government. We are not
18 doing anybody justice here.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I may, a
20 couple of clear things that Zefy did not
21 bring to the floor, one, I do not believe
22 that this legislative sewage pump has even
23 been brought to the Legislature for a vote.
24 Number one.

25 Two, I find it very disingenuous

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 she's here a week after the Republican
3 convention but has not been here while this
4 whole entire issue on bonding has been
5 occurring while the county has been going
6 through a period of perceptive public
7 corruption for the last two years. She has
8 not shared one comment, not one.

9 She is so passionate about Glen
10 Cove, but she has not been here until she
11 was nominated as a candidate for the seat to
12 run against Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

13 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: I think
14 she's been here in the past to speak on the
15 Pilot agreement with respect to the Glen
16 Cove development. So that's not fair.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're out
18 of order, Mr. MacKenzie.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Please. I
20 didn't cut you off. Again, she has not
21 spoken on this issue in two years. In two
22 years we have been leading this crusade and
23 not once has she come in here to criticize
24 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton. I find it
25 extremely disingenuous.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 I implore each and every one of
3 you. Do we need to open up the flood gates
4 and allow Democrat candidates that are
5 running against you to start disparaging you
6 from the podium? Is that what we've become
7 in this legislative body? That we are going
8 to allow people to utilize and use our
9 podium as a tool for political office?
10 Please. We are so much bigger and better
11 than that.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You are so
13 much bigger than this. Let me tell you
14 something --

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I can't
16 believe this. I can't believe this. I will
17 tell you what, Kevan, we are going to have a
18 list of candidates and Democratic club
19 members who have been up here blasting away
20 at us for the last few years, will have that
21 list at the next meeting. You are bigger
22 than this, right?

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Next
24 meeting, sure. And you're bigger, show us
25 the names.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Will you
3 wrap it up, please?

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Again, I'm
5 going to implore each and every one of you
6 to respectfully ask your candidates for
7 office, that unless they have something
8 positive and it's not political
9 grandstanding, like what we just saw --

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here's
11 two.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I could
13 just finish.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Napolitano,
15 Claudia Borecki. That's two. Give us some
16 more time.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay.
18 Great. Anyway, as I said before, if you can
19 encourage and implore your candidates for
20 office to please not utilize this podium so
21 we can conduct the business of the people of
22 this county, then we would be happy --

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm going
24 to say the final word. Listen. You are not
25 listening. This item is on the calendar

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 today. So put your money where your mouth
3 is. Let's go.

4 That ends public comment. It's
5 supposed to be public comment not debate.
6 Unfortunately it's hard to pull in the reins
7 here and sometimes I think I should carry a
8 big stick then I would be Teddy Roosevelt.

9 There are several items which we
10 call consent items. These are items that
11 were voted unanimously in committees.

12 Mr. Pulitzer, call the roll,
13 please.

14 CLERK PULITZER: I'm going to
15 call the roll now, ladies and gentleman.
16 Deputy Presiding Officer Richard Nicolello.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

18 CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
19 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel?

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela
22 Bynoe?

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
25 Carrie Solages?

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.
3 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
4 Denise Ford?
5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.
6 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
7 Curran?
8 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Present.
9 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
10 Vincent Muscarella?
11 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.
12 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
13 William Gaylor III?
14 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Here.
15 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Ellen
16 Birnbaum?
17 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.
18 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
19 DeRiggi-Whitton?
20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
21 Here.
22 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
23 Kennedy?
24 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
25 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Schaefer?

3 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

5 Arnold Drucker?

6 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

8 Rosemarie Walker?

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

11 Donald MacKenzie?

12 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

13 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

14 Steven Rhoads?

15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader

17 Kevan Abrahams?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Presiding

20 Officer Norma Gonsalves?

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

22 CLERK PULITZER: We have a

23 quorum, ma'am.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you

25 very much. As I said before, the roll was

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 called, there are several items that are
3 part of the consent calendar which simply
4 means that these items went through
5 committees and were voted upon unanimously.

6 I'm going to call those items in
7 block and then I will move on to those that
8 were not consent items.

9 The first item is Item 3, which
10 is Resolution 93; Item 17, Ordinance 63;
11 Item 18, Ordinance 64; Item 19, Ordinance
12 65; Item 21, Ordinance 67; Item 22,
13 Ordinance 68; Item 23, Ordinance 69; Item
14 25, Ordinance 71; Item 26, Resolution 94;
15 Item 27, Resolution 95; Item 29, Resolution
16 97; Item 30, Resolution 98; Item 31,
17 Resolution 99; Item 54, Resolution 113; Item
18 55, Resolution 114; Item 56, Resolution 115;
19 Item 57, Resolution 116; Item 58, Resolution
20 117; Item 59, Resolution 118; Item 60,
21 Resolution 119; Item 60, Resolution 119;
22 Item 60, Resolution 119; Item 61, Resolution
23 120; Item 62, Resolution 121; Item 63,
24 Resolution 122; Item 64, Resolution 123;
25 Item 65, Resolution 124; Item 65, Resolution

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 124; Item 66, Resolution 125; Item 67,
3 Resolution 126; Item 68, Resolution 127;
4 Item 69, Resolution 128; I believe that is
5 the end of the consent calendar.

6 A motion, please.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

8 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
10 Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator
11 Walker.

12 All those in favor of the items
13 that we just called, signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 Any opposed?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Those items are now passed.

18 We are going to move on to the
19 rest of the calendar and these items have to
20 deal with various appointments and I believe
21 there are several people here who have come
22 to meet and greet with the legislators. We
23 are going to begin with I believe the Human
24 Rights Commission.

25 There are several appointments by

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 the County Executive and the first one I'm
3 going to call is the Vivian Pereira, Item
4 32;

5 The next one is Item 33, Ken
6 Heino;

7 Item 34 which is Arie Weissman;

8 Item 35 is the reappointment of
9 Immacula Oligario;

10 Item 36, the appointment of
11 Shirley Shing;

12 Item 37 is the reappointment of
13 Sharanjit Singh Thind;

14 38 which is the appointment of
15 Bobby Kalotee;

16 Item 39 which is the
17 reappointment of William Mahlan;

18 And Item 40 which is the
19 reappointment of Angela Davis and I think
20 that's the end of the human rights.

21 A motion, please.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

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

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Schaefer.

3 I see that we have several of the
4 appointments and reappointments standing
5 before us.

6 If there are any questions or
7 comments that you have, who has a question?
8 Minority Leader.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
10 Madam Presiding Officer. Gerry, I don't
11 know if are you shepherding this.

12 MR. PODLESACK: I am shepherding.
13 But I haven't spoken to my sheep.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Gerry, we
15 had sent a letter that I thought Fran Becker
16 was handling getting it through.

17 But we had requested information.
18 I don't know if you are familiar with that
19 letter and what information we were
20 requesting, but we had wrote -- this goes
21 back to March. We had written back in March
22 asking for more information in regard to the
23 commission, materials, and how the
24 practices, and how they proceed, as well as
25 understanding the governance portion in

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 regards to what the commission's challenge
3 was doing and versus how they were doing
4 that. We never got a response to that
5 letter.

6 MR. PODLESAK: All right.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry.
8 I stand corrected. We got a response but
9 they declined to give us a decision that the
10 board has rendered.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Who is
12 going to respond to that letter?

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: From the
14 County Attorney. Written to Mr. Kleins on
15 April 21st.

16 MR. PODLESAK: Was that from
17 Judge Foskey himself?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. Nick
19 Bavonti.

20 MR. PODLESAK: And you are
21 looking for additional information?

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes.

23 MR. PODLESAK: Let your counsel
24 send us another letter and we would be more
25 than happy to move on that request, but I

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 don't see any reason why it should hold up
3 the actual, the approval of these
4 appointments.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Gerry, just
6 to be clear, we sent Mr. Bavonti a follow-up
7 letter email on the 21st of April once we
8 received this letter that day.

9 MR. PODLESAK: And he hasn't
10 responded to it?

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, he has
12 not.

13 MR. PODLESAK: I will speak to
14 him when I get back to the office and we
15 will see that we get you a response and all
16 the information that we can possibly give
17 you within the normal course of our
18 proceedings.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just to be
20 fair, Gerry, the information that we were
21 seeking is germane to the ladies and
22 gentleman behind you for their appointments.

23 MR. PODLESAK: With all due
24 respect, legislator, the only information
25 that is germane to their appointments is

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 their qualifications which you have received
3 their resumes for.

4 And whether or not the processes
5 of the board is something that you wish to
6 comment on or to further submit legislation
7 on is something that is not appropriate
8 before the Legislature at this time.

9 It is either an up or down vote
10 on whether or not these people are
11 qualified. The administration believes they
12 are qualified. They have submitted their
13 resumes. They deserve the chance to speak
14 to you today and you should render a wise
15 decision and appoint or approve each one of
16 their appointments or reappointments.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But, Gerry,
18 understanding what the commission is charged
19 with as well as understanding some of the
20 folks who are being reappointed, it is
21 germane. If we don't have a greater
22 understanding of what they're being charged
23 with and how they are being supported with
24 that charge, then how can we honestly
25 effectively assess whether or not their

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 reappointment is deservedly so, or is it
3 something tied to the administration not
4 supporting them properly? That's why we
5 believe this is germane.

6 MR. PODLESAK: I hear you,
7 legislator, and with all due respect I
8 disagree with you and I would ask the
9 Legislature to consider the appointments at
10 this time.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But, Gerry,
12 just for the record for clarification, you
13 do realize that if you are up for a
14 reappointment isn't your past service
15 important on that appointment?

16 MR. PODLESAK: No. I would say
17 that at this time what is contained in their
18 resume are the important factors that should
19 be considered.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Of course,
21 but if they served in that capacity for a
22 previous set amount of time, wouldn't you
23 want to know if they have been effective at
24 that position or not?

25 MR. PODLESAK: In truth, I think

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 that the issue you are raising is not
3 appropriate for the simple reason that it
4 would lend itself as to second guessing as
5 to actually what was conducted by the board.

6 The board has every right to be
7 able to make the determinations and not have
8 to worry about whether or not the
9 reappointments will be approved by this body
10 based on those decisions.

11 They are charged with calling it
12 as they see it and how they call it is based
13 on their background and their perception of
14 the given facts in any situation.

15 So I would disagree with you
16 respectfully regarding whether or not their
17 prior performance is relevant at this point.
18 If there was an issue with their prior
19 performance, that is something that should
20 have been considered by the executive rather
21 than by the Legislature.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Gerry, with
23 all due respect, and I think I speak for the
24 19 members that are here, we are all judged
25 based on our past experience and how

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 effective we are as legislators.

3 We are not judged based on a
4 resume that we provided, or continue to
5 provide that talked about how well we did in
6 our jobs before we became legislators.

7 In all due respect, I can't
8 understand the rationale that if we're
9 trying to understand what the commission is
10 charged with to evaluate better how we
11 should assess some of the reappointments to
12 determine whether or not their past practice
13 in this capacity is at fault versus a larger
14 problem in terms of being supported by the
15 administration, I don't know what we're
16 talking about.

17 I don't think anybody up here can
18 stand on the record of what they did in high
19 school or college and talk about what GPA
20 they had. They all are going to be
21 evaluated on what they've done for the last
22 two years or while we're in this term. I'm
23 not too sure I understand your rationale.

24 MR. PODLESACK: I would point out
25 that there's a difference between the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 appointed individuals who would serve on the
3 board and elected representatives of the
4 people who are constantly in a position
5 where they have to justify their performance
6 in order to continue in their jobs.

7 That's a profound difference
8 between being an appointed individual and
9 elected individuals. Elected individuals
10 are judged, while appointed individuals
11 should be judged merely on their resume and
12 what they bring to a given situation.

13 I might point out that this is a
14 board that operates on a majority basis
15 also, so that the more someone is less than
16 qualified on any given question, the other
17 members of the board will be able to assist
18 and come up with a wise determination of
19 whatever questions are put before them.
20 Madam Presiding Officer, I think --

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Before you
22 start asking the Madam Presiding Officer to
23 move on, you should be respectful to
24 recognize that I wasn't done with my
25 questions.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 MR. PODLESAK: I stand corrected,
3 legislator, I did not realize that you were
4 not done with your questions.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm
6 looking at commission of minutes from the
7 September 24th, 2012 meeting which some of
8 the folks here on that board.

9 That being said, I'm looking at
10 some of the minutes in regards to
11 Commissioner Williams noted that they
12 needed, and I'm regurgitating based off the
13 minutes, noted that we may need a special
14 meeting if we do not act on the resolution
15 today. These cases have been lingering for
16 years. Onus will be to come back to us with
17 this properly done and the commissioners and
18 the County Executive.

19 When I read about some of these
20 cases that have been lingering on for years
21 it brings concern. These are some of the
22 things we wrote in our letter back to
23 Mr. Bavonti that we have not heard yet.

24 To me this is extremely alarming
25 that, yes, it happened in 2012, which is

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 almost five years ago, but the fact remains
3 that when you read a statement where these
4 cases will have been lingering for years it
5 doesn't bode well to the effectiveness of
6 the commission.

7 MR. PODLESAK: That's 2012.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. So
9 tell us what happened. That's the reason
10 for the letter. Tell us what happened
11 between 2012 and 2017 that gives us a level
12 of comfort.

13 MR. PODLESAK: That's 2012. This
14 is 2017.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You are
16 saying this is not the case any more? Cases
17 do not linger on for years?

18 MR. PODLESAK: I have heard
19 nothing to that affect.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Does that
21 mean it does happen or does not happen
22 because you haven't heard it?

23 MR. PODLESAK: It means that I
24 have not heard.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So that

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 means it still could happen?

3 MR. PODLESAK: If you would ask
4 the chairman and perhaps he would be able to
5 give you some information in that regard.

6 I have been advised that cases
7 are no longer lingering. They have been
8 taken care of.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So wouldn't
10 it be easier to give us the decisions when
11 asked for it, no, you, Gerry, but wouldn't
12 it just be easier to give us the decision so
13 we can evaluate this, so we can review this
14 ourselves?

15 MR. PODLESAK: I would suggest
16 what I said before is true and that is, that
17 it is not a wise course of action to have
18 the proceedings of the commission be subject
19 to intense legislative scrutiny.

20 I think the fact that they are
21 willing to do this job on a voluntary basis
22 and they bring all matter of experience to
23 the situation is sufficient and that we
24 should at this point we should move on.
25 Presiding Officer, please.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Gerry, I'm
3 not too sure I understand. You assume my
4 question was done?

5 MR. PODLESAK: Are you not
6 finished?

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I guess I'm
8 finished by you, Gerry.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Deputy
10 Presiding Officer Nicolello.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: All I
12 wanted to say is this: These individuals who
13 are before us are agreeing to volunteer
14 their time, some are new, some have been
15 serving this board, to my understanding, has
16 been completely nonpartisan over the years
17 and has people of all different backgrounds,
18 political persuasions, ethnic groups,
19 religious groups, and I see no reason
20 whatsoever to belabor a point for these
21 individuals who want to volunteer their time
22 to serve the county and to serve their
23 communities.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
25 Bynoe.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
3 Presiding Officer. I have a question,
4 Gerry, regarding --

5 MR. PODLESACK: I'm just a lawyer.
6 I'm not on the board.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm aware of
8 that, I think I should be. I don't know why
9 he had to tell me he wasn't on the board.

10 Anyway, the question is regarding
11 the appointments that were made and we
12 pulled them back and then we put some new
13 names up and that some of the names -- I
14 have to admit there tends to be a lack of
15 respect coming from podium back up here to
16 the dais and I can understand the Minority
17 Leader's frustration.

18 In any event, the question I have
19 is why we have names that were on the
20 initial resolution in February that are now
21 excluded, Keria L. Blue was on there before
22 and now she's not presented as an
23 appointment. And also a Habeeb Ahmed.

24 So I'm trying to understand why
25 there have been some changes. I know there

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 were some earlier issues regarding one
3 person but that person is not on this
4 particular resolution but two other names
5 were excluded.

6 I want to know what happened
7 between February and now as to why those
8 individuals wouldn't be considered to be
9 members of that body or for appointments?

10 MR. PODLESAK: I do not know but
11 I will endeavor to have that information for
12 you, legislator. I apologize if I'm being
13 perceived as being disrespectful.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: For you to
15 tell me you're not on the board, and I see
16 you month after month, and sitting here as
17 tenured legislator for three years, come on,
18 it wasn't necessary, but, in any event --

19 MR. PODLESAK: Well, if I may
20 explain myself, I just wanted to make sure
21 there was no confusion for the record that I
22 was a member of the board and I might be
23 privy to --

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Do you think I
25 need that type of clarification, because, if

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 you do, then I think there is a problem in
3 how you view me.

4 MR. PODLESACK: If I may reiterate
5 in what I said that --

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: There was no
7 need for that. But that's not the point of
8 today. I have the ability to move on and I
9 have the ability to make sure this
10 relationship survives that.

11 MR. PODLESACK: Legislator.
12 Legislator --

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Let's just
14 move on. I would like my question answered
15 as to --

16 MR. PODLESACK: Legislator --

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: -- why there's
18 been so much back and forth to this body and
19 why two people to whom I'm very familiar
20 with them and their work, and I know they
21 work very tirelessly in the community, and
22 not only have witnessed it, the community to
23 which I have serve have been the
24 beneficiaries of their labor.

25 I would like to know why in fact

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 they are not a part of this resolution today
3 and I find it troubling. I find it
4 troubling there was so much back and forth
5 with these appointments.

6 MR. PODLESACK: Legislator, let me
7 reiterate what I said before, the reason
8 that I said I was not a member of the
9 commission was for the record so that anyone
10 that was reading this at some future date
11 would not think I was speaking as a member
12 of the commission. That's why I said it.
13 It was out of no disrespect to you.

14 If you felt that way, I sincerely
15 apologize, but I have been a practicing
16 attorney for quite a few years and I know
17 how records can sometimes be confusing to
18 people who have read them and have not
19 actually witnessed the events that have
20 occurred. That's the only reason I stated
21 that I am not a member of the board and
22 cannot speak to what happens during the
23 course of their proceedings.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I appreciate
25 your apology and in the interest of time

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 and, more important measures, I accept your
3 apology and I think we should move forward.

4 Let's go back to the point of my
5 questioning which is why there's been so
6 much back and forth and names removed, names
7 added, and the like, regarding the Human
8 Rights Commission and why two people who I
9 know, I know their labor, I have witnessed
10 their labor, why their names have been
11 removed and are no longer part of the list
12 for appointees.

13 I take serious concern about that
14 and I have concerns that are shared with the
15 Minority Leader regarding the communications
16 of the legal counsel back and forth to the
17 Human Rights Commission as well.

18 But I want to talk about the
19 appointments and why there's been so much
20 back and forth.

21 MR. PODLESAK: I cannot answer
22 that question. I will or one of my
23 associates will discuss the matter with the
24 administration and we will get back to you.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Presiding

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 officer, in the interest of making sure that
3 we move forward with a perfect understanding
4 of the role of that body and ensuring that
5 the people who will be appointed to that
6 body are properly suited in terms of skills
7 and experience, and further that we
8 understand that the individuals that have
9 labored as a part of that body that they're
10 not being excluded and we can have a real
11 full understanding, I suggest and I'm going
12 to make a motion -- I make a motion that we
13 table the appointments of the Human Rights
14 Commission appointees at this time. Can I
15 get a second?

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Can I second
17 that motion?

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: All those
19 in favor of tabling the items that were
20 called, signify by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 Any opposed?

23 (Nay.)

24 The motion to table fails.

25 I will say the three individuals

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 that you referenced, they are still serving.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I referenced
4 two; Keira Blue and Habib Ahmed.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: They are
6 still serving.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But why
8 weren't their terms renewed, and they were
9 on the original submission back in February
10 and then they were later removed. I'm just
11 kind of concerned and troubled as to why
12 that would occur.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: These are
14 the appointments sent down to us by the
15 County Executive.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: There in fact
17 could be a confusion, so how do we know?
18 Because Mr. Podlesak, he's not sure and he
19 can't answer the questions I posed.

20 This could be a typographical
21 error. This could be wide ranging issues as
22 to why they're not there. I think we need
23 to pause.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm just
25 going to end this discussion, Legislator

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Bynoe.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Did you hear
4 me?

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, I
6 did. However, already voted on not to
7 table, however, the items are still before
8 us.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But I was
10 making a point, Presiding Officer, that
11 since Mr. Podlesak could not answer my
12 questions, that --

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The two
14 individuals that you are talking to or
15 referring to are right now reviewed by the
16 County Executive, and some of the questions
17 that you raised in the past are probably
18 some of the questions that are being
19 reviewed, and I think at this point in time,
20 guess what? We have several volunteers
21 before us and I think, in all due courtesy
22 to them, and their willingness to serve, I'm
23 going to call the question.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
25 Officer, I have a technical question that

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 the backup does not clearly specify. I know
3 you want to call the question and move on --

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, I do.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: -- but I
6 have a technical question generally, if I
7 may?

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You may.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Generally
10 what we normally see in the backup, when we
11 see appointments that are not
12 reappointments, they generally specify who
13 they are replacing, so I respectfully ask
14 Mr. Podlesak if he can confirm for us who
15 Mr. Kenneth Heino, Mrs. Shirley Shingh and
16 Ms. Vivian Pereira who they are replacing?

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Do you
18 have that information, Mr. Podlesak, or do
19 you have to get it?

20 MR. PODLESAK: I have to get it.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Fine.
22 Then I'm calling the question.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So we're
24 going to call the question without knowing?
25 We can be replacing board members that have

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 done a good job. Why wouldn't we wait for
3 Mr. Podlesak to get that information?

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You know
5 what? Why don't we just do this and move
6 on? I'm calling the question. All those in
7 favor of the volunteers who are standing
8 before us very patiently willing to do --

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Can you call
10 them individually?

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Can I call
12 them individually? I think I called them
13 all together, didn't I?

14 You can vote for them
15 individually if you wish, if you want to
16 call out some of the names, that's your
17 prerogative.

18 Right now we have Vivian Pereira,
19 all those in favor of Vivian signify by
20 saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 All those opposed?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 Is it unanimous or what? I don't
25 know what -- you took nasty pills or what

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 today? I don't know. I try to be fair.
3 Any abstentions for Vivian?
4 (Abstain.)
5 Seven abstentions and 11 ayes.
6 11, zero, and seven.
7 We are onto 33. We have all
8 those in favor of Kenneth Heino being
9 appointed to the Human Rights Commission
10 signify by saying aye.
11 (Aye.)
12 Any opposed?
13 (No verbal response.)
14 Any abstentions?
15 (Abstain.)
16 12, zero, six.
17 The next one is Arie Weissman.
18 All those in favor of Arie to the
19 reappointment to the Commission on Human
20 Rights signify by saying aye.
21 (Aye.)
22 Any opposed?
23 (Nay.)
24 (No verbal response.)
25 Any abstentions?

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 (Abstain.)

3 It's 11, zero, seven.

4 The next one is Immacula

5 Oligario. All those in favor of Immacula

6 Oligario to the reappointment to the

7 Commission on Human Rights signify by saying

8 aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 Any opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Any abstentions?

13 (Abstain.)

14 It's 12, zero, six. We are

15 moving on to the vote.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Very

17 typical. That said, we would like to vote,

18 for all the folks that are abstaining, but

19 because we can't get answers to these

20 questions, it's put us in a very difficult

21 spot to vote on people that are replacing

22 others but then also that we believe are

23 doing a good job.

24 It's very unprofessional to be

25 able to assess things based off of hearsay.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 That's kind of the box that you have put us
3 in, Madam Presiding Officer.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Immacula,
5 you are reappointed. Shirley Shing, all
6 those in favor of Shirley Shing to the
7 Commission on Human Rights signify by saying
8 aye.

9 (Aye.)

10 Any opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Any abstentions?

13 (Abstain.)

14 It's 11, zero, seven.

15 The next one is Sharanjit Singh
16 Thind. All those in favor of Sharanjit
17 Singh Thind, signify by saying aye.

18 (Aye.)

19 Any opposed?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 Any abstentions?

22 (Abstain.)

23 It's 11, zero, seven.

24 The next one is Bobby Kalotee to
25 the Human Rights Commission signify by

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 saying aye.

3 MR. PODLESAK: That gentleman is
4 out of the country.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know
6 that. I was told this morning. All those
7 in favor of Bobby Kalotee.

8 (Aye.)

9 Any opposed?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 Any abstentions?

12 (Abstain.)

13 12 yeses --

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

15 We're abstaining until we know who he is
16 replacing, we can't vote for them.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Let's go.
18 No more debate. We have 12, zero, 6.

19 Now the reappointment of William
20 Mahlan to the Human Rights Commission, all
21 those in favor signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Abstentions?

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 (Abstain.)

3 Again 11, zero, 7.

4 The last one I believe is the
5 reappointment of Angela Davis. All those in
6 favor of the reappointment of Angela Davis
7 signify by saying aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 Any opposed?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 Any abstentions?

12 (Abstain.)

13 It's 13 yes, zero, 5.

14 Angela, you got top score.

15 Anyway, I thank you on behalf of all those
16 who serve. Volunteerism is not easy. I
17 know it. So let's go. The question will
18 be, why would you want to do this?

19 We're going to move on. We're
20 going to go to the College Board of
21 Trustees. I have several appointments
22 again.

23 We have 41, Resolution 100, which
24 is the reappointment of Linda Green to the
25 College Board of Trustees at NCC;

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 We have Item 42, Resolution 101
3 the reappointment of Donna Tuman as member
4 to the College Board of Trustees;

5 43, Resolution 102 which is the
6 reappointment of Edward Powers to the
7 College Board of Trustees;

8 Item 44, Resolution 103, which is
9 the County Executive's reappointment of
10 Donna Tuman to the College Board;

11 And 45 which is the reappointment
12 of Edward Powers, the County Executive's
13 reappointment to the Nassau County Community
14 College Board of Trustees.

15 Again, we have another County
16 Executive's reappointment, Item 46,
17 Resolution 105 to the College Board, Linda
18 H. Green.

19 A motion, please.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
23 Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator
24 Walker. Any comments or questions?
25 Legislator Siela Bynoe.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
3 Presiding Officer. Mr. Podlesak.

4 MR. PODLESAK: Now what?

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It's me again.
6 Question, could you tell me why there are
7 two resolutions filed for each one?

8 MR. PODLESAK: This is the way
9 the county has been doing it for a number of
10 years. There is some dispute whether or not
11 the County Charter provision saying that
12 appointments are made by the County
13 Legislature and approved by the Legislature.

14 It has been trumped by the
15 Education Law which says the appointments
16 are made by the Legislature.

17 The practice has been in the past
18 to have two resolutions for each one
19 originating from both sources in order so
20 that there is no confusion as to whether or
21 not the person is appropriately appointed
22 and that's why it's been done that way.
23 This is not the first time. It's been done
24 this way for many many years, before my
25 tenure in this job.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: This is my
3 first opportunity to see these resolutions
4 on an agenda. So it had me kind of
5 questioning as to why it was done.

6 It lends to my point that I
7 believe that the Legislative body is the
8 appropriate body to make those appointments
9 and not the County Executive.

10 That being the case, I actually
11 reached out to the Presiding Officer and to
12 me colleagues here on the Legislature
13 suggesting an opportunity for us to work
14 together and cooperatively approach
15 appointments for this body.

16 I think that these appointments
17 to this body like all the bodies that are
18 serving in a volunteer capacity are
19 important. But at the college we have
20 thousands and thousands of young people and
21 folks that are going back looking to achieve
22 their higher education goals, and the
23 college in the most recent time has faced
24 its challenges. There needs to be greater
25 accountability there.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 I believe that that can be
3 achieved, Presiding Officer, if we
4 considered the approach.

5 I think the approach as I laid
6 out would allow for the County Executive to
7 have a person that he or she can appoint and
8 that the County Legislature, the minority
9 caucus, and the minority caucus would have
10 an opportunity to also make appointments.

11 I'm a little bit disappointed I
12 have not heard back from you, Presiding
13 Officer, on this issue and it is not an
14 issue -- I know this letter sent out on May
15 8th, but this is an issue that I have been
16 writing to you about for some time.

17 While I appreciate the fact that
18 you have answered some of my concerns by
19 putting together a small little group of
20 legislators, and I'm happy that you included
21 me on that little team, along with
22 Legislator Ford and the Minority Leader
23 Kevan Abrahams, but we still haven't
24 addressed this issue. I think this issue is
25 really essential.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 We need to look at how we are
3 making these appointments. I think that in
4 order for us to have proper balance I think
5 there needs to be an opportunity for it to
6 be a bipartisan effort coming from the
7 county appointments.

8 So I think this is an opportunity
9 for us to do something meaningful and
10 impactful for our students, for our
11 taxpayers, and the administration at that
12 college to take a look at who is being
13 appointed and have an opportunity for each
14 group to make an appointment.

15 Again, these are the County
16 Executive's appointments that are just here
17 before us this morning. I think there are
18 some other people who could lend their gifts
19 and talents to this body that each
20 membership caucus could identify and bring
21 forward.

22 So, Presiding Officer, I would
23 like to know your thoughts because I haven't
24 been able to hear from you in any other way.
25 I have written and called. I have not heard

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 from you. May I hear from you this
3 afternoon?

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
5 Bynoe, I referred it my counsel and my
6 counsel was reviewing it.

7 I can understand where you're
8 coming from, but at the same time I can also
9 know that there are several members to the
10 board of the College Board; am I correct,
11 Mr. Podlesak?

12 MR. PODLESAK: How many members
13 on the College Board? Nine.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Five are the
15 county's appointments.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Five are
17 appointed by the Mangano administration.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I think there
19 are several holdovers and these are three
20 holdovers from the Mangano administration.

21 I'm not disparaging any of your
22 efforts, ladies, but I have to tell you that
23 this is an opportunity for change and not
24 necessarily just looking at who's on the
25 board but an opportunity for change as to

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 how this government makes appointments to
3 this board.

4 This is an opportunity for us not
5 to really subscribe to what has been done in
6 the past but really take our rightful place
7 and make these appointments. These are our
8 appointments to make, not the County
9 Executive's appointments. These are ours.

10 I tell you right now, we will be
11 the better for doing that because it will
12 give us an opportunity to have bipartisan
13 efforts which will automatically to me lend
14 itself towards transparency as well as
15 accountability.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Your
17 comments have been heard and Legislator
18 Bynoe, we can do this moving forward and I
19 think it's important that we consider the
20 candidates today.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But moving
22 forward, Presiding Officer, how long are the
23 terms?

24 MR. PODLESACK: I don't know
25 offhand. I have to look.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I don't
3 have anybody here to answer your question.

4 MR. PODLESACK: It's on the
5 resolution.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So these are
7 five and six year appointments?

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So we can do
10 this moving forward when? Today. Let's
11 seize the opportunity.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: There are
13 five or six other candidates.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No. We only
15 have five appointments to that board,
16 Presiding Officer, there's nine.

17 If we do these three then there
18 are two more. So when you say we can do it
19 later, when? Now is the time. Let's seize
20 this opportunity.

21 This is our rightful place in
22 this county's history of this college. We
23 see where the appointments have gotten us to
24 this point. The college is in dire need for
25 proper leadership. This is the time. This

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 is the time.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
4 comments?

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Madam
6 Presiding Officer, I would like to say, I
7 would welcome Linda and Donna here today.

8 Having served on the Nassau
9 County Community College board for four
10 years, it was a privilege to work with my
11 fellow trustees.

12 Sadly though, while I was there I
13 will have to point out that similar to this
14 body the Nassau Community College Board is
15 drawn strictly on political lines. We had
16 major problems getting things done because
17 of party affiliation and political
18 partisanship that went on all the time.
19 That was very disappointing because it only
20 adversely affected the students there which
21 was our mission. Many times I found that my
22 fellow trustees disregarded that mission.

23 With that having been said, I did
24 enjoy my time there. Donna, I did enjoy
25 working with you. I respected what you

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 brought to the table. I thought your wide
3 experience was helpful. I didn't agree with
4 you on most issues, but I still respected
5 your opinion.

6 Linda Green, I only had the
7 ability to work with you for about a year
8 and change if I recall.

9 I don't think I ever heard a word
10 come out of your mouth. So I don't know
11 what you bring to the table in terms of,
12 maybe you can enlighten this body as to what
13 experience and what you have done on the
14 board and what you plan to continue doing to
15 help this college go forward and the
16 problems that they're sustaining. Because,
17 while I was there, you didn't do anything.

18 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: You don't
19 have to sit there and be insulted by him.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Before you
21 answer, I would just like to note for the
22 record that he started out by commenting how
23 we had to get over partisanship and wound up
24 with an attack on somebody's credibility.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I want to

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 know what is their competency.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I wonder
4 what was yours.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Is that
6 relevant now? I can sit here for an hour
7 and tell you my competency on that board.
8 Certainly independent, not political.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Linda, go
10 ahead.

11 MS. GREEN: I was appointed to
12 the board about a year and a half ago
13 filling a vacancy on an un-expired term.

14 I think as a new person, it was
15 much more important for me to listen than to
16 talk, Mr. Drucker.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: There was an
18 opportunity for everyone to talk.

19 MS. GREEN: Excuse me -- I'm
20 speaking. I helped appoint the present
21 president who has been wonderful. Every one
22 loves him. We moved forward. We passed our
23 budget. You know, you don't have to talk
24 all the time.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Linda,

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 talk about your education.

3 MS. GREEN: 45 years at the New
4 York City Board of Ed, ending in 12 years as
5 a principal, experience in education, and I
6 think that 50 years of experience is
7 probably much more than others who have been
8 on this board, Mr. Drucker.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm
10 calling the vote, please. All those in
11 favor of the Linda Green, Donna Tuman, and
12 Edward Powers, signify by saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 Any opposed?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 Any abstentions?

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I support
18 Donna Tuman. Donna Tuman I vote for.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I will
20 have to do it separately. All those in
21 favor of Linda Green signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (Nay.)

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You say

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 nay?

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: On Linda
4 Green.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I heard
6 you. Not an abstention?

7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Correct.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The rest
9 of you are abstaining?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 We are going one by one. This is
12 for Linda Green. 11 ayes, 7 nays.

13 Now going on to Donna Tuman. All
14 those in favor of Donna Tuman signify by
15 saying aye.

16 (Aye.)

17 Any opposed?

18 (Nay.)

19 Is it nay or abstention? It's 12
20 ayes, and 6 nays.

21 For the last one, Edward Powers,
22 all those in favor of the reappointment of
23 Edward Powers signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 Any opposed?

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 (Nay.)

3 12 ayes and 6 nays, is that it?

4 So it's 13 ayes, and 5 nays.

5 Linda, Donna, thank you, and
6 continued success.

7 MS. TUMAN: I would like to thank
8 you all for the vote of confidence and the
9 reappointment to the board.

10 It's an honor to serve the
11 college. I take it very seriously. I also
12 have 25 years experience in higher education
13 and I believe my background as a faculty
14 member brings a different voice to the
15 table. Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Before we
17 let this go, Linda and Donna, hold on, so no
18 one can say -- we have three of the
19 appointments were the County Executive
20 reappointments. So have we to take a vote
21 on those as well.

22 So we are going to go with Item
23 44, the reappointment of Donna Tuman, all
24 those in favor of the County Executive's
25 reappointment of Donna Tuman, signify by

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 saying aye.
3 (Aye.)
4 Any opposed?
5 (Nay.)
6 So we now are 12 ayes and 6 nays.
7 45 which is the reappointment of
8 Edward Powers to the College Board, County
9 Executive. All those in favor signify by
10 saying aye.
11 (Aye.)
12 Any opposed?
13 (Nay.)
14 I have to do it because it's two
15 different, 13-5. I have to do it for the
16 record, sorry.
17 The last one is for the
18 reappointment of the County Executive's
19 reappointment of Linda Green to the College
20 Board. All those in favor signify by saying
21 aye.
22 (Aye.)
23 Any opposed?
24 (Nay.)
25 11 ayes, 7 nays. Now you made

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 it. I don't know if it's congratulations or
3 what at this point. So thank you for your
4 service.

5 Now, I know the next two
6 individuals that we will be calling are, and
7 I think Mr. Podlesak you should be there to
8 assist, and we have Item 47 which is the
9 County Executive's appointment of Phillip
10 Elliot to the Correctional Center, Board of
11 Visitors.

12 Motion, please.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
16 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator
17 Ford.

18 I'm going to call 48 as well
19 which is the confirmation of the County
20 Executive's appointment of Arthur Williams
21 to the Correctional Center Board of
22 Visitors.

23 Motion, please.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
3 Legislator Nicoletto, seconded by Legislator
4 Ford. Now, the two of them are up here.

5 I'm used to calling him Bishop
6 Elliot, am I correct in addressing you that
7 way?

8 BISHOP ELLIOT: Yes.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And
10 Mr. Williams, of course, you will introduce
11 yourself as well.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm Arthur
13 Williams.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Do you
15 have any questions of these two individuals?
16 Do you want to hear anything about them why
17 they are qualified or not qualified in your
18 mind to vote for the two individuals?

19 Your hand was up first. Go
20 ahead.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
22 Presiding Officer. My question, I guess is
23 not necessarily for these two gentlemen,
24 I've been able to read their bios and based
25 on the what I believe the duties of the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Board of Visitors is actually was created
3 for, and the mere fact that there is a Board
4 of Visitors, I believe that they are
5 eligible.

6 My question today is regarding
7 the legislation that I introduced last week
8 that you said you would look at which I
9 think would properly resource that board so
10 that Mr. Williams and Bishop Elliot can go
11 in and begin the work that they would be
12 charged with as board members. So I'm
13 trying to find out where we are with that.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I did say
15 to you that I would review it with the
16 guidance from my counsel.

17 I will tell you things that I
18 know of the board and what exists right now,
19 there is an attorney assigned to the board.
20 There are investigators who are also
21 assigned to the board.

22 However, it is the State
23 Commission of Investigations, of
24 Corrections, that investigates any of the
25 grievances that may be brought forth.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 As far as the budget is
3 concerned, this would be something that
4 would be in the purview of the budget review
5 office.

6 I have to say to you, knowing
7 what the bylaws of the Board of Visitors
8 are, they do have, and according to the
9 Charter, they do hold monthly meetings.
10 They do have an annual meeting. They do
11 submit an annual report.

12 So many of the things that you
13 put in the legislation are being done right
14 now. So if there's any additional --

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Presiding
16 Officer, I will tell you that they don't
17 hold monthly meetings and I'll tell you that
18 I sent my staff to try -- Lynn Pool went and
19 tried to actually attend one of those
20 meetings and it was quite a show.

21 I believe going forward they are
22 going to require the resources. So you said
23 that your staff, the attorney, that there
24 was an attorney and two investigators.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. That

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 there are investigators.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Who are those
4 investigators?

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: They're
6 investigators that come out of --

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The County
8 Attorney's Office. I knew you were going to
9 say that.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: But,
11 remember one thing, that the buck stops with
12 the State Commission of Corrections.

13 They investigate the grievances
14 that are put forth as referred by the
15 sheriff of the jail.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Well,
18 that's what you say, and I'm telling you
19 right now that this is a volunteer body.
20 This is a body that certainly has the will
21 to do the job that they're asked to do.

22 I find that they are certainly
23 committed to doing exactly what they are
24 assigned to do. So I know that there are
25 things -- and I'm not saying your

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 legislation is dead. I'm saying to you, it
3 requires further review.

4 In the meantime we have two
5 candidates in front of us. Two candidates
6 who certainly have the kind of resume that
7 we would all be proud of to have on that
8 Board of Visitors.

9 By the way, we have a very very
10 core section of the population on that
11 particular Board of Visitors with the
12 addition of these two individuals.

13 So I know that you are looking
14 for other items within the Board of
15 Visitors, however, I think it requires that
16 we take additional time to review it and,
17 I'm telling you right now, I'm going to look
18 into the bylaws of the Board of Visitors as
19 well as the Charter to make sure whatever
20 they are doing are certainly in keeping with
21 the Charter of Nassau County.

22 So if you want to ask those two
23 gentlemen any questions, feel free to do it.
24 Yes, Minority Leader.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 you, gentlemen? Just a quick question.

3 In regards to in the past we've
4 had some back and forth with some of your
5 colleagues that you will soon be joining in
6 regards to their charged responsibilities.

7 I'm not sure if you had an
8 opportunity to read the actual Charter as it
9 pertains to the Board of Visitors, but the
10 rolls and responsibilities of the Board of
11 Visitors as we came to realize was not very
12 well understood by some of the folks that
13 served there and we believe your
14 responsibilities are very wide spread and
15 gives you very broad powers and some of the
16 stuff that I want to make sure that you are
17 aware of is that the board and each member
18 thereof shall have the following powers and
19 duties to investigate, review, take such
20 actions as deemed necessary and proper with
21 respect to inmate complaints or grievances
22 regarding the correctional center as shall
23 be called to their attention in writing.

24 I don't want to get into all of
25 them but there are many different provisions

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 that are tied to it, and knowing the
3 gentlemen that you are, I believe that you
4 will take these responsibilities seriously.

5 But please encourage your soon to
6 be colleagues on that board that we cannot
7 settle for what has gone on in the past.

8 Based on what I heard at their
9 Legislative confirmations, they didn't know
10 anything about what we were talking about.

11 In light of the medical care
12 being provided at the jail among the other
13 issues in terms of security we have heard,
14 it is very alarming that the one body that
15 serves that may not have the ability to
16 directly oversee the sheriff, can easily
17 also still recommend changes to the sheriff
18 as they see fit to makes things better.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I just
20 want to let these two gentlemen know, that
21 the chairman of the Board of Visitors is
22 Alphonso Albright. I will tell you right
23 now that he has a great deal of experience
24 in I guess probation, criminology and so on.

25 I know that -- and he is just

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 appointed as chairman of the board, and I
3 think all of us would be proud of Chairman
4 Albright.

5 I will tell you, Legislator Bynoe
6 and Minority Leader, what you have just
7 pointed out in the legislation to these two
8 gentlemen standing before us, I will pass
9 that on to the Chairman of the Board,
10 Alphonso Albright. Have you ever met him?

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I have. I
12 have been introduced to him by Legislator
13 Ford.

14 If I remember correctly,
15 Mr. Albright wasn't here. He was running
16 late to that Legislative vote. He had an
17 accident.

18 I didn't get a chance to actually
19 have an opportunity to have a back and forth
20 with him at that time, but you are correct,
21 I had a chance to talk to him on the sidebar
22 and he did seem like a very distinguished
23 board and hopefully that will bring some of
24 the things that we talked about in the
25 Charter.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES:

3 Absolutely. I have no problem with that.

4 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, last comment.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We
6 are giving you a huge responsibility and I
7 appreciate the fact that you're taking this.
8 We do hope that it's set up correctly
9 although we have a lot of concerns.

10 I'm asking you personally, our
11 numbers are very much available, and I can
12 give you our card when you leave, if you
13 come across issues while you are serving,
14 please reach out to us.

15 We really don't have enough
16 communication and we are here to make sure
17 you can do your job, so please let us know.
18 Okay? Thank you for your time.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
20 Mr. Williams and Bishop Elliot. But we did
21 not take a vote, all those in favor of the
22 appointment of Bishop Elliot and Arthur
23 Williams signify by saying aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 Any opposed?

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 (No verbal response.)

3 Any abstentions?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 Unanimous. Thank you. That was
6 good. I believe these are the VEEB
7 appointments, I believe. We're beginning
8 with Item 49, Resolution 108, which is the
9 reappointment of Joseph Bentavegna to the
10 VEEB board. For those who don't know what
11 VEEB is, Vocational Education Extension
12 Board;

13 50 is the confirmation of the
14 reappointment of Raymond McGuire to VEEB;

15 51 is the reappointment of
16 Christopher Shelton to VEEB;

17 Item 52 which is the
18 reappointment of Phillip Malloy, Jr., to
19 VEEB. I believe that's it.

20 A motion, please.

21 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
24 Legislator Muscarella, seconded by
25 Legislator Walker. I called four of them;

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 49, 50, 51, and 52.

3 Anyone here?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 Any questions, any comments?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 All those in favor of the
8 reappointment of Joseph Bentavegna, Raymond
9 McGuire, Christopher Shelton and Phillip
10 Malloy, Jr., signify by saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Any opposed?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 It's unanimous, 18 to zero.

15 Now, moving on to 53. This is
16 the appointment of Dr. John Zaso to the
17 Nassau County Board of Health pursuant to
18 Sections 203 and 902 of the Nassau County
19 Charter.

20 Motion, please.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
24 Rosemarie Walker, seconded by Legislator
25 Ford. Minority Leader is recusing himself.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Do we have any questions
3 regarding Dr. Zaso?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 By the way, I do know he is a
6 pediatrician and he's a staunch supporter of
7 his community, and he works very closely
8 with NUMC. And I believe --

9 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Madam
10 Presiding Officer, I have one question.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Sure. I
12 don't know if I can answer it.

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I want to
14 put on the record a question I would ask if
15 here were here whether he would be in
16 support of Tobacco 21.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Well, he's
18 not here. I don't know if he knew he was
19 going to be on the calendar today.

20 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I would like
21 to ask him that question if he were here.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
23 comments that you would like to make?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Is there any public comment?

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 (No verbal response.)

3 There being none, all those in
4 favor of the appointment of Dr. John Zaso
5 to the Nassau County Board of Health signify
6 by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Any abstentions?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 It's 17 to zero.

13 We're going right back to Item 1.
14 Minority Leader, you are welcomed back. Mr.
15 Pulitzer, do me a favor and call the hearing
16 for Item Number 1.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Hearing on
18 local law number in 2017, a local law to
19 permanently disqualify from any county
20 elected or appointed office any person that
21 has been convicted of a felony.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion to
23 open the hearing.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Second.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
3 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
4 Gaylor. All those in favor of opening the
5 hearing of local law 190 signify by saying
6 aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Who is here to talk about that
11 item? Deputy Presiding Officer Nicoletto.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just
13 briefly. This is intended to close a
14 loophole in the law which provides that
15 someone who is convicted of a felony while
16 in office immediately is disqualified from
17 that office.

18 But people who are running for
19 office with felony convictions are still
20 eligible to run for office.

21 In fact an article in Newsday
22 within the last couple of weeks said a
23 school board member, a candidate for school
24 board in Eastport South Manor School
25 District, with a felony conviction, was

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 attempting to run for that position.

3 But, anyway, state law leaves
4 that loophole in place. This law
5 disqualifies from elected office or an
6 individual being appointed to any county
7 board or commission who has been convicted
8 of a felony involving accepting or giving or
9 offering to give of a bribe, embezzlement,
10 extortion, theft, perjury, fraud, tax
11 evasion or conspiracy to commit these
12 crimes.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority
14 Leader.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I think
16 while we all respect the fact that the
17 majority has seen fit to close a loophole, I
18 think it also begs the question also that
19 this being an opportunity to re-invigorate
20 to ensure that we are truly protecting
21 Nassau County taxpayers from potential
22 public corruption.

23 It's been highlighted now for
24 several months, if not years. We have been
25 trying to make sure that we are protecting

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 taxpayer dollars, and I think even though
3 this may not be your intent, because I think
4 your intent is to try to close this
5 loophole, which obviously is a no-brainer, I
6 think it also reminds the public that we
7 have a very renewed responsibility to ensure
8 that taxpayer dollars are protected and to
9 look at everything across the board to
10 ensure that public integrity and
11 transparency is there.

12 That being said, I will again
13 encourage the majority to look at and review
14 and eventually possibly even support our
15 call for an anti-corruption officer also
16 known as an Independent Inspector General to
17 ensure that we can deter corruption as it
18 exists in this county not after it happens
19 but before. Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
21 Curran.

22 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I would also
23 add in the interest of stopping corruption
24 before it can even start, this morning we
25 filed a bill to redo the Ethics Board and to

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 change how it's appointed.

3 Instead of having four picks from
4 the County Executive and one from the County
5 Attorney, it would be one from the
6 legislator minority, one from the
7 legislative majority, one from the
8 Comptroller, two from the County Executive;
9 one of which is suggested by the municipal
10 unions in the county so that people who work
11 here have a seat at the table as a way to
12 take away the partisanship of the board and
13 also to increase fairness.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
15 Curran, you should know that we will be
16 taking a look at it. Legislator Rhoads.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
18 Madam Presiding Officer. I just want to
19 mention and I know it's been mentioned a
20 couple of times that this legislation is
21 trying to address things, close a loophole
22 after the fact.

23 The other benefit to the
24 legislation incidentally is that anyone who
25 is convicted of a felony outside of their

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 work with the government would also be
3 ineligible for running for office
4 prospectively.

5 So not only is it addressing the
6 issue of public corruption from the
7 standpoint that individuals who have been in
8 government service can no longer get back
9 into government service, but also addressing
10 it prospectively in the sense that anyone
11 who has been proven to be dishonest by the
12 conviction of a felony involving dishonesty,
13 would be ineligible for running for office
14 in the future, for county office in the
15 future as well as serving on county
16 appointed boards or commissions.

17 I do just want to address because
18 obviously the minority has brought up the
19 Inspector General issue. Obviously making
20 sure that government is open and transparent
21 is something that's all of our
22 responsibilities and I think we are all
23 trying to get to the same place on that.

24 That's the reason why we passed a
25 comprehensive series of reforms with respect

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 to our contracting process, the disclosure
3 requirements for lobbyists, and vendors,
4 consultants, detailed business histories for
5 those that would do business with the
6 county, political campaign disclosures with
7 accompanying affidavits to ensure that
8 contributions weren't made with an
9 expectation of a governmental benefit, we've
10 hired a procurement compliance director to
11 ensure that the processes and procedures
12 that we put into place receive strict
13 adherence.

14 We've lowered the oversight of
15 the Rules Committee from \$25,000 to \$1,000
16 to dramatically increase direct legislative
17 oversight over the process.

18 There are an extensive number of
19 reviews now that are taking place with
20 respect to every contract that comes before
21 the county. You have the department that's
22 initiating the contract that reviews it, the
23 office of management and budget that reviews
24 it, you have the County Attorney's Office,
25 County Comptroller, you have the County

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Legislature Rules Committee.

3 You have the newly created
4 position of procurement director. You have
5 the Commissioner of Investigations. You
6 have also presumably the District Attorney
7 if there is an issue and prior to the
8 execution of any contract, the County
9 Executive, as well as the Nassau Interim
10 Finance Authority.

11 We have made the point in the
12 past that the issue that we have with the
13 Inspector General that the duties you are
14 seeking, the duties that you are seeking to
15 give that Inspector General are already
16 duplicated in our Commissioner of
17 Investigations position. That Commissioner
18 of Investigations' position is very much the
19 same as exists in multiple other
20 municipalities across the State of New York.

21 The problem with the Inspector
22 General position that is being proposed by
23 the minority is that both the State Attorney
24 General as well as the County Attorney here
25 in Nassau County have both issued opinions

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 that such a proposal would likely be
3 unconstitutional because it's taking what
4 are functions dedicated to the legislative
5 branch and also to the District Attorney,
6 and giving them to an unelected bureaucrat.

7 We've heard in the past, argued
8 that this is the equivalent to what we have
9 in terms of our Office of Budget Review.

10 The difference in that is that
11 the Office of Budget Review, for example,
12 provides us with numbers that we can use as
13 a tool for us to be able to make our
14 decision, the Legislature's decision on what
15 happens with respect to the budget.

16 The Independent Inspector General
17 has the ability to initiate investigations
18 and has the ability to come to its own
19 conclusions without legislative input.

20 The issue with that is that it's
21 vested in us as a County Legislature. We
22 have the responsibility for oversight of
23 contracts, by giving it to an unelected
24 bureaucrat and making them unaccountable to
25 anyone really takes out of the hands of the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 voters the ability to have oversight and
3 review of that contract process.

4 When you take power that's vested
5 in your elected officials and you give it to
6 unelected bureaucrats, that's when you have
7 a problem.

8 The Commissioner of
9 Investigations that we have in Nassau County
10 is the same mechanism that they have in the
11 State of New York. It's appointed by the
12 exact same process as our process.

13 New York City has the same
14 Inspector General who is appointed just as
15 our Commissioner of Investigations is
16 appointed and operates exactly the same way.

17 So I appreciate the continuous
18 talk about the Inspector General proposal
19 and it's not as though that proposal hasn't
20 been considered deliberatively by
21 legislators individually, but you are taking
22 power that's vested in the Legislature that
23 we have responsibility for and divesting us
24 of that power and giving it to a third
25 party.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 We were elected to do the job of
3 overseeing the contracting process and the
4 Inspector General position really is kind of
5 a copout in a sense that we're taking that
6 power away from ourselves as though we are
7 suggesting that we somehow can't handle it
8 and giving it to somebody else.

9 I appreciate it being brought up,
10 but, again, I don't think it's a good fit
11 for the county and I think also it's
12 unconstitutional.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
14 DeRiggi-Whitton.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
16 want to say I do believe, I think we all
17 believe this is a step in the right
18 direction and I'm happy to support.

19 But people that haven't been
20 around in the last few years, since I have
21 been here, it's been one thing after another
22 from Singh to Looks Great.

23 It's not that the minority came
24 here and said, oh, we want an Inspector
25 General. The District Attorney came here

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 and recommended it and basically told us
3 straight out that it's something we should
4 not only consider but should absolutely do
5 it immediately.

6 The reason being, the key
7 difference to me, again, I think we all want
8 to do the right thing, the real difference
9 is the subpoena power. We need someone who
10 would have the ability to subpoena records
11 and have people testify under oath. We
12 can't do that.

13 I have had so many people come up
14 and ask them from anything from food after
15 Sandy, trees being cut down, to so many --
16 Abtech, nothing that we have done here would
17 stop another Abtech from happening. So the
18 subpoena power takes it to another level.
19 Does that stop us from having our
20 obligations as a legislator? Absolutely
21 not.

22 What it does, it will bring it to
23 a more severe situation where the person
24 testifying or any type of subpoena power, it
25 would give us more power basically by using

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 this office which is -- you were here. She
3 said, not in a partisan or adversarial way,
4 this would go from here on in. It's hard
5 when you have County Executive under
6 indictment which is the situation we're in,
7 and that's why it's sometimes hard to bond
8 because we've been told by the District
9 Attorney to be very careful about how we
10 bond.

11 I'm actually voting for a
12 contract, there are certain things, we do it
13 for environmental, do it for public safety,
14 and I will be doing that today, but we have
15 been told by somebody who is in charge of
16 this type of corruption who sees it every
17 day that this is what we need. We need
18 someone with a subpoena power.

19 I'm appreciative of this and I'm
20 agreeing with this today, and I'm
21 appreciative of the a number of things you
22 listed. I do think it helps but nothing is
23 going to bring us -- the other thing is
24 Yonkers has this. So it's right here in New
25 York State. Just look it up. Don't take my

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 word for it. Look it up.

3 I don't think it's
4 unconstitutional. I know some in Florida
5 have it. I think it's going to be the way
6 of the future and I think because of our
7 situation we should be there.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You are
9 the last one.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Just one
11 last one, Legislator Rhoads, from an
12 attorney's standpoint. You mentioned that
13 there was an opinion that it was likely
14 unconstitutional. Can you get me a copy of
15 that or what opinion that was?

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The attorney
17 general, the Nassau County attorney issued
18 an opinion with respect to this specific
19 piece of legislation. And with respect to
20 this particular piece of legislation, the
21 State Attorney General not on this
22 particular piece of legislation, but on
23 similar pieces of legislation has previously
24 issued opinions calling into question
25 whether the Legislature would be able to

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 divest itself of powers that belonged to the
3 Legislature and putting it into the hands of
4 an unelected bureaucrat.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I would like
6 to see those. I really would.

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Sure.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know
9 that I have public comment from Ms. Mereday,
10 correct?

11 MS. MEREDAY: Yes, good
12 afternoon. Meta Mereday, Baldwin resident.

13 In relation to this local law,
14 it's a long time coming, first of all.

15 Secondly, I agree with Legislator
16 DeRiggi-Whitton with regard to needing a
17 little more power because, clearly, and no
18 disrespect to Legislator Rhoads, since all
19 of you over there seem to want to do this he
20 said, she said, this side, that side. The
21 taxpayers out here are the that have to bear
22 the brunt of all of this.

23 The layers that you have in place
24 have not worked. For all of you, a number
25 of you have been in the room when decisions

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 have been made and voted on by those of you
3 and, with all due respect, Mr. Kopel and
4 Mr. Muscarella, I sat here and listened to
5 all of you, I accept your apology.

6 Again, this local law is a step
7 but it's not enough. The need to have
8 someone with some authority and some power
9 to root out the level of corruption, the
10 waste, not to mention the disrespect that,
11 again, I'm experiencing because I'm trying
12 to get a point across to elected officials
13 who want to get in front of constituents and
14 claim they are representing their interests
15 and they continue to talk while those of us
16 who have sat in this room where it has
17 resembled more of a school yard and not high
18 school, elementary school, enough is enough.

19 And it will be spoken on Election
20 Day when some of you, again, will be
21 replaced, but, sadly, I have said this to
22 other groups who sat out here and once they
23 get behind there it changes. There is no
24 this side or that side.

25 Residents are leaving here in

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 drove. Our students are graduating from
3 prestigious colleges and universities but
4 can't afford to live here.

5 And as all of you should well
6 know by now, my main priority are veterans
7 and their interests are not being served.

8 These contracts, the bondings,
9 all of this, the benchmarks, all of this is
10 still not inclusive; there are not reports
11 and where are the reports from this
12 procurement person? What is the inclusion?
13 Where are the numbers that are saying that
14 veterans, minorities and women are getting
15 their fair shot so they too can be included
16 in the discussion here?

17 So, yes, I agree that this local
18 law is a start, but if we don't dig deep, if
19 we don't get real, and if we stop using just
20 Newsday as the resource, because all of you
21 you voted yourselves a raise, you got staff,
22 and I believe we have at least again 50 plus
23 attorneys in the County Attorney's Office
24 and you also keep hiring outside attorneys.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Your time has

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 expired.

3 MS. MEREDAY: I understand that.
4 But, like I said, I been sitting here for
5 three and a half hours so I'm going to take
6 a few more minutes.

7 This is where it has to stop.
8 You have to do a better job of representing
9 our interests because the taxpayers cannot
10 sustain it anymore.

11 I don't know what it is going to
12 take for anyone sitting behind that dais to
13 understand that. Because what happened
14 earlier today in this room you should all be
15 ashamed.

16 And only on Election Day will you
17 be hopefully held accountable for not
18 representing the interests of the residents
19 and the taxpayers.

20 It has nothing to do with
21 party lines at this point. It's blood
22 lines. Because you are bleeding us out and
23 enough is enough.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
25 very much, Ms. Mereday.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 There being no other comment, a
3 motion to close the hearing.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
7 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator
8 Kopel. All those in favor of closing the
9 hearing signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 Any opposed?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 The hearing is now closed.

14 Now for the law itself, which is
15 Item 2, and the local law is a local law 190
16 to disqualify from any county elected or
17 appointed office any person that has been
18 convicted of a felony.

19 Motion, please.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
23 Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator
24 Walker. Any additional comments?

25 (No verbal response.)

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Any public comment?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 There being none, all those in
5 favor of Item 2, the proposed local law,
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 The item passes unanimously.

11 Let's move along. I believe Item
12 Number 6 which is Ordinance 52, a bond
13 ordinance providing for a capital
14 expenditure to finance the capital projects
15 identified herein within the County of
16 Nassau and authorizing \$2,400,000 of bonds
17 of the County of Nassau to finance such
18 expenditure pursuant to the Local Finance
19 Law of New York and the County Governmental
20 Law of Nassau County.

21 Motion, please.

22 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Second.

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

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 MacKenzie. Any comments or questions
3 regarding this item?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 I need you to make sure we are
6 aware of the fact that I believe this has to
7 do with pedestrian accessibility. Minority
8 Leader.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
10 Madam Presiding Officer. I don't know if
11 DPW I guess would answer this one.

12 MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold,
13 Department of Public Works.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ken, we had
15 reached out -- I stand corrected, I think
16 actually based on the letter we sent it was
17 actually sent to the County Attorney's
18 attention. I stand corrected for bringing
19 you up, I apologize.

20 But we had written a letter,
21 addressed it to the County Attorney in
22 regards to the bond ordinance. Similar in
23 the past we've got language or seen language
24 written into the bond ordinance that
25 restricted the use of bond proceeds to make

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 sure they are being spent on pedestrian
3 accessibility projects, nothing else. So
4 far we not seen a response to that request.

5 I don't know if you're familiar
6 with that request.

7 MR. ARNOLD: No, I'm not.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But we have
9 done this type of thing before with bond
10 ordinances so I don't think if this is
11 something Gerry can answer or someone from
12 the County Attorney's Office in regards to
13 this matter.

14 MR. PODLESACK: I'm not the
15 individual who handles bond ordinances for
16 the County Attorney's Office. I will see if
17 he's available.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr. Denion?

19 MR. PODLESACK: Yes. Mr. Denion.
20 I will see if he's available and can come
21 over. Not sure where he is this afternoon.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam
23 Presiding Officer, we respectfully request
24 to table until Mr. Denion is able to come
25 down.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Item 6,
3 first of all, Mr. Podlesak, how long do you
4 think until you get him here?

5 MR. PODLESAK: I don't know. I'm
6 sending him an email right now. He may in
7 fact be listening and coming over himself.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay,
9 fine. I'm asking for a motion to table Item
10 6.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

12 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
14 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator
15 Kopel. All those in favor of tabling Item 6
16 signify by saying aye.

17 (Aye)

18 Any opposed?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 The item is tabled.

21 We're moving on to Item 20,
22 Ordinance 66. I believe I'm going to have
23 to offer an amendment in the nature of a
24 substitution.

25 The item is an ordinance

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 supplemental to the annual appropriation
3 ordinance and to transfer appropriations
4 heretofore made within to reconcile the
5 county's financial records for the budget
6 year 2016.

7 Motion, please.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
11 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator
12 Kopel. I need to request an amendment in
13 the nature of a substitution.

14 Motion, please.

15 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

16 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Second.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
18 Legislator Muscarella, seconded by
19 Legislator Gaylor.

20 The amendment in the nature of a
21 substitution corrects a description and the
22 amount of the general fund bond board
23 transfer as well as the source and the use
24 of funds section of the supplemental
25 appropriation.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 The date that it was filed was
3 dated the 15th of May at 2:45.

4 All those in favor of the
5 amendment in the nature of a substitution
6 signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Unanimous.

11 Now for the item as amended. All
12 those in favor of Item 20 as amended signify
13 by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 Any opposed?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 The item passes unanimously.

18 We go to the next item which is
19 Item 24, Ordinance 70, an Ordinance
20 supplemental to the annual appropriation
21 ordinance in connection with the Probation
22 Department.

23 Motion, please.

24 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
3 Legislator MacKenzie, seconded by Legislator
4 Schaefer. Who is here to speak on this
5 item?

6 MR. LANCEMAN: Douglas Lanceman,
7 Probation. I'm here to speak on Ordinance
8 Number 70-2017 on our gift grant.

9 It's a recurring grant. It's in
10 it's 16th year. The grant used to be called
11 operation impact. The name has been changed
12 to Give Initiative which is guns involved
13 violence elimination. The grant is a
14 \$204,451. It's a one year grant with a
15 possible renewal for next year.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any
17 questions from the legislators? Legislator
18 Birnbaum.

19 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Yes. I'm
20 very interested in gun control and gun
21 safety. So I just want to know, could you
22 explain about the program?

23 MR. LANCEMAN: Sure. The GIVE
24 grant builds upon information sharing and
25 partnerships developed under Operation

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Impact, which was the prior name, while
3 expanding the use of crime analysis,
4 evidence based practices, and community
5 partnerships to assist in the reduction of
6 firearms, related homicides, and shootings.

7 Also it focuses on the goal to
8 reduce shootings and homicides by promoting
9 integrated evidence based strategies
10 including unannounced visits to gang
11 members.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I just want
13 to add that I'm such a believer in safe
14 storage of guns that last year I introduced
15 legislation that would mandate anyone that
16 has a gun in their home to keep it in a safe
17 lock box so a child couldn't possible get it
18 and suicide rate would be a little bit more
19 controlled because it's been showed that
20 people do use their own handguns to commit
21 suicide. I think this would go along with
22 it beautifully and I haven't seen this bill
23 go anywhere. Do you know if we can perhaps
24 bring it, Presiding Officer, to a vote one
25 day?

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
3 Birnbaum, I believe I was just advised by
4 counsel it's preempted by state law.

5 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: A lot of
6 local municipalities have enacted a law
7 similar to this.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We'll
9 ascertain. Any other comments regarding
10 Item 24?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Is there any public comment?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 There being none, all those in
15 favor of Item 24, Ordinance 70 signify by
16 saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 Any opposed?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 The item passes unanimously.

21 MR. LANCEMAN: Thank you for
22 supporting probation.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're
24 welcome. 28, the next item, Resolution 96,
25 a resolution authorizing the County

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Executive to execute an intermunicipal
3 agreement with Oyster Bay East Norwich
4 Central School District.

5 Motion, please.

6 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
9 Legislator MacKenzie, seconded by Legislator
10 Walker. Are there any questions from the
11 legislators?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 Is there any public comment?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 There being none, all those in
16 favor of Item 28 signify by saying aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 Any opposed?

19 (Nay.)

20 11 to 7 for 28. I'm going to
21 have to put the Legislature in recess,
22 hopefully, we can move on. I will take a
23 few minutes.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam
25 Presiding Officer, we have not called all

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 the items, there's Item Number 70. There's
3 items that you didn't call as well.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know,
5 but there are other items that I didn't call
6 as well.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Well,
8 they've been here since 1 o'clock. Is their
9 item going to be called today? At least
10 tell them if the item is going to be called
11 or not called so they don't have to wait
12 here throughout the recess.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I thought
14 we were going to be able to call others but
15 obviously we did not.

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
17 Let's take a vote on it.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's take
19 the vote.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know
21 that there are two people here, we are not
22 calling the item primarily because -- would
23 you like to come up? I would like you to
24 know that we are not going to be calling
25 this item.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's
3 a million dollars if you don't call the item
4 now. This is money that's available. We
5 are not bonding for this money.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're
7 doing it again.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: This
9 is money that's available. Rich, this is
10 part of your district too. We cannot lose
11 this money.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You know,
13 it's hard to count how many times there were
14 speakers from the county at that podium
15 saying we are in jeopardy of losing federal
16 funding if you don't vote for this bonding,
17 and you said, oh, so what, it's fine.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But
19 we're not bonding today. The money is
20 sitting in the account.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That
22 doesn't matter. It's the same principle.
23 The point you just raised is that we are in
24 danger of losing federal monies.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 We're not bonding. The money is there.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The point
4 that you just raised is that we're in danger
5 of losing federal monies. It's been said
6 repeatedly that it has never been an issue
7 for you and, all of a sudden, now it's an
8 issue for you.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
10 Rich, we're not bonding. Rich. We are not
11 bonding.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm
13 addressing a point.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The
15 money is sitting there and you're going to
16 lose a million dollars. Rich Nicolello is
17 going to lose a million dollars.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Maybe you
19 should worry about the pump station in your
20 own district. I'm worried about the pump
21 stations which are more important.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
23 Fine. It hasn't been called, number one.
24 You're saying this is not important. Number
25 two --

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm
3 worried about odor control in Bay Park.
4 Those communities suffer from odor control
5 and it's not important enough for you to
6 vote on.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm not
8 calling the item.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You
10 know what, Rich, you met with them and gave
11 them your word. And the entire North
12 Hempstead --

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I don't
14 know what you're talking about.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I've
16 had conversations with them also.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Whose word
18 did I give?

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
20 Would you like to come up to the podium?
21 I'm calling as a legislator. Come on up to
22 the podium. I'm doing it.

23 MR. KROPLICK: Howard Kroplick,
24 33 Wren Drive, East Hills, New York.

25 MS. TINDER: Ann Tinder, Roslyn,

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 director of the Roslyn Landmark Society.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: This
4 money is available and is environmental bond
5 act from, what was it, 2009, if I'm correct?
6 It's 2006.

7 The money is available. It is
8 sitting in an account. We were waiting for
9 the state to come up with their money to
10 match which is now available.

11 So there is no further bonding.
12 There is no issue with anything at all.
13 It's just a matter of giving you the money
14 that was promised to you.

15 If we don't do this today, what
16 happens to the state money?

17 MR. KROPLICK: Then we can't
18 begin the project. We are required to get
19 the \$250,000 so we can begin Phase One.

20 If you don't vote on this today,
21 the project will be halted and it could put
22 in jeopardy additional funds in the future.

23 We have a time limit on when we
24 have a \$500,000 grant from New York State.
25 It's time limited to where it goes.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 Again, we're talking about 11
3 years ago this was voted on by the
4 Legislature. It was approved by it. All we
5 are asking for you to do is sign the IMA
6 agreement that transfers the money to the
7 Village of Roslyn.

8 This money has been approved
9 already under the capital funds. It's an
10 Environmental Protection Act that was
11 approved in 2006.

12 These monies have been approved.
13 All we're asking for you to do is to vote on
14 the IMA transfer between the county and the
15 village.

16 If you don't do it, the project
17 will be halted totally. Again, this
18 benefits all of Nassau County. This is a
19 historic building that really the county has
20 had for 41 years with the promise to restore
21 it and, in fact, it has never been restored.
22 They promised a million dollars years ago to
23 restore it.

24 We never got the million dollars,
25 but we have gone out now and got the money

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 to restore it. So it's -- and it would be a
3 real shame that the only thing holding it up
4 is that you're not signing an IMA agreement.

5 Like I said, you are putting the
6 whole project in jeopardy, quite frankly,
7 and this is not a partisan issue. It should
8 not be part of politics.

9 This is what is in the best
10 interests of the residents of the county
11 here.

12 We have a historic landmark
13 that's deteriorating. It's an eye sore in
14 the middle of the Village of Roslyn and it
15 really should be a cherished item here for
16 the county. We have the money to restore it
17 but we really can't proceed unless the
18 county signs off on the IMA agreement.

19 We are not asking for additional
20 capital funds. This is a bond act that was
21 approved 11 years ago. There were 30
22 projects that were approved in bond act.
23 This is the only one that hasn't received a
24 penny.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's a

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 good point. What was the reason for the
3 delay that it took all these years?

4 MR. KROPLICK: The delay was
5 really to get the project going.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So it
7 wasn't that the county's been holding it up
8 for 12 years?

9 MR. KROPLICK: No, no. You're
10 totally correct. We needed to raise the
11 money. Again, it was initially promised,
12 Nassau County promised a million dollars.
13 It never got voted on.

14 So we went out and raised the
15 funds to get this project going. And not
16 only have we raised these funds, once we get
17 Phase One, we have commitments that this is
18 going to proceed. We're going to raise
19 another million dollars. We have it from
20 private foundations that want to go into
21 this, but they want to see Phase One
22 actually started.

23 So this is going to be a major
24 setback for this project if you don't sign
25 on IMA agreement. We are not asking for

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 funds from Nassau County. You approved it.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Like I
4 said, this is not a partisan issue.

5 However, there are issues,
6 projects, and, by the way, this is also a
7 worthy project which should be done. But
8 there are projects all over this county that
9 are being held up that are not partisan.

10 There are people living in
11 communities next to sewage treatment plants
12 who suffer from odor control. That's not a
13 partisan issue, but let's take this one.

14 Would you let me finish. You
15 have to chime in over there? You have an
16 issue that if someone is disagreeing with
17 you you can't let them speak. Would you
18 please just let me speak?

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You
20 know what I have an issue with, these people
21 received a call from the -- one of your
22 attorneys saying that they will not see the
23 light of day because of me.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I was just
25 finishing my explanation.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You
3 know what, it's not fair.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I was just
5 finishing my explanation on the issue.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You are
7 being --

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But
9 the gentleman walking over to you right now,
10 and in a very rude --

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I was
12 explaining our position on the issue.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
14 DeRiggi-Whitton. You keep interrupting.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You
16 know this is the right thing to do.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Don't you
18 understand what out of order is?

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: By holding
20 up 100 and something million dollars in
21 projects in this county, you are not in a
22 position to dictate to anyone what's the
23 right thing to do.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I've
25 bonded for quite a lot. I'm not dictating

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 to you whatsoever. I am just saying, this
3 is this is not bonding that you have to
4 borrow.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let me
6 finish my point.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: This
8 is money they've been promised. It was
9 voted on.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You know
11 you're used to getting your way, now stop
12 it. Yes, you are.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going
14 to finish my point which is this.

15 This is not a partisanship; this
16 is a worthy project. But let's compare it
17 one other project of the \$140 million or so
18 that's being held up because of
19 partisanship.

20 People living next to sewage
21 treatment plants on a regular basis have to
22 deal with the odors. Can you imagine living
23 next to a sewage treatment plant. And there
24 were funds in the county that are available
25 to help remediate that problem, but, because

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 of partisanship, that project does not go
3 forward affecting your quality of life.
4 That's one issue.

5 There's multiple issues. So if
6 you expect this to go forward with them
7 holding up \$140 million of bonding with
8 multiple projects throughout this county
9 affecting the quality of life, affecting
10 health and safety, sewage pump stations in
11 Glen Cove, et cetera. That's not going to
12 happen. Government does not work that way.

13 If you are going to hold up
14 government for one purpose for your own ends
15 then you can't expect government to work for
16 your ends in another way. It is simply not
17 going to happen.

18 MR. KROPLICK: Can I respond to
19 that? This doesn't make any sense to me at
20 all, from the standpoint, this project you
21 can't tie to any other project. It stands
22 by itself.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I agree
24 with you. And odor control stands by
25 itself. You cannot tie it to any other

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 issue. Not to odor control. It stands by
3 itself.

4 MR. KROPLICK: This project
5 should be measured on its merits. You can
6 tie any other bill to this and it really
7 can. Looks at the history of this project.
8 The project, again, it was approved by
9 Nassau County in 2006 unanimously.

10 Basically you're going to kill it
11 because of a political discussion. We can't
12 be political. We are the Roslyn Landmark
13 Society. We're non profit. I'm the town
14 historian of North Hempstead. I can't get
15 involved with politics. It's in the state
16 Charter. I can't negotiate for you that you
17 have to bid one way. It's against state law
18 to do that.

19 Now, if you want me to get
20 involved in politics dispute here, you are
21 breaking the state Charter on that. I'm not
22 going to do that.

23 I beg you, that you're killing a
24 historic project. That building is going to
25 collapse unless we go in there and restore

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 it. I'm not asking for capital funding for
3 that. We have a volunteer group that raised
4 a million dollars that you're putting
5 jeopardy by a squabble.

6 I want everybody here to be in
7 celebration when we have a grand opening of
8 this and everybody on this dais can be there
9 to celebrate that you are saving a historic
10 building. It's one of the oldest buildings
11 on Long Island. It was the center of
12 business for Roslyn.

13 Part of your area is the Roslyn
14 area. We should be proud of this. We
15 shouldn't get into a political squabble. I
16 don't want to hear about politics on
17 something like this. This is not a
18 political issue. It's the right thing to do
19 for Nassau County.

20 We build that and it's going to
21 be a center where people can enjoy the
22 history of Nassau County and the history of
23 the village, that's the Village of Roslyn.

24 So when I hear about the politics
25 of this, it's really upsetting to say the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 least.

3 Newsday is following this very,
4 very closely, and Newsday called this a
5 treasure of Nassau County that needs to be
6 preserved. I think if they look at this as
7 an example where you're fighting them and
8 you are not approving something that has all
9 of the monies, have already been approved,
10 it's not going to make anybody look good.

11 I'm begging you, take a vote on
12 it. If you are going to vote against, vote
13 against it. Get on the record and show us
14 what you're doing on this.

15 MS. TINDER: You voted
16 unanimously for four or five projects today.
17 You can vote one more time unanimously for a
18 historic project. It's all of our heritage.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just to let
20 you know, we stand ready and prepared to
21 vote for this.

22 Obviously we don't have the
23 majority to be able to push this through but
24 we stand with you and believe in its value.
25 I'm one of the few members that was here in

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 2006 that supported both environmental bond
3 acts I supported.

4 There are several of my
5 colleagues who also both took those votes as
6 well that are preventing this from being
7 called today.

8 You're hearing a lot of back and
9 forth and I feel a bit remorseful that you
10 are actually stuck in the middle of this.

11 I think you explained it
12 correctly that you are caught in the middle
13 of a political squabble.

14 It sounds like to me based on the
15 comments that Deputy Presiding Officer made
16 that they are not voting for this which he
17 voted for in 2006 as part of the
18 environmental bond act, but he's not voting
19 for it because we are not voting for
20 bonding.

21 We're not voting for bonding
22 because there is no integrity or
23 transparency as we believe it, Norma, it's
24 perfectly fine, you don't believe that, but
25 we believe that there is not enough

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 transparency as all of the public corruption
3 that we're seeing that's occurring in this
4 county.

5 That being said, it goes back and
6 forth. We can say they are holding up
7 because they're not voting for public
8 corruption officer, and they can say we are
9 holding it up because we're not supporting
10 bonding.

11 Either way you do not get what
12 you are looking for which is to do this
13 great project. I respectfully request that
14 the Presiding Officer call the item and let
15 them see how we take the vote.

16 At least we should do that. Give
17 them the respect that we should at least
18 take the vote. If it goes down, at least
19 they understand where this Legislature
20 stands and they are not left in limbo for
21 the next several months.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Alternate
23 Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you. I
25 understand that this can be pushed off for

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 another few weeks, a month or so, if
3 necessary. That's what I'm advised.

4 I would urge you to use that time
5 wisely and build support and get the
6 representatives on the other side of the
7 aisle to vote for some projects that affect
8 public health and safety.

9 I understand, I like supporting
10 historical things, but historical things as
11 important as they are and as nice as they
12 are, can't compare with matters, critical
13 matters of public safety such as roads, such
14 as pump stations that if those -- it's not a
15 glamorous thing like a gristmill perhaps,
16 but God forbid those things fail, that's big
17 trouble for a lot of people. That's just
18 not the way to go.

19 So I think that this is gridlock
20 that we have been experiencing here for a
21 very long time. We agree that it's time to
22 break it. But I think we need to treat this
23 as an entire matter and not try to use
24 Salami tactics, we'll just vote on this,
25 vote on that.

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 We need to get this done and I
3 would urge you to go ahead and urge your
4 representatives to do the right thing.

5 So I think that it's better that
6 we don't vote today.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You know
8 we have a Rules Committee after this. If
9 you want to take somebody's place for Rules
10 and stay until 6, 7 o'clock, fine, let's go.
11 Legislator Birnbaum and then Legislator
12 Rhoads, and that's it.

13 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I've worked
14 with Mr. Kroplick at the Town of North
15 Hempstead, and I know his passion for
16 history and restoring historical sites and
17 making the town beautiful and making the
18 county beautiful. He's worked so hard on
19 this project.

20 He just gave a statement that he
21 can't get involved politically. To ask him
22 to try to persuade legislators to vote a
23 certain way I think is wrong. It's not what
24 we do here.

25 I think he's here for one issue

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 and it's restoring a historical site that is
3 Nassau County, it's a county gristmill. We
4 have one in Great Neck, the Saddle Rock
5 Gristmill that I'm passionate about
6 restoring as well. This is through
7 generations. This is for our community.
8 This is what government is all about.

9 I can't understand why anybody
10 would be opposed to this resolution.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now we
12 have Legislator Rhoads and that's then the
13 end.

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: You are 100
15 percent correct that this should not be a
16 partisan issue.

17 I think one of the things you
18 have seen today is that issues that are not
19 supposed to be partisan issues, issues of
20 public health, issues of public safety,
21 issues of road safety, traffic engineering,
22 issues of pump stations are all nonpartisan
23 issues, or should be nonpartisan issues that
24 have been caught in political morass.

25 From my perspective, I have

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 constituents in my district that I have to
3 answer to. I have to explain to them,
4 because most of my district surrounds the
5 Cedar Creek Sewage Treatment Plant, which is
6 the subject of a capital project for odor
7 control. I receive odor complaints in my
8 district on a regular basis. A capital
9 project that's being held up would address
10 some of that.

11 I showed you before, Merrick
12 Road, main roadway. We can't get a project
13 done to be able to make necessary repairs
14 because we can't get the 13th vote on
15 bonding. Not a political issues. Everybody
16 agrees it's a no-brainer project that should
17 get done but for whatever reason it's not
18 getting done.

19 I can't in good conscience tell
20 my constituents that I can vote for a
21 gristmill project in Roslyn to restore a
22 historic building, while at the same time I
23 can't fix this. At the same time I can't
24 fix odor control complaints that impact them
25 on a regular basis. Particularly now in the

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 summertime where everybody has got their
3 window open.

4 You have no idea what it's like
5 to live adjacent to sewer treatment plant.
6 Understand that every time you flush the
7 toilet anywhere in Nassau County it goes to
8 one of three places, but predominantly it
9 goes to one of two places.

10 So anyone who lives in the
11 proximity of Legislator Ford's district, for
12 example, where she deals with Bay Park
13 sewage treatment on a constant basis, I deal
14 with Cedar Creek, you have no idea what it's
15 like to live next to where all of Nassau
16 County's sewage winds up going.

17 We have a responsibility for
18 public safety, for public health, to address
19 that. It's not being addressed and I can't
20 in good conscience support the project even
21 though I would love to.

22 I love -- I'm a great fan of
23 history. I actually play 1864 rules
24 baseball over at Old Bethpage Village
25 Restoration, but I can't support the project

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 and go back to my constituents and say, I
3 can rebuild a gristmill in Roslyn but I
4 can't get your roads fixed and I can't
5 control odor complaints.

6 MR. KROPLICK: Can I just
7 respond?

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You may
9 respond, but you know what? We have a Rules
10 Committee after this. Most of my colleagues
11 are not on Rules. So we can be here until
12 seven o'clock.

13 I've got news for you. I will
14 give you the courtesy, Mr. Kroplick, but
15 that's it.

16 MR. KROPLICK: Just understand
17 you're comparing two different things here.
18 You're comparing a capital project with a
19 funding that was approved 11 years ago.
20 It's two different things.

21 What I'm asking is, if you want
22 to vote against this, let's see it. Let's
23 show the people you're not even taking a
24 vote. So you feel very strongly about this,
25 go for it. But you don't even taking a

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 vote. You don't want to go on record going
3 on a historic project. You say it but
4 you're not voting on it.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So you
6 would rather us vote it down than leave open
7 the possibility. So who is being political,
8 Mr. Kroplick?

9 MR. KROPLICK: I'm not being
10 political. You are asking me to be conduit
11 to get your squabble over. It's not going
12 to happen. We can't do that. It's not in
13 our Charter as a nonprofit. It's not in my
14 Charter as a historian. I can't negotiate
15 for you. You're all attorneys, all very
16 experienced legislators. You don't need me
17 to negotiate for you. I can't. I won't do
18 that.

19 So you basically are shooting
20 this down and we're going to lose a \$500,000
21 grant from New York State. It's kind of
22 amazing but it's sad.

23 I just hope when you go back to
24 your Rules Committee, you reconsider this
25 again and you do not what's right for your

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 political parties, but do what's right for
3 the residents of Nassau County.

4 MS. TINDER: You passed it in
5 your Rules Committee two, three weeks ago.
6 You told us it was approved in the Rules
7 Committee and it would be put on the agenda
8 and we have been here faithfully sitting and
9 listening to you and waiting. This is --
10 you passed this money, you have it in a
11 savings account in escrow somewhere. It
12 belongs to the gristmill.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: We are going to
14 vote on it at a later date then.

15 MR. KROPLICK: Thank you for your
16 consideration.

17 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Presiding
18 Officer, if I may add, a lot has been talked
19 about this odor control project that's on
20 today.

21 But if I'm reading the backup
22 correctly, the construction has been
23 complete on this. It was a year ago in late
24 April of 2016. Is this something that we
25 need to be voting on? It looks to me,

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 unless I'm wrong --

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That was just
4 one example.

5 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: It's one
6 example that's come up several times.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Would you
8 like to vote against the pump stations in
9 Glen Cove and go explain to the people in
10 Glen Cove --

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's
12 never been on yet.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You just
14 voted against it in committees. Did you
15 forget about that already?

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No.
17 What we are talking about right now --

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This
19 started with Legislator Curran.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: What
21 you know is that this money is available.
22 This is not bonding. This is their money.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What is
24 the difference?

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 not our money, it's their money.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If a
4 project is worthy, it doesn't matter -- I
5 will say this as many times as I can until
6 you stop talking. If a project is worthy,
7 it does not matter if it's a vote on bonding
8 or not a vote on bonding. If a project is
9 worthy, it's worthy.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
11 Rich, you are so mixed up. You voted for
12 this for the original, voted for it two
13 weeks ago. You met with them. You assured
14 them you would do what you could.

15 You know what, you are looking
16 like a hypocrite for a political reason.
17 You know what, I know this is bothering you.
18 I see that you know what to do is right.
19 You know, you're not doing what's right and
20 you are going to be blamed for this.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hey, don't
22 go there. Hey. No.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I want to
24 respond.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 calling a recess.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Do
4 what you want but you're totally going
5 against your word.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Look, you
7 don't understand what I was trying to do is
8 get this in a position where it could pass,
9 but because of your hard headedness,
10 stubbornness partisanship, you won't vote
11 for any other project in the county but want
12 something for yours. That's why it's not
13 passing.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
15 We voted for bonding today. They were here
16 to see that. I'm not calling it for a vote.
17 The Roslyn Historical people called it for a
18 vote. If you want to vote against it, by
19 all means do, but you are going against your
20 two prior votes which is really weird.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have
22 three or four road projects that are ready
23 to go, are you ready to vote for them?

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: If
25 our County Executive wasn't indicted, I

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17
2 would think about it. I have a hard time
3 sending down contracts. I don't feel
4 comfortable --

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If
6 everything was corrupt before today and they
7 passed this body all those years ago, maybe
8 we should investigate that, is that what
9 you're saying?

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No.
11 I think while the person who is turning down
12 contracts to us is under indictment, we have
13 to be extremely careful, you know that. You
14 know what you're doing --

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And you
16 know what you're doing.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: This
18 money is available, and not bonded.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Do it.
20 Then call the vote one day. If you don't
21 want to do it today, but, you know what, if
22 you lose this money, Rich, it's going to be
23 on your shoulders and it's going to be very
24 public.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: This

1 Full Legislature/5-22-17

2 meeting is now in recess.

3 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
4 Committee recessed at 4:40 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 6th day of June, 2017.

FRANK GRAY