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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
Presiding Officer

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DONALD MACKENZIE, Chairman  
(Substituted by Steve Rhoads)

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

Monday, December 4, 2017  
2:57 P.M

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2     A P P E A R A N C E S:

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4     DONALD MACKENZIE, (Substituted by  
Chairman                      Laura Schaefer)

5

6     STEVE RHOADS,  
Vice Chairman (Substituting for  
Donald MacKenzie)

7

VINCENT MUSCARELLA

8

DENISE FORD

9

LAURA CURRAN,  
Ranking

10

KEVAN ABRAHAMS

11

SIELA BYNOE

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MICHAEL PULITZER

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Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

BOB MCMANUS . . . . .	5
LIEUTENANT GREG STEPHANOFF . . . . .	9
COMMISSIONER RYDER . . . . .	10
META MEREDAY . . . . .	16

1                   Public Safety Committee/12-4-17

2                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Calling the  
3   members of the Public Safety Committee to  
4   order.   Will the clerk please call the roll.

5                   CLERK PULITZER:   Thank you, Mr.  
6   Chairman.   Public Safety Committee.  
7   Legislator Siela Bynoe?

8                   LEGISLATOR BYNOE:   Here.

9                   CLERK PULITZER:   Minority Leader  
10   Kevan Abrahams?

11                  LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:   Here.

12                  CLERK PULITZER:   Ranking Member  
13   Laura Curran?

14                  LEGISLATOR CURRAN:   Here.

15                  CLERK PULITZER:   Legislator  
16   Denise Ford?

17                  LEGISLATOR FORD:   Here.

18                  CLERK PULITZER:   Legislator  
19   Vincent Muscarella?

20                  LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA:   Here.

21                  CLERK PULITZER:   Legislator Laura  
22   Schaefer?

23                  LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER:   Here.

24                  CLERK PULITZER:   Chairman Steven  
25   Rhoads?

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2                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Present.

3                   CLERK PULITZER:   Thank you, sir.

4                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Thank you, Mr.  
5 Clerk.

6                   The first item on the agenda is  
7 Clerk Item 448-17, a resolution authorizing  
8 the County Executive to execute an amendment  
9 to a grant agreement between the County of  
10 Nassau acting on behalf of the District  
11 Attorney's Office and the Women's  
12 Opportunity Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

13                   Do we have a motion, please?

14                   LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER:   So moved.

15                   LEGISLATOR FORD:   Second.

16                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Motion by  
17 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Legislator  
18 Ford.   Do we have somebody here?

19                   MR. MCMANUS:   Yes, Bob McManus,  
20 District Attorney's Office.   This is a one  
21 year extension of an agreement between the  
22 District Attorney's Office and Women's  
23 Opportunity Rehabilitation Center, a not for  
24 profit corporation located in Hempstead.

25                   The District Attorney's Office

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2   has a long standing partnership with WORC.  
3   They provide counseling and employment  
4   assistance to women referred by the courts  
5   as a diversion to incarceration as well as  
6   serving the needs of women who have been  
7   released from jail or prison.

8           The goal of the program is to  
9   reduce the likelihood that the clients will  
10   return to criminal activity.

11           This contract is funded by New  
12   York State forfeiture funds awarded to the  
13   District Attorney as a result of our  
14   participation in criminal investigations.

15           CHAIRMAN RHOADS: Thank you,  
16   Mr. McManus. Do we have any questions?  
17   Legislator Ford.

18           LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon.  
19   This sounds like an absolutely wonderful  
20   program. I just am curious, what is the  
21   success rate with dealing with these women?

22           Do you find it has been proven  
23   very effective?

24           MR. MCMANUS: I know it's an  
25   effective organization that as achieved

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2       excellent results. I don't have any  
3       statistics with me right now. But I know  
4       the courts, in regards to the court system  
5       WORC is considered a valuable resource.

6                   LEGISLATOR FORD: So they would  
7       actually go there. Does this have any  
8       involvement, like I know basically what you  
9       call halfway houses, that women who leave  
10      incarceration that they go to some of these  
11      places in order to stay there until they  
12      acclimate themselves back into society, does  
13      this also help these women find that type of  
14      housing?

15                  MR. MCMANUS: It does not help  
16      them find housing when you refer to halfway  
17      houses, but it does provide services to  
18      people who are living in that environment  
19      temporarily.

20                  LEGISLATOR FORD: So if you live  
21      there then you could end up like those, sign  
22      up and you can go there and help get jobs  
23      and any type of assistance they may need?

24                  MR. MCMANUS: That's correct, and  
25      also help you prepare resumes, prepare

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2   interviews and things like that.

3                   LEGISLATOR FORD:   Thank you very  
4   much.

5                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Legislator  
6   Curran.

7                   LEGISLATOR CURRAN:   Hi.   I will  
8   add, I have visited this program and they do  
9   a lot with the \$75,000.   They get a lot of  
10   volunteers to help the women, they have a  
11   little teeny tiny shoe box office.   It's  
12   very very impressive.   It's sort of an  
13   unsung hero in the diversion world.   I'm  
14   happy to see that we will be voting on this  
15   today.

16                  MR. MCMANUS:   They have recently  
17   moved actually to quarters that are a little  
18   bit bigger.

19                  LEGISLATOR CURRAN:   That's good  
20   to hear.

21                  CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Any other  
22   questions or comments from the legislators?

23                         (No verbal response.)

24                         Is there any public comment?

25                         (No verbal response.)



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2                   Seeing none, we will call for a  
3   vote. All those in favor of Item 448-17  
4   please signify so by saying aye.

5                   (Aye.)

6                   Those opposed say nay?

7                   (No verbal response.)

8                   The ayes have it and the  
9   resolution is referred to finance.

10                  Next up is Clerk Item 458 of '17,  
11   an ordinance supplemental to the annual  
12   appropriation ordinance in connection with  
13   the police department.

14                  First do we have a motion,  
15   please.

16                  LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So moved.

17                  LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

18                  CHAIRMAN RHOADS: Motion by  
19   Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Legislator  
20   Ford.

21                  LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Good  
22   afternoon. Lieutenant Greg Stephanoff,  
23   Nassau County Police Department.

24                  Item 458 of '17 is a supplemental  
25   appropriation for the police department.

1           Public Safety Committee/12-4-17

2       This is to appropriate \$500,000 from asset  
3       forfeiture to actually accommodate the next  
4       item, 459, which I have Commissioner Ryder  
5       and Assistant Commissioner Fox to speak  
6       upon.

7                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   If there is no  
8       objection, perhaps we should call 459 at the  
9       same time.   459 is a resolution authorizing  
10      the County Executive to execute a  
11      cooperative agreement and license with the  
12      New York State Office of Parks, Recreation  
13      and Historic Preservation in relation to a  
14      new environmental education and resiliency  
15      center.

16                   Do we have a motion, please?

17                   LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER:   So moved.

18                   LEGISLATOR FORD:   Second.

19                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Motion by  
20      Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Legislator  
21      Ford.   Commissioner Ryder.

22                   COMMISSIONER RYDER:   Good  
23      afternoon and thank you for taking the time.  
24      Item 459-17 is the build -- the State of New  
25      York is building their building in the

1                   Public Safety Committee/12-4-17

2       Hempstead State Lake Park.

3                   We are going to be partners in  
4       there taking over a thousand square feet for  
5       our explorer's program. We currently do not  
6       have a location where the explorers use.  
7       They bounce around from building to building  
8       depending on what event they're doing and  
9       what type of training.

10                  The idea of us getting into that  
11       building was not only for finding space for  
12       them but was also involved with the programs  
13       with the Governor's Office.

14                  Those programs on weekends  
15       include fishing and hiking and kayaking.  
16       All of those programs are in the current  
17       agreement that we have with them.

18                  Those program will allow our  
19       explorers to teach our young kids from the  
20       neighborhoods of Hempstead and Uniondale and  
21       West Hempstead and pull them into the park,  
22       create these programs on the weekends and,  
23       again, our explorers will be involved and I  
24       used to love using the word, but free labor  
25       from the explorers, but it's also an

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2   education to then educate our young that  
3   maybe they want as the future grows join  
4   into the explorer program.

5                   But it's really about the youth  
6   in the neighborhood. It's about getting  
7   them involved into some of the programs that  
8   the park now has but will be enhanced once  
9   they go through the whole recovery process  
10   and building of this building.

11                   No monies will be passed hands  
12   until we take residence. And, if they do  
13   not complete the building, we do not have to  
14   put forth any of our monies.

15                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS: Thank you,  
16   Commissioner Ryder. Sounds like a  
17   worthwhile program. Any questions or  
18   comments? Legislator Schaefer.

19                   LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you.  
20   Commissioner Ryder, how are you?

21                   COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good.

22                   LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So the  
23   building is being built by the state you're  
24   saying and the explorers are going to be  
25   inhabiting a portion of it. What is the

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2   program, what is the group of the state  
3   that's going to be there they're going to be  
4   sharing it with?

5           COMMISSIONER RYDER:   This is  
6   under the New York State Storm Recovery  
7   Program.  It's an educational building for  
8   the neighborhood for the park.  We will  
9   occupy that area of a thousand square feet  
10   in the bottom.

11          LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER:   In total,  
12   how big is the big is the building?  About  
13   8,000 square feet; is that right?

14          COMMISSIONER RYDER:   About 6,000  
15   square feet.

16          LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER:   Thank you.

17          CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Legislator  
18   Bynoe.

19          LEGISLATOR BYNOE:   Hello  
20   Commissioner.

21          COMMISSIONER RYDER:   Good  
22   afternoon.

23          LEGISLATOR BYNOE:   So I actually  
24   am a fan of this project.  I have been  
25   meeting with the folks out of the governor's

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2       office monthly at a minimum. I like what  
3       they're going to be doing in the park  
4       overall. I also like that you will take  
5       residency there.

6                   They are going to open up the  
7       park at different access and egress areas so  
8       the community can just come right in the  
9       park and engage with the explorers. I think  
10      that's absolutely fantastic.

11                  I look forward to see what kind  
12      of scheduling of events and programing you  
13      will provide there. I think it's something  
14      that will be beneficial to those that live  
15      locally and those that can travel and get  
16      there. I think that we should support this.  
17      I'm excited about it.

18                  COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank you.

19                  CHAIRMAN RHOADS: Any other  
20      questions or comments? Legislator Curran.

21                  LEGISLATOR CURRAN: So when it  
22      comes to the funding, there is a half a  
23      million in asset forfeiture from us and  
24      there's state funding as well?

25                  COMMISSIONER RYDER: That's

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2       correct.    The rest of the construction of  
3       the building is paid for by the state of New  
4       York.

5                   LEGISLATOR CURRAN:   All right.   I  
6       would have to think this would have an  
7       ancillary safety benefit to the park as well  
8       just by the fact it's being there?

9                   COMMISSIONER RYDER:   100 percent.  
10      Every time our explorers are out there, our  
11      law enforcement are from the community  
12      affairs.

13                   So, as they're walking through in  
14      their uniform presence, along with our  
15      uniformed officers, it does give an enhanced  
16      security to the location.   They're also  
17      building a soccer field in the area that  
18      will also be availed to the explorer  
19      program.

20                   LEGISLATOR CURRAN:   I know the  
21      theme in the Nassau County Police Department  
22      is building trust between the police and the  
23      communities and this seems like one step in  
24      that endeavor.

25                   COMMISSIONER RYDER:   Thank you.

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2                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS: Any other  
3 questions or comments from the legislators?

4                   (No verbal response.)

5                   Any public comment? Ms. Mereday,  
6 welcome.

7                   MS. MEREDAY: Welcome. I should  
8 say welcome back, but thank you. Meta  
9 Mereday, Baldwin resident. I would like to  
10 say that I do support and approve of this  
11 project.

12                   It's December. It's my birth  
13 month, so I'll take the presents while they  
14 come.

15                   I think this is definitely  
16 important and for those residents who are on  
17 the South Shore, it's really about time as I  
18 know Legislator Rhoads can attest to that as  
19 well as Legislator Curran. We do need to  
20 have these types of activities in these  
21 communities.

22                   It's been kind of difficult for  
23 many of our residents as well as our young  
24 people to get to the various activities that  
25 seem to be taking place in such a



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2   preponderance at Bethpage and, again, those  
3   parks or facilities that were kind of north  
4   or along the 495 corridor.

5           We definitely support that. We  
6   are very encouraged by the activities of the  
7   explorer program and the explorers in terms  
8   of the things that they have done in our  
9   communities in terms of going around and  
10   handing out flyers and public safety  
11   information.

12           We do look forward to working  
13   with the commissioner on this particularly  
14   with regard to storm resiliency. Because we  
15   definitely need that. Hopefully this will  
16   be a prototype model that we can establish  
17   at other parks that make it convenient for  
18   residents and young people to participate  
19   and we really do need to have some ongoing  
20   training and support for storm resiliency f  
21   because we are in a very vulnerable  
22   location.

23           I'm in support of this. Record  
24   this. You may not get it again. We will  
25   just see what happens. Thank you.

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2                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Thank you so  
3 much, Ms. Mereday.   I am honored that I was  
4 chairing the meeting when you supported.

5                   Is there any further public  
6 comment?

7                   (No verbal response.)

8                   Seeing none, we will move to a  
9 vote.   All those in favor, and if there is  
10 no objection we will vote on these together.  
11 All those in favor of Items 458 and 459 of  
12 '17 please signify so by saying aye.

13                   (Aye.)

14                   Those opposed say nay.

15                   (No verbal response.)

16                   Both items are agreed to and  
17 referred to finance.   There being no further  
18 business before the committee, I will  
19 entertain a motion to adjourn.

20                   LEGISLATOR FORD:   So moved.

21                   LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER:   Second.

22                   CHAIRMAN RHOADS:   Motion by  
23 Legislator Ford, seconded by Legislator  
24 Schaefer.   All those in favor please signify  
25 so by saying aye.

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2                   (Aye.)

3                   Those opposed say nay.

4                   (No verbal response.)

5                   Thank you. We stand adjourned.

6   Public Works is next.

7                   (Whereupon, the Public Safety

8   Committee adjourned at 2:57 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 21st day of December, 2017.

-----  
FRANK GRAY