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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

RICHARD NICOLELLO,
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, January 27, 2020
1:16 P.M.

1

2 A P P E A R A N C E S:3 RICHARD NICOLELLO,
4 Presiding Officer5 HOWARD KOPEL,
6 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer7 DENISE FORD,
8 Alt. Deputy Presiding Officer

9 STEVEN RHOADS

10 DEBRA MULE

11 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

12 VINCENT MUSCARELLA

13 ELLEN BIRNBAUM

14 LAURA SCHAEFER

15 THOMAS MCKEVITT

16 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,
17 Minority Leader

18 ROSE MARIE WALKER

19 JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

20 JOSHUA LAFAZAN

21 ARNOLD DRUCKER

22 JAMES KENNEDY

23 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

24 CARRIE SOLAGES

25 SIELA BYNOE

26 MICHAEL PULITZER,
27 Clerk of the Legislature

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Ladies and
3 gentlemen, take your seats. We are going to
4 start the Legislative session now. I'm
5 going to ask Legislator Bill Gaylor to
6 please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
7 Please remain standing after the Pledge of
8 Allegiance for several reasons.

9 (Whereupon the Pledge of
10 Allegiance was recited.)

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: First, today
12 is National Holocaust Remembrance Day. It
13 signifies anniversary of the liberation of
14 the Nazi concentration camps at the end of
15 the Holocaust, so we keep all of those
16 victims in our thoughts and prayers, their
17 families as well.

18 We would like to have a moment of
19 silence for the loss of Kobe Bryant and his
20 daughter and all of the victims of that
21 tragic helicopter crash.

22 And for Thomas Valva, the young
23 boy who lost his life last week in Suffolk
24 County.

25 Just to add one more. Also to

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2 our colleague, Debra Mule, who lost her
3 father last week.

4 Thank you very much.

5 (A moment of silence was
6 observed.)

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you
8 very much. We added our condolences to
9 Legislator Mule. Hope for all the best and
10 pray for your family.

11 Before we start our regular
12 meeting, we have one of our members who has
13 to be sworn in as a legislator. I don't
14 know if we need to vote on this everybody.

15 Legislator Drucker could not join
16 us last week so it's important that he
17 formally take the oath of office. We have
18 with us a distinguished visitor, Assemblyman
19 Chuck Lavine, to do the honors.

20 ASSEMBLYMAN CHUCK LAVINE: Thank
21 you, Presiding Officer Nicoletto, and good
22 to see you and good to see everyone else
23 here today. Arnie, my friend, thank you for
24 the invitation to permit me the great honor
25 of swearing you in.

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2 I'm lucky to have you as a friend
3 and I'm very proud of what you have done,
4 but Frannie and your son Noah who is here
5 today are much much prouder and that's as it
6 should be. If you would be so kind as to
7 place your hand on the bible.

8 Repeat after me, I, Arnold
9 Drucker, do solemnly swear to uphold the
10 Constitution of the United States, the
11 Constitution of the State of New York and
12 the Charter and Laws of Nassau County, and
13 to discharge the duties of the office of
14 Nassau County legislature to the best of my
15 ability so help me God.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: "I, Arnold
17 Drucker, do solemnly swear to uphold the
18 Constitution of the United States, the
19 Constitution of the State of New York and
20 the Charter and Laws of Nassau County, and
21 to discharge the duties of the office of
22 Nassau County legislature to the best of my
23 ability so help me God."

24 ASSEMBLYMAN LEVINE: It is now my
25 great honor to declare you duly installed as

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2 a member of the Nassau County Legislature.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator

5 Rhoads told me he makes a motion to table.

6 Mike, could you please call the

7 roll.

8 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. Roll

9 call. Deputy Presiding Officer Howard

10 Kopel?

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy

13 Presiding Officer Denise Ford?

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

15 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela

16 Bynoe?

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

18 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

19 Carrie Solages?

20 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra

22 Mule?

23 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.

25 William Gaylor III? He is here. Vincent

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2 Muscarella?
3 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.
4 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Ellen
5 Birnbaum?
6 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.
7 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
8 DeRiggi-Whitton?
9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.
10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
11 Kennedy?
12 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
13 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
14 Thomas McKeivitt?
15 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.
16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
17 Schaefer?
18 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.
19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
20 Ferretti, Jr.?
21 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.
22 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
23 Arnold Drucker?
24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.
25 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose

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2 Marie Walker?

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

5 Joshua Lafazan? Josh is not with us today?

6 Legislator Steven Rhoads?

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

8 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader

9 Kevan Abrahams?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

11 CLERK PULITZER: Presiding

12 Officer Richard Nicolello?

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Here.

14 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
15 quorum, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.

17 Before we start the business portion of our
18 meeting we have, as we always have at our
19 legislative meetings, we have our top cop
20 presentations after which we will have a
21 period of public comment and then the
22 business of the Legislature.

23 At this point I would like to
24 invite up James McDermott, the president of
25 the Nassau County PBA.

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2 MR. MCDERMOTT: Once again, I
3 want to thank every one for having the
4 legislative top cops again. This is
5 Legislative Top Cops for January 2020.
6 First Precinct Police Officers Melanie
7 Matassa and Emily Slack.

8 On December 21st, 2019, at
9 approximately 3:30 a.m., a resident was
10 waiting in his vehicle at the Wantagh Train
11 Station when a male subject approached the
12 resident and displayed a handgun, threatened
13 the victim, and fled with the victim's
14 wallet, cell phone, and vehicle.

15 On January 2nd, the same male
16 armed with a handgun threatened a second
17 victim in a parking lot in Bellmore, forced
18 the victim to exit his vehicle at gunpoint.
19 The subject then demanded the victim's
20 wallet and cell phone and the subject then
21 fled in the victim's vehicle.

22 During the canvass for the
23 subject, Police Officer Matassa located him
24 in the back streets of Bellmore.

25 Officer Matassa attempted to

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2 conduct a detailed stop at which time the
3 subject fled.

4 Officer Matassa then made a radio
5 notification advising the other officers of
6 the subject's direction of flight.

7 Within moments of hearing the
8 notification, Police Officer Slack observed
9 the said vehicle. When Officer Slack
10 attempted to stop the vehicle the subject
11 then lost control and crashed.

12 Police Officer Slack swiftly
13 exited her vehicle and engaged the subject
14 who was violently resisting arrest.

15 Officer Slack with the assistance
16 of other First Precinct police officers was
17 able to eventually subdue and handcuff the
18 subject.

19 The subject was charged with four
20 counts of robbery, criminal possession of a
21 weapon, assault second degree, and resisting
22 arrest.

23 This arrest led to two other
24 robbery cases being closed out.

25 Due to their vigilance and

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2 bravery, Officers Matassa and Slack were
3 able to apprehend a dangerous criminal and
4 take him off the streets. Because of that
5 we are proud to name them as legislative top
6 cops for January 2020.

7 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good
8 afternoon. As many of you know, I live in
9 Wantagh and one of those robberies was
10 outside of Mulcahy's. My son was working
11 there that evening when it happened. He
12 walked out the door ten minutes before the
13 robbery went down. He could have been that
14 victim.

15 The work that they do, the
16 bravery that they've shown, the chase that
17 went the wrong side on the parkway, and we
18 had one of our officers involved in an
19 accident, injuries that occurred, it goes to
20 show you the bravery of the men and women of
21 the Nassau County Police Department and I
22 emphasize the women as you're standing to
23 the two bravest I have seen so far.

24 I got into a foot chase several
25 months back, and I was running through yards

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2 going fence to fence this young officer was
3 standing side by side and going over those
4 fences with me.

5 I'm proud of both of them and I
6 commend them and I thank you again for your
7 support that you give them. Thank you.

8 POLICE OFFICER MATASSA: I just
9 want to say on behalf of myself, Officer
10 Slack and First Precinct, I just want to say
11 thank you for acknowledging our great effort
12 to the County Legislature, PBA President
13 McDermott, Commissioner Ryder. Thank you.
14 I'm very proud to wear this uniform.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I find it a
16 little difficult to believe you were keeping
17 up with the young officers.

18 Legislator Rhoads.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I will also
20 say that the opportunity to capture you
21 jumping over fences probably is the single
22 best argument I've heard for body cameras.

23 Just kidding.

24 But even though I'm the
25 legislator for the Wantagh-Bellmore area, I

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2 know I speak on behalf the every single
3 legislator when I tell you, Officers Slack
4 and Matassa, how proud we are of your
5 efforts on that evening.

6 As a resident of Bellmore one of
7 our greatest fears is that there's somebody
8 out there with a weapon.

9 One of the greatest fears that
10 anybody has anywhere is that there is
11 someone out there with a weapon looking to
12 do harm, and in this case actually did.

13 We always speak about the
14 dedication and bravery of our police
15 officers and what you did was emblematic of
16 that. How you put your lives on the line
17 knowing the risk every single day at a
18 moment's notice you're willing to take that
19 risk to make sure we are protected as
20 residents.

21 You knew full well what those
22 individuals were capable of. You knew in
23 all likelihood that they were armed but you
24 decided to intercept them anyway to
25 recognize, to intercept, to pursue and

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2 ultimately capture and take that criminal
3 off the streets.

4 We are so very proud and
5 thankful, proud of you and thankful of you
6 and all the members of the Nassau County
7 Police Department to keep us safe.

8 I can actually say, and it was my
9 question to Commissioner Ryder that this
10 particular criminal, I'm happy to report,
11 actually was kept in custody on bail, which
12 seems to be a rarity nowadays.

13 But thank you so much for
14 everything that you have done for us and
15 thank you to all of Nassau County's police
16 officers for what you do for us every day.
17 Congratulations and God bless you.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I will
19 invite you up to take a presentation with
20 the legislators in a moment but first we are
21 going to have at SOA and DAI.

22 The next presentation is actually
23 combined presentation for leaders of our
24 Detectives Association, Inc. and Superior
25 Officers. We have President John Wighaus

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2 and President Kevin Black.

3 PRESIDENT BLACK: Good afternoon.
4 First I would like to thank the members of
5 the Legislature on a monthly basis honoring
6 the members of the Nassau County Police
7 Department.

8 The case I'm here to talk about
9 is Detective Sergeant Scott Bertini of the
10 Nassau County narcotics bureau as well as
11 the Long Island Heroin Task Force.

12 This case started in April of
13 2019 when members of the task force were
14 able to secure a confidential informant who
15 was able to purchase heroin from a dealer in
16 Brooklyn who had a major customer base in
17 Nassau County. Among those were several
18 over doses.

19 From April through June, the
20 LIHTF, the task force, I'm just going to say
21 task force because I get tongue tied, was
22 able to secure several control buys into the
23 target. The buys took place in Howard Beach
24 but the information was that he was also
25 dealing in East New York and Nassau County.

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2 The case was conferenced with the
3 Nassau County District Attorneys. It was
4 determined the best investigative tool to
5 use was to use a title three telephone
6 intercept.

7 On July 26th of last year they
8 began their investigation using the
9 telephone intercept. Throughout the
10 investigation 18 customers/redistributors
11 were arrested during the investigation.
12 They secured additional information and
13 identified approximately 55 customers who
14 were both users and redistributors.

15 It was determined to take down
16 the subjects, the main targets, on December
17 13. They had indictment arrest warrants for
18 14 individuals, search warrants for 13
19 locations and three vehicles.

20 Careful planning was needed to
21 orchestrate this type of operation and two
22 main targets were in separate locations
23 which made it even more difficult.

24 At the end of the day, all the
25 main targets were in custody plus six others

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2 that were charged with conspiracy. Over
3 five kilograms of heroin and \$1.4 million in
4 US currency was seized. Four people
5 arrested including one from Nassau were
6 charged with A1 felonies, the highest drug
7 felony you can give a trafficker.

8 The district attorney is calling
9 this the largest heroin seizure in Nassau
10 County history.

11 I want to point out that the task
12 force has members of the DAI who work in our
13 narcotics unit under Detective Sergeant
14 Bertini as well as members of the Suffolk
15 County Police Department, the state police,
16 and, in this case, because of the overall
17 scope of it, federal authorities were used.

18 So this is definitely an
19 exceptional example of interagency
20 cooperation.

21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: I would like
23 to thank the Full Legislative Body for
24 recognizing our detectives today but due to
25 the sensitive nature of their assignment

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2 they can't be here to accept the award. We
3 don't let them come out in public forums
4 taking pictures obviously.

5 But, like Kevin just said, you
6 heard the work that these detectives are
7 doing out there. Fortunately you only hear
8 about ten percent of the work that is done
9 in the narcotics bureau because of the
10 assignments that are done they aren't in the
11 newspaper or aren't on the TV. I thank you
12 again for honoring them. They can't be here
13 today but thank you again.

14 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Two years
15 ago we started the Long Island Heroin Task
16 Force. We started that under Operation
17 Natalie.

18 The first year in their existence
19 we reduced overdoses by 25 percent. Last
20 year another ten percent. Our overdose
21 death numbers are also going down this year
22 which we won't see until finalized by the
23 ME.

24 But, again, it's the dedication
25 and hard work, cooperating with other

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2 agencies, the coordination that goes on.

3 Scott Bertini and his guys do an
4 outstanding job. That's why there are more
5 kids alive today than there were two years
6 ago because of the overdoses. Again, I want
7 to thank them for their dedicated work and
8 we'll keep Operation Natalie going. Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Alternate
11 Deputy Presiding Officer Ford.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: On behalf of
13 the Legislature, I want to thank you for
14 your persistence and great detective work in
15 helping to rid our neighborhoods of these
16 deadly drugs and the rest of these
17 traffickers and dealers. And all of this
18 obviously in less than a year.

19 Unbelievable great police work, I
20 have to say in collaboration. And this is
21 the result actually of the experience of our
22 officers and their superiors and we are
23 blessed to have you putting yourselves on
24 the line each and every day.

25 I can't say enough and the

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2 thought that you obviously did save some
3 people's lives says it all.

4 Keep up the good work. Stay safe
5 each and every single one of you and thank
6 you once again.

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Also, please
8 let the detectives know we are tremendously
9 grateful and proud of their work. We
10 understand they cannot be here for obvious
11 reasons but they should know that even that
12 they were undercover, all of us in county
13 government and all of the residents are
14 truly mindful of all the things that they do
15 and sacrifices they make. Thank you. Would
16 you, please?

17 MR. BLACK: We will pass your
18 comments on.

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We invite
20 you up now for a presentation.

21 This is the public comment
22 portion of our meeting.

23 We have changed the rules
24 slightly. The public comment portion
25 speakers will have up to five minutes to

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2 give their remarks on their items. You
3 don't have to take five minutes but you can.

4 Our first speaker is the
5 president of the Nassau County CSEA Jerry
6 Laricchiuta.

7 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Thank you,
8 Majority Leader Nicoletto. Honorable
9 legislators, thank you on both sides for
10 giving us to the opportunity to bring
11 something very important to everyone's
12 attention.

13 I really believe this might be
14 one of the most important issues that we
15 have spoken about in many years.

16 I'm talking about the future of
17 our one and only public hospital and long
18 term care center, A. Holly Patterson, NUMC
19 and what's going on.

20 Basically what's happening in the
21 large picture is that they are being taken
22 over pretty much.

23 There is a 21 statement of works
24 which they tell me means contracts, I never
25 heard of that before, between Northwell

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2 Health Care Systems and NUMC.

3 These statement of works
4 basically give Northwell the right to look
5 into every piece of operation at our
6 hospital, our only public hospital, and then
7 have strategic planning meetings about what
8 we are going to do about the hospital in the
9 future.

10 So I'm going to tell you right
11 now. I'm going to play Nostradamus. I've
12 done this before when they hired Armor
13 Health Care at the jail, I said, we'll be
14 getting rid of them in a few years and I
15 listed a few reasons I'd rather not repeat
16 today and they all came true.

17 I'm telling you right now, if we
18 don't intervene here, you, as a legislative
19 body, we will no longer have a public
20 hospital in two years, maybe three at best,
21 because the strategic planning of this
22 health care system is going to be to take
23 the parts that make money, and I can give
24 you some examples, dialysis -- well, let me
25 tell you what's happened so far.

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2 Already we have lost level one
3 trauma for pediatrics, that happened a
4 little over a year and a half ago because
5 the health care system refuses to pay
6 \$500,000 a year for a pediatric
7 neurosurgeon.

8 So, right now, God forbid a child
9 in East Meadow or Merrick or Uniondale gets
10 hurt and needs level one trauma care, they
11 have to drive past our hospital, the public
12 hospital of Nassau County. What the hell is
13 going on in this county and who is behind
14 this?

15 Northwell is not big enough?
16 They already have 60 percent of every bed in
17 Long Island in Nassau County. They should
18 not be commingling private sector health
19 care with public sector health care. Yes,
20 our hospital is losing money.

21 You know why one of the reasons
22 is that they're losing money? Nassau County
23 owes them \$30 million.

24 I asked, when are you going to
25 pay that? They said, never.

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2 They are not paying the \$30
3 million because it came from the previous
4 administration.

5 I don't even know this if they
6 are still paying for the health care we are
7 offering at the jail because they don't like
8 that deal.

9 So, let me give you an example.
10 Here's the future plan. If you ask me how I
11 know this, I will tell that you board
12 members have told me the former CEO, and I
13 want to thank this moment to thank the
14 former CEO, George Tunis, George and I have
15 had our issues, we fought like hell, but
16 that's what we're supposed to do. But, at
17 the end of the day, he recognized the need
18 for a fair contract. We got a fair
19 contract, despite a lot of opposition from a
20 lot of different areas.

21 I give him credit for sticking to
22 his guns, signing that agreement, and
23 getting it passed by the board at that time.

24 The makeup of the board is
25 different today. We would not get that

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2 contract passed today.

3 There's been three new additions
4 by to it by this administration upstairs and
5 they were not happy with the contract.

6 So, when Peter Schmitt told me 12
7 years ago if you have a problem with the
8 hospital go back to the hospital, it's not
9 our purview. Those days are over. It's now
10 directly your purview.

11 Everything about what's happening
12 there is going to affect all your
13 constituents and my members.

14 So, dialysis that's going
15 bye-bye. How do I know that? A board
16 member told me that.

17 OBGYN, gone. Where is it going?
18 South Nassau Hospital who just built a \$57
19 million super duper OBGYN state of the art
20 place. That's going to go. Why? Because
21 30 percent of the babies being born in
22 Nassau University Medical Center is down 30
23 percent.

24 We're down 30,000 emergency room
25 entries too because they're all going to

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2 Northwell.

3 Northwell, I told you this two
4 years ago. They monitor our 911 system.
5 They beat us to the call. You have
6 insurance, yes, we'll take you.

7 You don't have insurance, there
8 will be another one in a minute. We'll get
9 you over to NUMC. This is serious stuff.

10 So here's the issue. We're going
11 to lose level one trauma. Understand what
12 I'm saying to you right now. You can't
13 afford to lose level one trauma. We can't
14 afford it. Your constituents can't afford
15 that.

16 Everybody I spoke to knows
17 somebody. Either a friend or family member
18 that was rushed there to that hospital under
19 a level one trauma situation and mostly
20 saved.

21 Police officers that were wounded
22 while working and doing their job to protect
23 us were brought there and their lives were
24 saved.

25 We lose level one trauma, they're

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2 going to have to pass us up again. It's
3 happening. It's happening, legislators,
4 it's going to happen. Trust me.

5 What I'm asking you to do today
6 -- one other thing. There's so many things
7 I could go into. We now have NIFA, up to 20
8 years, where were they for 20 years? All of
9 a sudden, by the way, we get a contract that
10 doesn't include five zeros and they want to
11 take over.

12 They're having a meeting tomorrow
13 night. We are going to meet Mr. Barski at
14 his meeting and we're going to tell him
15 where to go. I'm kind of sick of Barski and
16 company after 20 years of being in this
17 county, time for them to take a hike, quite
18 frankly, the out of control control board.

19 How do you go from not even
20 looking at the hospital for over 20 years to
21 all of a sudden being a control board? Is
22 that what they plan on doing tomorrow night?
23 Are we going to allow that? That's insane.

24 At the direction of who by the
25 way? Is there a direction by this county

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2 for NIFA? I think that's illegal.

3 I hate to say it from Washington
4 I heard this word collusion. I don't know.
5 I think it's illegal to have somebody direct
6 an unelected state appointed board to
7 oversee something if things happen the way
8 they don't like it.

9 I fear no one. I respect
10 everybody up here. So I'm saying what's on
11 my mind to protect my members.

12 There is a lot of people that
13 wouldn't be saying what I'm saying right
14 now.

15 But I'm saying to you because I
16 want you to know the truth.

17 Here's the thing that's the
18 truth. We have a cap that cost us a
19 million, \$2 million, it happened under
20 Gianelli. He wanted to get the Cath lab
21 going. That means if you have a heart
22 attack, you could be brought to a hospital.
23 We can perform all kinds of cardiac care,
24 emergency treatment. We can give you the
25 stent. The only thing we couldn't do I

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2 believe was open heart surgery. But we can
3 save your life. We do hundreds of -- it
4 could be tens of millions of dollars a year
5 in preventive cardiac care.

6 I had it done. I had to go to
7 Winthrop years ago. They do angioplasty,
8 right? They do 20 to 30 a day. Each one is
9 between 20 and \$30,000.

10 We have the cath lab sitting
11 there for three years waiting for it to get
12 certified. I have been told for three
13 years, don't worry, Northwell is working on
14 it. They're going to get it certified.
15 Nobody can do it better than Northwell.

16 Guess what? Last Friday, the
17 determination from the state Department of
18 Health came out and guess who did get
19 certified? Nassau University Medical Center
20 who has the cath lab and is right in the
21 middle of the hub of Nassau County got
22 turned down by the state department of
23 health, but two Northwell hospitals got it.
24 It was Plainview and I'm going to forget the
25 second one. Just make it Plainview

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2 Northwell, and I believe it's an emergency
3 room setting, not even a full hospital, and
4 they are under Northwell. Am I making
5 accusations? No. I'm giving you
6 information.

7 Northwell is a great institution,
8 a wonderful health care system. One of the
9 best in the country but they're not public.

10 Where is the lady or woman going
11 to go when I pass this hospital in two three
12 years when I pass a 19th floor empty
13 building? That's where we're heading.
14 Maybe there will be a little building in the
15 back, one of those satellite buildings, a
16 community hospital, with no services other
17 than you got a flu or virus who come in.

18 Where's the underinsured,
19 uninsured? Our mission. Where are those
20 folks going to get health care? Where are
21 people going to go for psychiatric help?
22 Where are they going to go for detox and
23 drug rehab? Do you know any other hospitals
24 around here that offer that on a daily basis
25 like we do? We are a public hospital. That

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2 public mission must be saved.

3 I'm asking for you guys, the
4 legislators, to tell Northwell because
5 they're the ones that seem to be controlling
6 everything, they have a new chairman now,
7 Mr. Detour. Slow it down.

8 Where are these contracts? Why
9 aren't they public? Why aren't we able to
10 vet this out in the public eye? Why are
11 they being in a dark closet? 23 contracts
12 we don't know nothing about. And strategic
13 planning meetings. Why are we not involved
14 in that?

15 Why is it one or two people from
16 the NUMC and all of Northwell, they got like
17 five people on there are deciding our
18 future, a private vendor hospital is
19 deciding our future, we are not privy to the
20 information and we have no voice in the
21 outcome.

22 Doesn't that smell to everybody
23 here? Don't we need to slow this down?
24 That's all I'm asking.

25 With that, I want you to know one

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2 other thing. Siela, this might be something
3 that would be right in your backyard, A.
4 Holly Patterson which is part of the
5 corporation, I have been told my whole life,
6 the only green space left is the hub which
7 we all know Mr. Reckler has got a billion
8 dollar project going on there, I think for
9 the better, and A. Holly, which had like a
10 hundred something acres of land, nobody
11 touched because it's sanctioned land,
12 whoever gave it to us 100 years ago said it
13 could only be used for health care purposes
14 and for those people that need help
15 financially. That's it. It could not be
16 used by private developers.

17 Go by there right now and you
18 will see like a hundred new condos built,
19 high end stuff.

20 Not only did they not do it for
21 health care, they took our parking spots.

22 So now the people that work there
23 and visit there and live there have nowhere
24 to park, they have to get all wet and muddy
25 and walk through mud while this company took

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2 over the -- it's a disgrace what's happening
3 here, and I would like to know, all I'm
4 asking for is if someone can give me a legal
5 answer because nobody can, how this lease is
6 of 99 years. They weren't able to sell it.
7 Apparently under Ed Mangano's term, I'm not
8 saying he had anything to do with it, but
9 that's the time, in 2016, somehow they
10 leased this property for 99 years and that
11 gave them the ability to build these high
12 end luxury condos. Disgraceful, that's what
13 it is.

14 I ask people to slow down. I
15 want that cath lab. We need that cath lab
16 certified. I talked to all the important
17 directors there. They said without that
18 cath lab there we don't have a chance of
19 surviving. We need to get that certified.

20 I even spoke to Saint Francis
21 Hospital. They were willing to come in
22 there and run our cath lab at one point and
23 people made a lot of noise behind the scenes
24 and they ran.

25 I don't blame them. It's sad to

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2 say.

3 Anyway, I thank you for your
4 time. There's a meeting tomorrow night at
5 NIFA. We don't know what their plan is.
6 Obviously it's not a good one.

7 I'm sure they're going to go into
8 executive session and come out -- I don't
9 know if it can go to a control board. They
10 haven't monitored us.

11 I don't know. They monitored
12 Nassau County from '99 to 2011 and on March
13 23rd, 2011, declared a freeze. They then
14 took over control. When did they ever
15 monitor the hospital?

16 Five CEOs have come and gone
17 since they have been in office. The only
18 time they ever reacted to anything was when
19 we finally got a contract that did not
20 include a zero. It's a shameful act.

21 I'm asking for your help because
22 quite frankly without help we don't have the
23 ability to keep this from going forward.
24 It's going to be closed.

25 Thank you for your time.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Jerry, the
3 meeting is seven o'clock, right?

4 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Yes, tonight.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm going to be
6 there. But do they still have the burn unit
7 in NUMC?

8 MR. LARICCHIUTA: They are
9 looking to get rid of the burn unit. We
10 have all different receivers.

11 Burn unit was going to be offered
12 to either Winthrop or Northwell. My latest
13 tell was, and this is the reason. I'm
14 telling you. I'm not making this up. We
15 only had 83 cases last year. I don't care
16 if you had five, we are still one of the
17 best burn units in the country. My daughter
18 was in there for 12 days when she was five
19 years old. They saved her life.

20 This is the best burn unit
21 around. We can not give this burn unit away
22 to anyone. It's literally giving it away.

23 Picking apart our public hospital
24 for the betterment of a private very wealthy
25 health care system.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Do they still
3 do the mammographies for women there?

4 MR. LARICCHIUTA: They do. That
5 will stop. We still do that.

6 Where will the mom go when they
7 take OBGY down? I don't know. This was
8 said behind closed doors so I can't give up
9 sources, but I was told that the discussion
10 was, if we ever closed the hospital some day
11 then the people that are under-insured and
12 uninsured will have to all absorb it,
13 Winthrop, Saint Joes, North Shore, Syosset.

14 Imagine living in Merrick or
15 Uniondale and have to go to Syosset?

16 Listen, if you go to any one of
17 those hospitals and it's a life or death, of
18 course you are going to get saved, get
19 helped and assisted, by law they have to.

20 But the day or minute you are
21 stable, you are getting a ticket to get
22 pulled out. Right now they go to us. I
23 don't know where they're going to go when
24 there is no us.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: One other thing

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2 that you said when you said Northwell
3 monitoring the 911 calls --

4 MR. LARICCHIUTA: That's been
5 going on for years now.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: How do they
7 monitor them?

8 MR. LARICCHIUTA: First, they get
9 into the all the villages that have police
10 forces, right, we all know that's tragic,
11 and Commissioner Ryder was aware of that.
12 He tried to work with us over the years as
13 well as other police officials to keep the
14 police medics in the villages, but Northwell
15 got into them, all of them. There was a fee
16 involved, \$250,000, something, for them to
17 get the contract in and that's how the
18 village was lost.

19 Aside from that, if they have an
20 ambulance somewhere around Merrick Avenue
21 and Hempstead Turnpike, they have radios
22 that they can now unscramble and hear 911
23 calls that we are spending \$20 million a
24 year to go with, and they beat us to the
25 scene.

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2 Literally, I have been told, this
3 is hearsay, but I believe it, they ask the
4 patient, unless he is a level one trauma, if
5 the person has like a bad head injury and
6 he's all right, talking, what insurance do
7 you have?

8 If he says I have none, we are
9 going to keep an eye on you and they wait
10 for our bus to get them. And this is a
11 crying shame.

12 I have police medics that will
13 testify to this. So if Northwell wants to
14 sue me, they can, I have people ready to
15 testify to it.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
18 Deputy Presiding Officer.

19 Jerry, I also heard through the
20 grapevine that they're talking about the
21 hyperbaric chambers being another potential
22 casualty of this.

23 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Yes, the
24 hyperbaric chamber, let me say just one
25 thing to you. It's unfair but it's their

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2 fault.

3 It's unfair to sit here and make
4 definitive conclusions when I haven't yet
5 read all the contracts and information but
6 that's not our fault.

7 That's because they are
8 prohibiting anybody from seeing these 23
9 agreements, but, yes, people that are in the
10 know have said that the hyperbaric chambers
11 along with the burn unit they go together in
12 a lot of ways.

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: They do for
14 volunteer firemen.

15 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Right. And we
16 would need a vascular neurosurgeon. They
17 don't want to pay any of these doctors four
18 or \$500,000. But I understand the next CEO
19 is looking for a lot more than that. We're
20 going to find out what that's all about
21 soon.

22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
23 Jerry.

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Good
25 afternoon, Jerry. I guess what you're

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2 talking about here is the systematic or
3 dismantling of the public health care
4 system?

5 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Yes, like
6 selling for parts.

7 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: And you're
8 stating that there are a number of parks
9 that are about to be closed and therefore
10 that would create a justification for
11 closing the mainly hospital.

12 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Yes, the set up
13 is in place. First of all, they're using
14 Grant Thornton as one of their consultants.
15 We've been listening to Grant Thornton for
16 25 years. Grant Thornton has been closed in
17 that hospital for 25 years.

18 So when you say NIFA is, I
19 believe they're NIFA consultant or the
20 hospital's, but either one Grant Thornton
21 will recommend because we are losing
22 revenue.

23 We are losing revenue in so many
24 ways, number one, because the state cut back
25 a lot. The county does not match what the

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2 state gives, where every other I believe
3 they're supposed to match that money dollar
4 for dollar, it's not just this
5 administration. I don't think any County
6 Executive, any administration has ever
7 matched the district money, money that we
8 get from the state for handling all
9 patients, our mission is to take care of all
10 patients regardless.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So no prior
12 administration has funded this, why should
13 this administration?

14 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Listen, I
15 agree. I can't blame this administration
16 but we're about to lose this public vendor,
17 and I don't know if this administration
18 could to do it financially. We used to get
19 the \$13 million a year, but that was if you
20 remember the tobacco money. We don't get
21 that anymore.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So you are
23 asking this body since we have oversight
24 over the hospital for us to conduct a
25 hearing; is that what you're saying?

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2 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Yes, I would
3 like some information on where they're
4 getting -- who gave Northwell the right to
5 basically -- you talk about the fox guarding
6 the hen house, this is the fox running the
7 hen house.

8 Please I don't want to hear about
9 the CEO -- this is a social injustice. This
10 is not a social justice. This is what I was
11 told. They're only helping us for social
12 justice. They're getting a lot of money in
13 state grants.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I would like
15 to look into this. These 23 statements of
16 work, how can I get some information?

17 MR. LARICCHIUTA: We foiled them,
18 we are waiting, told us we had to wait at
19 least 25 days, but then the new chairman
20 told me last Friday I could have them. So
21 I'm going to remind him.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Which legal
23 entity did you foil, please?

24 MR. LARICCHIUTA: We foiled for
25 the statement of works and the strategic

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2 planning. There's a board motion right now
3 that says -- right now there's a board
4 motion in place that they did either last
5 Thursday that says they will not initiate
6 the statement of works until public review.
7 I don't believe that's going to happen
8 because they are going to override it.

9 And they will not have any more
10 strategic planning meetings without public
11 input and public review. That would be with
12 you guys and us.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: The last
14 point you mentioned about the facility that
15 now has condos, you referenced my colleague,
16 Legislator Bynoe, which district is that?

17 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Uniondale. Who
18 is it Kevan?

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: District
20 one.

21 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Mr. Kevan,
22 Minority Leader.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: That's a
24 pilot program?

25 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Pilot. And

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2 they are getting IDA tax breaks so I plan on
3 seeing if I can get to that board at some
4 point as well. All we want is a parking
5 lot. At this point we are not going to get
6 the houses knocked down. We know that.

7 They should be for health care
8 and should be affordable housing. I don't
9 believe either of those issues are being
10 met. At least give us a parking lot that
11 you took away when you built that housing.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Again, I'm
13 representing a community that looks to the
14 medical center for many purposes and
15 services. I'm deeply concerned about some
16 of the statements made here today and we
17 will be following up and I thank you for
18 coming today and presenting this
19 information.

20 MR. LARICCHIUTA: I can't thank
21 you enough. Let's hope we can save this
22 place. It's very important. It's part of
23 Nassau County history, our heritage, and we
24 want to see it in another 70 years. Thank
25 you.

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
3 Jerry. Linda Lyons.

4 MS. LYONS: Good afternoon.
5 Firstly I want to congratulate those who
6 have received awards today and thank them
7 for their time and their care and their
8 service to our community in Nassau County.
9 My name is Linda Lyons. I live at Three
10 West Park Drive in Old Bethpage.

11 As a 42 year old resident of
12 Plainview Old Bethpage and a recently
13 retired educator after 28 years within the
14 same school district, I have been an active
15 participant in PTA and an advocate in our
16 community even before the days of RAGE,
17 Residents Against Garage Expansion.

18 Initiating the sidewalks on
19 Haypath Road, approaching Haypath Park, as
20 well as the concern for the installation of
21 the traffic light at the intersection of
22 Haypath Road and Round Swamp Road just to
23 name a few past endeavors.

24 I'm here today to speak with you
25 this afternoon to continue to discuss two

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2 very treacherous safety issues in our
3 community.

4 We are extremely concerned and
5 frightened regarding the ongoing furious
6 danger at the turn from the entrance of
7 Round Swamp Road when traveling west on Old
8 Country Road.

9 Sadly as you know there was
10 already at least one traffic death at this
11 location and I recently learned of a second
12 death.

13 As many of you already know this
14 turn is dangerously difficult to navigate
15 particularly due to the curb in the design
16 of the island and the fact that it is
17 extremely difficult to ascertain which lane
18 is entering Round Swamp Road and which is
19 the entry on to the opposite road on to Old
20 Country Road.

21 Even long time community members
22 who have been using this entrance and exit
23 for many years on a regular basis, find this
24 intersection to be challenging and difficult
25 to navigate especially at night.

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2 Compounding these issues is the
3 fact that the intersection will likely be
4 more heavily traveled when the country point
5 community is completed at full occupancy and
6 a back entrance gate is installed.

7 Both of these issues contribute
8 to making this a most difficult and
9 dangerous situation just waiting for another
10 tragedy.

11 In addition to local residents,
12 the intersection also endangers all visitors
13 to the Old Bethpage Restoration and the
14 Museum of Armor. It is the most direct and
15 expeditious route when exiting the LIE and
16 Northern State Parkway to both of these
17 venues.

18 In recent years, as you know,
19 there have been many more evening events,
20 Halloween, Christmas, et cetera, than ever
21 before. At the very least, as a partial and
22 temporary solution, is the suggestion of
23 much more direct lighting on the island and
24 the road enhancing the exit and entrance to
25 avoid the dreaded and deadly head on crash

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2 or another spin out that we fear in our Old
3 Bethpage community.

4 In addition, the need for
5 flashing lights, fluorescent signs and
6 markers are extremely crucial.

7 It is important to know the site
8 I'm speaking of is approximately one to one
9 and a half miles from Matlin Middle School
10 and our high school where, as you know,
11 numerous evening activities take place on a
12 daily basis. Many students and parents use
13 this route to and from the school.

14 Additionally, the actual curve in
15 the design of the island needs to be
16 reexamined.

17 It just baffles our minds that
18 Round Swamp Road was just recently repaved,
19 new sidewalks were installed, all in advance
20 of the completion of Country Point.

21 New traffic lights were also
22 installed but, to date, these very real
23 safety concerns have not yet been addressed.

24 I must tell you that I recently
25 heard and I am horrified to repeat the

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2 following scenario:

3 During a recent nighttime
4 rainstorm, a vehicle traveling west on Old
5 Country Road approaching the left turn
6 signal to Round Swamp Road actually entered
7 the exit from Round Swamp Road onto Old
8 Country Road eastbound.

9 Closely behind that car a second
10 car directly followed the first vehicle.

11 Thank God no one was exiting from
12 Round Swamp at the same time. This very
13 possibly could have been the perfect storm
14 to a double head on collision.

15 I fiercely urge each of you very
16 cautiously approach this intersection late
17 at night particularly when it is raining to
18 understand the nature and severity of this
19 life or death safety concern.

20 The other major concern for our
21 community is on Haypath Road at the crossing
22 of the biking and hiking path. There are
23 presently no flashing warning lights for
24 drivers as those that have been installed on
25 Old Country Road and Old Bethpage Road where

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2 bikers are crossing.

3 Unfortunately Haypath Road has
4 become much more heavily trafficked in
5 recent years. It is used by many commercial
6 vehicles and trucks as they route to
7 Spagnoli Road and Route 110.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Ms. Lyons,
9 can you wrap it up?

10 MS. LYONS: I'm done. Bikers
11 often cross Haypath Road without slowing
12 down or looking before entering the road.
13 Believe it or not we have seen families
14 biking and individuals with strollers
15 putting themselves at grave risk. Although
16 there are stop signs, because there is a
17 hill, there is a minimal line for drivers to
18 see pedestrians and bikers when they don't
19 observe the same stop signs.

20 Additionally, the shrubs and
21 trees that border the trail affect the
22 visibility as the car approaches.

23 It is our hope that our community
24 can be proactive by installing flashing
25 lights that are activated by moment to avert

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2 any further tragedy.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to
4 speak with you today. We look forward to
5 meeting with you for continued dialogue
6 towards a collaborative solution towards a
7 resolution for these major safety issues.
8 I'm done.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
10 Legislator Drucker.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
12 Linda, for coming down here. I know you've
13 spoken to my office about these particular
14 sites, these locations.

15 I live in the community and I
16 shared with you they are dangerous. I,
17 myself, have turned down that side and
18 thankfully my wife was the best back seat
19 driver in the world. She alerted me I was
20 turning into the oncoming lane.

21 There is definitely a need for
22 some enhanced traffic regulations. I've
23 alerted DPW about this situation based on
24 your comments and the comments of others in
25 the community.

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2 We are working on it. They are
3 working on it. I will stay on top of it for
4 you and the community and let you know
5 what's going to be happening, but definitely
6 enhancements are definitely needed.

7 MS. LYONS: Perhaps someone can
8 answer for me how Round Swamp Road was
9 repaved and had new sidewalks installed with
10 this danger still existing? It's been there
11 for years. I have been here for 42 years
12 and it hasn't changed.

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: We will look
14 into it, Linda.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Pete

16 MR. GAFFNEY: Pete Gaffney,
17 resident of Westbury Carle Place School
18 District.

19 Happy New Year everyone and a
20 healthy one. Carle Place on Westbury area
21 at the underpass of Meadowbrook Parkway,
22 Nassau County is responsible for cleaning up
23 their property. Usually when contacted, the
24 county will only clean up five linear feet
25 of the property neglecting the balance.

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2 It's a real safety issue for
3 someone who is walking especially when the
4 vegetation is overgrown. You never know who
5 is going to jump out. Across the street is
6 rarely cleaned if ever by the county.

7 The Nassau County Public Work,
8 they have been contacted many times and the
9 latest was on Monday January 15th regarding
10 the garage dump on Westbury Avenue directly
11 underneath the Meadowbrook Parkway.

12 Another time at the site I happen
13 to meet and spoke to a worker, a county
14 worker who agreed that the garage was in
15 fact on county property.

16 He called his boss right there
17 and told him about the garage. Nothing has
18 been done. It's been this way for a long
19 time and it's to create a safe area to the
20 residents.

21 What I've done is taken some
22 pictures of it and you look at the actual
23 garage dump. This is for all of you to look
24 at. The first picture shows a shopping
25 cart. Usually there's a second one there

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2 because that's a homeless person's property
3 that it goes to and that comes and goes
4 periodically. The only thing missing from
5 these pictures is the kitchen sink. We have
6 the bathroom sink here that's right on the
7 ground.

8 This is for you to review. Maybe
9 we can get it resolved. I have been trying
10 to do it for a long time.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: When you are
12 finished, give the pictures to the clerk.

13 MR. GAFFNEY: Second safety issue
14 is the third track project. The MTA and
15 Long Island Railroad and 3TC bridge
16 replacement on Glen Cove Road, basically
17 Glen Cove Road we all know is one of the
18 Nassau County's busiest roads.

19 Westbury Avenue in Carle Place is
20 a short distance from the proposed work
21 area. When the traffic backs up on Glen
22 Cove Road, and it will, I actually have
23 wrote and also asked the MTA and Long Island
24 Railroad how is it going to prevent safely
25 sale our additional traffic on Westbury

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2 Avenue, all because of an impatient driver
3 who is heading to the mall or some other
4 business, they're going to look to do a cut
5 through on narrow Westbury Avenue.

6 The email response that I got was
7 throughout the month of January 2020
8 construction crews are to install and
9 support of excavation SOE, tie backs and
10 excavate to build and restorate abutments.
11 As a result, the west side sidewalk will be
12 closed. One southbound lane will be closed
13 to traffic for approximately two months.

14 For the traffic shift on Glen
15 Cove Road, maintenance and protection of
16 traffic plan, an MPT and works on traffic
17 control plan, WTCP, has been reviewed by AHJ
18 which is in this case Nassau County.

19 We are continuing to canvass the
20 surrounding area notifying constituents of
21 what's to come.

22 It appears to me that basically
23 the MTA and Long Island Railroad and 3TC are
24 at it again.

25 What I would like to do again is

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2 show you some pictures much Glen Cove Road
3 they were taken yesterday. They removed
4 handicapped signage, notice the work across
5 the east side of Glen Cove Road not
6 mentioned.

7 The past experience with the MTA,
8 Long Island Railroad, and 3TC regarding
9 their Cherry Lane Bridge replacement traffic
10 mitigation was a disaster.

11 Fortunately, local residents and
12 commuters and children who walk to school
13 were not injured. We are still dealing with
14 workers legally removing no parking, no
15 standing signs, on Cherry Lane. Several are
16 still missing.

17 There is no really traffic plan
18 or plans that have been shared with our
19 community outside of closing one lane for
20 two months. Maybe Mineola got one, I don't
21 know.

22 Since you have approval of Nassau
23 County, how is the traffic safety plan going
24 to affect the residents of Carle Place and
25 Westbury.

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2 The Long Island Railroad's final
3 environmental statement have plans for
4 digging up and replacing water and sewer
5 lines on Glen Cove Road. My question is, is
6 that still occurring? And if it is will the
7 digging up of Glen Cove Road occur during
8 the proposed bridge replacement from January
9 to May time line?

10 One additional note regarding the
11 Meadowbrook Bridge addition to this March,
12 will that construction affect anything in
13 Carle Place for the Westbury Avenue?

14 I look forward to answers to my
15 questions. And just on one side note with
16 the police, just thank you for your service
17 and be safe out there and I got ten bucks if
18 anybody got a picture of Commissioner Ryder
19 going over a six foot fence. Thank you very
20 much.

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Mr. Gaffney,
22 hi, how are you? I know we spoke briefly
23 before but just so I can say it publicly, as
24 far as that space goes underneath the
25 Meadowbrook Parkway, I know you've sent us

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2 emails for quite a while now trying to deal
3 with that. It's disgusting I agree and it
4 needs to be cleaned up.

5 It's my understanding of it that
6 the county's right of way has been
7 maintained and the state has not.

8 As I said to you, we finally
9 spoke to the commissioner and finally have
10 someone from the state that's going to come.
11 They're all going to go down there together
12 and designate what is what.

13 My understanding is that space
14 that area you're talking about is the
15 state's. I guess they didn't want to
16 acknowledge it or I guess we're going to
17 find out really.

18 My belief is that it is the
19 state's which is why the county has been
20 fighting about going down and having to
21 maintain it.

22 Once that's taken care of we will
23 certainly let you know and we will tell you
24 what happened at that meeting. I would like
25 to know, I'm tired of looking at it when I

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2 drive by there. I certainly know your level
3 of frustration with it. It needs to be
4 maintained and taken care of on a regular
5 basis.

6 I think in all honesty, I think
7 there shouldn't be a cut through in there.
8 I don't think that's really necessary. I
9 don't think it's a place for a cut through
10 otherwise there wouldn't be a fence that's
11 supposed to be blocking it.

12 So we will see what happens but
13 it is definitely going to be addressed.

14 MR. GAFFNEY: Thank you. I will
15 give you pictures on both.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Richard
17 Clolery.

18 MR. CLOLERY: To the members of
19 the Legislature. A new year has come to us
20 all. I'm hoping that maybe there is hope in
21 the age of climate change and that maybe
22 there will be discussing some efforts for
23 increased funding on our end for buses and
24 the restoring of routes that were cut.

25 But that's not why I'm here

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2 today. I'm here to complain about two other
3 things, which is, one, a couple of months
4 ago, the department of roads decided to
5 replace the single bus that allows us to
6 safely cross Hempstead Turnpike on foot.
7 This is all well and good if it works.

8 However, with the exception of
9 Newbridge and Hempstead Turnpike for the
10 most part it doesn't work.

11 What I mean by that is, as I
12 travel up Newbridge Road on the right side I
13 approach the corner of Hempstead Turnpike
14 there are two switches, one allows that
15 person when the light changes to safe;u
16 cross Newbridge on the south side of the
17 intersection of Newbridge and Hempstead, and
18 one that does the same for those who wish to
19 cross Hempstead Turnpike on the east side.

20 A few weeks ago, after the
21 switches were installed, they froze and
22 failed to work. Do you know what means? It
23 means that those people who have to use
24 these crosswalks are inadvertently crossing
25 against the stop signal and putting their

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2 lives in the drivers' hands.

3 The worst part is that ever since
4 those single buttons have been frozen, no
5 one has checked on them to be fixed. Why is
6 that?

7 Also, another thing, for the
8 longest time, whenever I check the meeting
9 schedule, the one thing that I've noticed is
10 that there is no date for when the budget
11 meeting is supposed to be.

12 So how can I as a concerned
13 citizen participate in the budget process if
14 I don't know when it is? Explain to me how
15 that works.

16 I, as a concerned citizen, am
17 encouraging you the Legislature to fix these
18 problems and also find the time to discuss a
19 significant increase for the buses. That is
20 all.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.

22 MR. CLOLERY: Anybody here want
23 to say anything? Good day then.

24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.

25 Karen Montalbano.

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2 MS. MONTALBANO: Good afternoon.

3 I'm Karen Montalbano. I'm the vice
4 president of the Baldwin Historical Society.

5 I'm here to talk about the Kellog
6 House which many people may not realize what
7 it is.

8 It was the house that was
9 preserved and saved across the street from
10 the First Precinct on Harrison Avenue in
11 Baldwin.

12 When the house was preserved and
13 it belongs to Nassau County, we were told
14 that nothing would happen to the house until
15 after the opening of the First Precinct.
16 That happened at the end of January 2017.

17 Then, in 2017, we were able to
18 get that house listed on the National
19 Historic Register and New York Historic
20 Register. It's the only historic building
21 registered in the hamlet of Baldwin. This
22 is an important thing. We have been waiting
23 for the house to be restored.

24 Over the summer, I was very happy
25 to see there was work being done, the roof

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2 was being addressed, and the gutters were
3 being put in, et cetera.

4 I was told by our legislator that
5 the house would be painted on the outside by
6 the end the summer.

7 This would have been a great
8 boost to our neighborhood because
9 unfortunately the house doesn't look good.
10 It needs a good coat of paint. Somehow that
11 didn't happen.

12 We are waiting for something to
13 happen and you take care of your property
14 here on this corner.

15 We been told that there is money
16 that has been budgeted in the budget. I
17 want to make sure that that money stays in
18 the budget and is being used to address not
19 only the exterior of the house but the
20 interior.

21 The house was promised to us to
22 be used for the community by a prior
23 administration.

24 We are right in the middle of our
25 downtown revitalization initiation grant.

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2 This is an important part of making our
3 downtown look nice. We have a beautiful new
4 precinct right across the street and this
5 property just doesn't look well and it needs
6 cleaning and it needs to be figured out what
7 to do with it.

8 I'm here to ask you to please
9 keep in mind, as you move into this year to
10 make sure you are working on this house,
11 making sure the community has input into it,
12 make sure the community has use of it
13 because it is a national historic registered
14 property and we should be proud of it. The
15 more you neglect the work on it the more you
16 have to invest in it. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
18 Mule.

19 LEGISLATOR MULE: Yes, Karen, you
20 and I have spoken about this property
21 numerous times and you know it's a high
22 priority for me.

23 We were able to get the money
24 into the capital project's budget so it is
25 there. You were told that it would be

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2 painted because I was told it was, and I'm
3 just as disappointed as you are that it has
4 not happened yet.

5 I'm continuing to work very
6 closely with the parks department because
7 that's the department it is currently housed
8 under to make sure that work continues to
9 move forward.

10 As we discussed, that property
11 will move into the Smith and DeGroat
12 portfolio and there will be nonprofits to
13 provide the rent money with the idea that we
14 will be able to carve out some space for
15 community use.

16 That is the plan going forward
17 and I'm very pleased that the money is there
18 to make sure that that happens.

19 I'm just as anxious as you are to
20 see it all happen.

21 MS. MONTALBANO: Thank you. I
22 know we have had this discussion and
23 sometimes I know things get rerouted along
24 the way I would really not like to see our
25 community as it's being revitalized -- we

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2 have the zoning overlay coming in, we have
3 the DRI, so many things going on. This is
4 one little thing that the county has that
5 would really make a difference in how our
6 community appears.

7 Also I will say and I know I've
8 offered this and it's been turned down for a
9 number of reasons, the community stands to
10 work with you on this project. We are here
11 and we want to do this and we want to see
12 this. So if there is anything we can do
13 please call on us.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
15 Meta J. Mereday.

16 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
17 Baldwin resident. I concur with
18 Ms. Montalbano about the needs for the
19 Baldwin residents and we need to see some
20 real action with regard to the Kellogg
21 House.

22 First and foremost I do want to
23 acknowledge public safety and their work to
24 make sure that residents who can come to
25 these sessions actually have parking and

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2 don't have to catch a bus to get across
3 these interesting roads that do need to be
4 repaired. So I do want to acknowledge the
5 this Legislature has made and those officers
6 that are insuring that residents do have
7 access what is labeled as visitor's parking.

8 Secondly, I wanted to concur with
9 the statements made by Mr. Larrichiuta and
10 to offer a possible solution with the
11 thought that unless we go big we will all go
12 home, or we will have additional people
13 going homeless or have those who are
14 underinsured not have the ability to get
15 what they need.

16 I, for one, have utilized the
17 Nassau University Medical Center when it was
18 Nassau Medical Hospital, when it was
19 Meadowbrook Hospital, et cetera, I have
20 files there that could probably fill their
21 own room. So it's important for me to do
22 something that's very proactive with regard
23 to that.

24 Here's a suggestion that maybe
25 someone who is watching, someone who is

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2 listening might catch on and I did mention
3 it to Mr. Larrichiuta and he was very
4 interested in the possibility of looking
5 into having portions of the unused space
6 within the medical center utilized for
7 expanded veteran services.

8 Because, again, Nassau County is
9 one of the largest counties in the country
10 that doesn't have its own dedicated facility
11 and much of the upgrades at the hospital can
12 be incorporated or I guess shared with
13 veteran services so that our veterans and
14 their family members would not have to
15 traipse out to Northport or call the
16 Disabled American Veterans 14 days ahead if
17 they have an appointment, things of that
18 nature.

19 Again, just a thought, in
20 considering there have been upgrades in the
21 medical care advance appropriation to the VA
22 to the tune of \$220 billion, I would think
23 that since we pay the second highest taxes
24 in the country we should be able to get some
25 of these funds to actually do something for

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2 our facility in our county for our nation's
3 best.

4 I also want to give a quick shout
5 out to boots on the ground. I had the
6 opportunity yesterday to be Frank and the
7 team out in Patchogue where we worked
8 together with all ages, all organizations,
9 and an interesting group of Boy Scouts who
10 were very hard working to put together over
11 2,500 UPS postal service boxes for our
12 troops. I believe they are going directly
13 to the 82nd airborne.

14 I do want to make sure you all
15 know I don't just spend my time coming here
16 to beg for legislation and funding to
17 support our veterans at home and abroad.
18 I'm actually out there doing the work.
19 Hopefully you all did get a sticker, I
20 wanted to make sure you all got those as
21 well, to support the efforts of our local
22 support organizations who always need the
23 resources including time as well as money.

24 Lastly, I do want to address the
25 cost for a number of our older veterans and

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2 residents who are trying to do some things
3 to, one, protect their homes and
4 investments, and the growing cost that has
5 been attributed I guess to budget -- to
6 address some of the costs for residents has
7 become very unwielding. Many of our
8 residents are trying to set up their homes
9 possibly into trusts and things of that
10 nature, I don't know if any of you had any
11 recent real estate transactions. Those
12 costs are very high and it becomes very
13 unwielding for them to do so.

14 I'm hoping that as we move
15 forward look possibly at a pilot program,
16 because I think if you find if you bring
17 those costs down, you might get more people
18 interested in actually utilizing those
19 services so again so they can protect their
20 vital assets which are their homes.

21 In closing, I would just hope
22 that in reading in Newsday about shared
23 services between our county townships,
24 villages, and other municipalities, I'm
25 hoping that we can also look at a stronger

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2 return on investments to actual residents as
3 we are putting these costs out to pay
4 because we pay county taxes, town taxes, and
5 school taxes and residents are continuing to
6 leave in droves because they are not
7 receiving the services that they need to do
8 what they need to do here.

9 And since I have ten seconds, I
10 promised the police commissioner I would try
11 and stay on time, I'm hoping that in the
12 budgets for the diverse business
13 organizations that you increase the equity
14 as well as diversity and inclusion. Thank
15 you.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you
17 Richard Schuron.

18 MR. SHURON: Hi. My name is
19 Richard Schuron. I'm a resident of the Town
20 of Harbor Isle within Island Park.

21 I'm speaking today about the
22 Nassau proposed settlement with LIPA
23 concerning the power plant in my community.

24 This power plant is the largest,
25 oldest, and most polluting power plant in

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2 Nassau County by far.

3 It produces ten times the level
4 of pollution as modern plants, for example,
5 in Yaphank. This settlement will raise the
6 taxes in my community, the school taxes 50
7 percent. Thousands and thousands of dollars
8 5,000, \$10,000.

9 This is not a small matter for a
10 community that has been devastated by Sandy
11 and is a working class middle class
12 community that certainly cannot afford a
13 \$5,000 to \$10,000 increase in their school
14 taxes.

15 The settlement that Nassau
16 negotiated with LIPA is an extremely bad
17 deal. It's a horrible deal for Island Park
18 and also a bad deal for other Nassau
19 residents.

20 It moots the lawsuit that my
21 community paid for, my school district paid
22 for. We spent over \$100,000 fighting LIPA
23 on a separate matter related to this, and,
24 yes, we lost in the trial court but it's
25 going to be in the appellate division.

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2 It moots that. It throws away
3 hundreds of thousands of dollars that my
4 community spent to try to avoid this result.
5 It also moots important legislation that was
6 proposed in Albany that passed in the senate
7 that eliminated the refund obligation. That
8 passed the senate and it was due to be
9 introduced into the assembly next year.
10 This will moot that. It throws that away.

11 It's unnecessarily premature.
12 There is no need for a settlement at this
13 time.

14 You can wait and give our
15 community a chance to win on a case we paid
16 for. Give our advocates in Albany a chance
17 to pass legislation that will help us.

18 It's completely premature and
19 unnecessary. It also provides no additional
20 benefits to the community. LIPA, when they
21 have a power plant in a host community they
22 typically offer a whole host of community
23 benefit programs to that community.

24 We get nothing. We get zero in
25 this settlement. Nothing. For example,

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2 they give students in Yaphank \$25,000 a year
3 scholarships every single year. Millions of
4 dollars go to the school board, go to the
5 community there. This settlement gives us
6 nothing.

7 It adds between five and \$10,000
8 to our annual school tax bill and gives us
9 nothing. It's a terrible deal. This board,
10 it was announced in November, and my
11 understanding is that it will come before
12 this board for approval sometime in February
13 or March.

14 I urge you to please vote it
15 down. It will destroy my little community
16 and it's not good for Nassau County
17 residents.

18 I'm a democrat. I'm a very
19 strong supporter of Laura Curran. I can't
20 support her in this case. It's devastating
21 to our community.

22 We had hundreds of people come
23 out to a community meeting, Legislator Ford
24 was there, she knows, and so many people
25 spoke up just realizing how devastating this

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2 is going to be our to community.

3 I'm urge you, and it's not on the
4 agenda for this meeting of course, but when
5 it comes up, please vote no. Or, better
6 yet, please don't put it on the agenda.

7 Tell LIPA no deal. It's not too
8 late.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
11 Patty Harris.

12 MS. HARRIS: Good afternoon,
13 Patty Harris. Uniondale. Nostrand Garden
14 Civic Association.

15 Today I would like to talk about
16 the red light cameras in our neighborhood.

17 Legislator Kevan Abrahams, there
18 is I think three red light cameras on
19 Uniondale Avenue. There's Uniondale Avenue
20 and Hempstead Turnpike and Uniondale Avenue
21 and Jerusalem. And Uniondale Avenue and
22 Nassau Road.

23 There's only one intersection
24 that's on Hempstead Turnpike for Uniondale
25 Avenue.

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2 It's when you come over from
3 Charles Lindbergh and over and then there's
4 Uniondale Avenue and Hempstead Turnpike, how
5 come it wasn't picked a red light for
6 California Avenue and Hempstead Avenue, and
7 Oak Street and Hempstead Turnpike?

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You are
9 saying why don't we have one at the corner
10 of Oak and Hempstead Turnpike?

11 MS. HARRIS: Yes.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: As we work
13 with traffic safety, the department has the
14 discretion to rotate the traffic lights as
15 they see fit. The red light cameras that
16 they see fit.

17 They haven't seen a reason to
18 rotate it from Hempstead Turnpike,
19 Uniondale, Charles Lindbergh, Uniondale, or
20 Hempstead Turnpike.

21 As you know that is a major
22 thoroughfare for speeding. People that
23 speed on that corridor of Hempstead Turnpike
24 has been a big issue for a number of years.

25 I can speak to them about moving

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2 it to Oak. I'm not too sure what that would
3 exactly do.

4 MS. HARRIS: I would think you
5 would get more red light tickets than you
6 would on Uniondale because it's within the
7 neighborhood. Hempstead Turnpike is not
8 within the neighborhood. It has more
9 traffic than Uniondale Avenue.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The goal is
11 not to generate tickets. I know that's what
12 a lot of people believe because that's what
13 the program does. But the goal of the
14 program is to generate and ensure safety for
15 people that utilize those thoroughfares
16 whether they are pedestrians or motorists.

17 MS. HARRIS: I will quote you
18 because did a quote. You did a meeting at
19 Uniondale High School. You stated that you
20 love red light cameras because it generates
21 a lot of money for the school districts.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: First of
23 all, I couldn't have said that, Patty,
24 because it doesn't generate any money for
25 the school districts.

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2 MS. HARRIS: You did say that.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You
4 misinterpreted exactly what I said.

5 But if you feel that that's
6 something I might have said or you said that
7 I said, then so be it, we will agree to
8 disagree.

9 MS. HARRIS: Then I apologize if
10 I'm wrong.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Well, it
12 doesn't generate any money for the school
13 districts so I don't how I could have said
14 that.

15 MS. HARRIS: So what would be the
16 use of it?

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You are
18 talking about two different things. Maybe
19 you're talking about speed cameras.

20 MS. HARRIS: What are the red
21 light cameras?

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The red
23 light cameras generate revenue for the
24 county.

25 MS. HARRIS: What is on Uniondale

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2 Avenue, is it a red light?

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There is no
4 jurisdiction in Nassau that has speed
5 cameras. So when you probably heard me say
6 that, there was a brief period in Nassau
7 County history where there were speed
8 cameras in Nassau County. They were located
9 at Turtle Middle School.

10 MS. HARRIS: I'm not talking
11 about Turtle. I'm talking Jerusalem and
12 Uniondale Avenue.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So there is
14 no speed cameras in that area.

15 MS. HARRIS: So the money that
16 generate from that camera is not part of
17 that county or it is?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It is part
19 of the county.

20 MS. HARRIS: So how much money
21 are you generating on Uniondale Avenue than
22 you are on Hempstead Turnpike and Uniondale
23 Avenue in Uniondale?

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We can
25 check and get those numbers. If you need

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2 those numbers we can get those numbers in
3 terms of what each location generates.

4 MS. HARRIS: I would think the
5 location on Hempstead Turnpike should be
6 added on to what you have already there.

7 If it's not generating money and
8 it's for safety then it should be at
9 California Avenue and Hempstead Turnpike and
10 Oak Street and Hempstead Turnpike.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But what
12 I'm trying to say is that we need to
13 demonstrate the argument for moving the
14 camera for safety purposes to those
15 locations.

16 MS. HARRIS: Okay. So you can do
17 a study.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's what
19 I'm saying. So we are right back to where
20 we started. Basically the department,
21 traffic safety has to take a look to
22 determine whether or not it's warranted to
23 move those cameras.

24 But they have strategically moved
25 cameras throughout Nassau County. But we

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2 will take a look. We can do a study.

3 You're saying there's an enormous
4 amount of accidents at the intersections of
5 California and Hempstead Turnpike?

6 MS. HARRIS: And Oak Street. And
7 I don't think at Uniondale Avenue, Jerusalem
8 Avenue. I don't think there's as many
9 accidents at Uniondale and Jerusalem. Now
10 they're conditioned because the red light is
11 there and Nassau Road maybe, okay? Thank
12 you.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You got it.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Pearl
15 Jacobs.

16 MS. JACOBS: Happy New Year to
17 all. I would first like to begin by
18 thanking the Nassau County Police Department
19 under the leadership of Commissioner Patrick
20 Ryder for their service and protection to
21 the residents of Nassau County and for
22 hearing and responding, and I emphasize the
23 word "responding" to the issues brought
24 forth by the residents of Uniondale. Thank
25 you Nassau County Police Department.

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2 Before I begin, I would like to
3 quote Oprah Winfrey. "What I know for sure
4 is speaking your truth is the most powerful
5 tool that we all have."

6 As a community advocate I bring
7 forth issues that are of most concern to
8 Uniondale residents. At our most recent
9 meeting of the Nostrand Garden Civic
10 Association on January 6th, a community
11 forum was held so that residents could voice
12 their concerns and, as a community, we could
13 discuss issues that continue to challenge
14 the quality of life in Uniondale.

15 The top three issues discussed
16 are as follows:

17 Lack of effective code
18 enforcement, building and sanitation.

19 The deplorable condition of
20 Uniondale's roads.

21 Blighted and abandoned lots that
22 permeate Uniondale's landscape.

23 And several months ago there were
24 emails back and forth between myself and
25 Legislator Abrahams office and I also copied

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2 in the County Executive regarding the
3 deplorable condition of Jerusalem Avenue.
4 Those emails went back and forth for a
5 little while and then they suddenly stopped.
6 There was no action taken at all and I
7 haven't heard anything thus far.

8 As I drive through the various
9 towns, villages and hamlets of Nassau County
10 I see road improvements in Mineola, Old
11 Country Road, Bellmore and Wantagh,
12 Jerusalem Avenue, Freeport, Brookside
13 Avenue, and several other locations.

14 Virtually every road in Uniondale
15 has been excavated, dug up, cut up, and
16 patched up leaving bumps, slopes, divots,
17 uneven roads and holes that pose safety
18 hazards for drivers and that cause damage to
19 their front end suspensions and their tires.

20 PSE&G LI and Nat Grid have
21 disrespected the Uniondale community by
22 making substandard road repairs after
23 excavating our roads.

24 The quality of restorative
25 repairs made by PSEG LI and Nat Grid in

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2 other communities are of a much higher
3 standard than that of the repairs made in
4 Uniondale.

5 I did speak to PSEG LI and Nat
6 Grid management concerning the substandard
7 quality of restorative road repairs as we in
8 Uniondale refer to it, the patch jobs that
9 were done.

10 I have previously requested
11 representatives from Nassau County and the
12 Town of Hempstead to come out and take a
13 tour of Uniondale. I'm still waiting.

14 Front Street in Uniondale poses a
15 serious health and safety issue as sever
16 ponding occurs on this roadway. As a result
17 of this severe ponding, I see slippery
18 conditions are prevalent in the winter
19 months and dirty standing water is prevalent
20 in the summer months, a haven for mosquitos
21 and various other insect larvae.

22 Front Street closely resembles a
23 third world roadway. As Uniondale has long
24 suffered from disinvestment, exclusion, red
25 lining, and disenfranchisement, there is a

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2 lot of work in investment that needs to be
3 done to bring Uniondale to equivalent status
4 with that of the rest of Nassau County.

5 Residents are looking forward to
6 the start of the construction of the Nassau
7 Hub in Uniondale.

8 We are excited that this vibrant
9 venue will be a walkable destination for
10 Uniondale residents and a designation choice
11 for Nassau County residents and visitors
12 near and far.

13 It is our desire that the Hub
14 project will be a substantial success for
15 Nassau County.

16 It is also our hope that
17 Uniondale's residential neighborhoods will
18 be included in its vision and not be left
19 out as neglected and gang-greened appendage.

20 Further exclusion would only cast
21 a brighter light on the many disparities
22 that currently exist in Uniondale south of
23 Hempstead Turnpike.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
25 Pearl, for coming. I just want to respond

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2 to one of the issues that you brought up.

3 Ken, do you mind coming up? I
4 know Jerusalem Avenue has been an issue,
5 been talked about obviously with the whole
6 diversion and then obviously the repaving
7 and now we are moving forward to resurfacing
8 Jerusalem Avenue.

9 To our knowledge, is Jerusalem
10 Avenue scheduled to be resurfaced as part of
11 the capital plan that as we are moving on?

12 MR. ARNOLD: No. It does not
13 need to be resurfaced. We've done the
14 patching from the Barnes Avenue job. It is
15 rideable. While there are patches there,
16 not visually pleasing, the road dries fine
17 with the exception of recent permit work
18 that the utilities are doing.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: When will
20 that recent permit work address what
21 Mrs. Jacobs is talking about?

22 MR. ARNOLD: I need to go back to
23 my office to see where PSEG or Nat Grid is
24 on their work and when the final restoration
25 of their patching will happen.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just so
3 we're clear, the permanent work that you are
4 talking about Mr. Arnold, is that the same
5 area that Mrs. Jacobs is talking about?

6 MR. ARNOLD: I know the permanent
7 work, when I drove the road after the emails
8 I received, is towards the east side of
9 Jerusalem Avenue. That's where I saw it.
10 If it might have moved further west, from
11 that point, probably in a month or two.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: When you
13 say east side, we're talking about down by
14 Walmart?

15 MR. ARNOLD: Yes, where North
16 Jerusalem connects to it. I think that
17 location.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And you are
19 you're saying based on your drive, it
20 extended a little bit west, maybe as far
21 down as A. Holly?

22 MR. ARNOLD: I'm not sure. I
23 know I saw PSEG doing work down on that end
24 of Jerusalem Avenue and that's where I saw
25 the condition needed to be addressed. The

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2 permit work was ongoing. Until they finish
3 and do final, there was no comment coming
4 from my office.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Where is
6 the area you're talking about, are you
7 talking about the area Mr. Arnold is talking
8 about?

9 MS. JACOBS: I'm referring to
10 that overpass coming from Merrick going
11 towards the Shoprite going towards the A.
12 Holly Patterson site because that road was
13 excavated. They put more sewage lines in
14 there and going towards the Holly Patterson
15 development site.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sounds like
17 we're talking about the same area?

18 MS. JACOBS: Exactly. The road
19 is not driveable.

20 We make our way over it, but I
21 have my residents here, is that road
22 driveable?

23 MR. ARNOLD: I think we're talking
24 two things here; one, is the restoration
25 that was done as part of Barnes Avenue.

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2 That restoration is final and the department
3 is of the opinion that it is complete and
4 does not need my immediate work.

5 There's also utility work being
6 done by others that I will ask my utility
7 permit group to go out and make
8 modifications and ask them to restore any
9 poor patches. I think they do that on a
10 continuous basis. I will have them look at
11 it this week.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ken, I'm
13 looking at an email that's a correspondence,
14 and Mrs. Jacobs is not on it, but it's a
15 correspondence between our office and your
16 office and it appears that it says that
17 you're prepared to do, as part of the 2020
18 resurfacing, that Jerusalem would be
19 included.

20 MR. ARNOLD: I think we said
21 where and when, if there's any large areas
22 to do, but the road itself was not going to
23 be resurfaced. I don't believe -- that's
24 not part of our program.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: When can

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2 folks anticipate that this permitted work
3 will be completed and they would have a safe
4 thoroughfare, I shouldn't say safe, a
5 drivable thoroughfare that's not bumpy, when
6 can we expect that?

7 MR. ARNOLD: I can reach out to
8 PSEG and Nat Grid, depending on whose work
9 it is, and find out. It is a challenge. As
10 Legislator Rhoads knows on Merrick Road we
11 had a similar issue and we pushed them along
12 as hard as we could to get to a final point
13 but we will reach out to them and speak to
14 them.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can we
16 anticipate that Mrs. Jacobs, my office, as
17 well as Michelle Darcy from our office is
18 corresponded on your findings?

19 MR. ARNOLD: Yes.

20 MS. JACOBS: I do have a
21 question. How is Nat Grid and PSEG allowed
22 to leave these roads in such deplorable
23 conditions? Is there monies set aside to
24 restore these roads after the excavation is
25 done? Where is the quality control? Where

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2 is the quality control for Nassau County?

3 Does anyone come out and take a
4 look at these roads after they're finished
5 excavating and restored? Is there quality
6 control from Nassau County?

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Ken, you can
8 answer obviously but for further discussion,
9 he can answer that. Take the rest of it off
10 line.

11 MR. ARNOLD: We have permanent
12 inspectors that cover the whole county and
13 they do their best to cover all the
14 different patches and stay on top of the
15 repairs.

16 But there are patches that are
17 temporary in nature and final in nature and
18 my guys focus on the final patches to make
19 sure they're restored so they hold up over
20 the long term.

21 MS. JACOBS: These patches are
22 atrocious, they're absolutely atrocious. I
23 invited you on the email, Mr. Arnold, to
24 come down and take a ride through Jerusalem
25 Avenue, I was going to ride with you.

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2 I have some members from Friday
3 civic association that we were going to ride
4 with you and show you exactly what we were
5 talking about, but that was ignored as well.

6 MR. ARNOLD: It wasn't ignored.
7 I responded. There were some things that
8 you said in your email which is why I did
9 not respond to you directly.

10 MS. JACOBS: I always speak truth
11 to power.

12 MR. ARNOLD: I disagree strongly
13 to that.

14 MS. JACOBS: We can agree to
15 disagree.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
17 We are going to go to the
18 business of the Legislature now. We have
19 several appointees who are here. Thank you
20 for your patience.

21 Item 17, Resolution Number 8.
22 It's a resolution to confirm the County
23 Executive's appointment of Jeffrey Nogid to
24 the Deferred Compensation Board.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So

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2 moved.

3 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by

5 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, seconded by

6 Legislator Lafazan. That's before us.

7 Is Jeffrey here? Mr. Nogid?

8 MR. NOGID: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I didn't
10 know if you wanted to say anything?

11 MR. NOGID: Nothing. I look
12 forward to serving the Deferred Comp Board.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: A very smart
14 way to do that. Anyone have any questions
15 for Mr. Nogid?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Thank you. Do we have any debate
18 or discussion?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 All those in favor signify by
21 saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Those opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Carries unanimously.

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2 Item 18, Resolution Number 9, and
3 Item 19, Resolution Number 10. These are
4 resolutions to confirm the County
5 Executive's appointment of Habeeb Ahmed and
6 Harry Malhotra to the Asian American
7 Advisory Council pursuant to sections 203
8 and 2114 of the Nassau County Charter.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
12 Legislator Rose Walker and seconded by
13 Legislator Gaylor. Those two are before the
14 Legislature. Are either one of them here?
15 They are both here.

16 MR. AHMED: Good afternoon
17 members of the Legislature. Thank you very
18 much for the confidence that you have placed
19 in me and I will try my best to serve Nassau
20 County at the Asian-American agency.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
22 Before we go to Mr. Malhotra, Mr. Habeeb has
23 been a leader in the county for at least as
24 long as I have been on the Legislature. And
25 Legislator Muscarella, right after we were

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2 first sworn in in 1996, Habeeb invited us to
3 the Islamic Center of Long Island, a small
4 structure located in Westbury and I believe
5 almost the entire Legislature joined us.
6 You were the president of the organization
7 at that point and it has grown into a
8 tremendous facility, a tremendous community,
9 a tremendous congregation. We are lucky to
10 have you.

11 MR. AHMED: Thank you.

12 MR. MALHOTRA: Good afternoon,
13 sir. I just want to thank you for the
14 opportunity and I'm looking forward to
15 serving the community and the Asian
16 Americans. I am grateful to Ms. Rose Walker
17 for her confidence and in all of you. Thank
18 you so much.

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
20 Walker.

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you,
22 Presiding Officer. I too want to thank
23 Harry for all he does in our community, and
24 my district is a very, very diverse
25 community. Especially the Hicksville area

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2 where Harry happens to live, his children go
3 to school with my grandchildren.

4 Like I said, he and his wife are
5 very very active in the community and I know
6 he's going to bring a lot to the Asian
7 Council that we established and I look
8 forward to working with all of you.

9 I know they are going to look
10 forward to working with all of you. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
13 legislators?

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.
15 Habeeb, it was a pleasure to work with you
16 at the Human Rights Commission as a
17 volunteer two administrations ago.

18 At that time the Human Rights
19 Commission was going through some difficult
20 times and you prevailed and you were very
21 professional and in that capacity serving as
22 a supervisor in that capacity over the human
23 rights office.

24 So I'm sure in this you will also
25 do a great job again and I look forward to

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2 working with you again. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
4 Drucker.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Also I would
6 like to add to the accolades to Habeeb.
7 Since I have been on the Legislature I have
8 been amazed at the work you do at the ICLI.
9 You are a born leader and in addition you
10 are a perfect ambassador for the South Asian
11 community.

12 What you do day in and day out
13 for that institution and you come to all the
14 districts throughout Nassau County, and you
15 bring your love and your knowledge and just
16 your ability to bridge gaps among all
17 ethnicities and religions. It's very, very
18 impressive. I think we are blessed and
19 fortunate to have you working with us.

20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
21 Anyone else? All in favor of the
22 appointments signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 Those opposed?

25 (No verbal response.)

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2 They carry unanimously.

3 Congratulations to both of you.

4 I'm going to call the consent

5 calendar next. These are all items that

6 went through committees two weeks ago.

7 It's been agreed by the majority

8 and minority that no further debate or

9 discussion needs to take place at this time.

10 Item 1, Ordinance 1; Item 2,

11 Ordinance 2; Item 3, Ordinance 3; Item 4,

12 Ordinance 4; Item 5, Ordinance 5; Item 6,

13 Ordinance 6; Item 7, Ordinance 7; Item 8,

14 Ordinance 8; Item 9, Ordinance 9;

15 10, Resolution 1; 12, Resolution

16 3; 13, Resolution 4; 15, Resolution 6; 16,

17 Resolution 7; 20, Resolution 11; 21,

18 Resolution 12; 22, Resolution 13; 23,

19 Resolution 14.

20 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by

23 Legislator Birnbaum, seconded by Legislator

24 Kennedy.

25 Any debate or discussion?

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2 (No verbal response.)

3 All those in favor signify by
4 saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 Those opposed?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 Those consent items carry
9 unanimously.

10 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I'm going to
12 call Item 14 and, before I call it, I want
13 to note for the record Presiding Officer
14 Nicolello has recused himself he stepped out
15 of the room. He will not take part in the
16 debate or discussion of this item.

17 Number 14 is Resolution Number 5
18 of 2020 which authorizes the County Attorney
19 to comprise and settle the claim of
20 plaintiff in the case entitled AIG, subrogee
21 of Alan Rosenbaum against Nassau County.

22 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Second.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Moved by
25 Legislator Kennedy and seconded by

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2 Legislator Drucker.

3 MS. LYNCH: I'm only here to
4 answer any questions if they should arise.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: And we already
6 discussed this in executive session
7 previously. Is every one satisfied?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Fine. In that
10 case, all those in favor of this item please
11 indicate by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 Any opposed?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 The item passes 18 to zero.

16 Would somebody notify the Presiding Officer
17 we're ready for him.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Item 11,
19 Resolution Number 2, a resolution approving
20 a memorandum of understanding between the
21 county of Nassau and the county's Police
22 Detective's Association Inc., and ratifying
23 the act of the director of labor relations
24 of the county and executing such memorandum
25 of understanding.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
5 Legislator Ford, seconded by Legislator
6 Bynoe.

7 So this is the detective's
8 contract. It's before the Legislature.

9 Do we have someone from the
10 administration to make a presentation at
11 this time?

12 MR. PERSICH: Good afternoon,
13 Andy Persich. Office of management and
14 budget. I'm here to discuss any fiscal
15 questions you may have about the contract.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Are you
17 going to speak about it?

18 MR. PERSICH: I think we have had
19 extensive conversations with the office of
20 Legislative Budget Review and we read the
21 report and worked hand in hand with them
22 explaining some of the assumptions we had in
23 our savings and everything else and did very
24 constructive work with them. I think it
25 turned out to be a good product.

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2 The one thing from the budgetary
3 aspect is from my assumptions it doesn't
4 cost me money until 2022. So that to me is
5 a savings.

6 In the out years we are going
7 out, but there are concessions. There is a
8 lot of details in this deal that make it --
9 it fixes the problem that we had and it's
10 cost beneficial in the same way but it's
11 working for both sides is what I would say.

12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I believe
13 the projection is that there would be
14 additional detectives added, incentives have
15 been built into the contract.

16 Was the cost of the additional
17 detectives included in the cost estimates of
18 the contract?

19 MR. PERSICH: They are included
20 in my budgetary numbers so they were built
21 into the base of the out years, so yes.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Just in terms
23 of finance I have other questions for the
24 administration later on.

25 But how were the five additional

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2 days calculated in terms of the savings?

3 MR. PERSICH: It was based on a
4 number of hours that we were going to be
5 getting, what's currently worth and what the
6 base number of hours they're going to be
7 giving back to us, so it was a calculated
8 method.

9 Without getting into a lot of
10 details, these are very extensive Excel
11 sheets, but in a nutshell that's really what
12 it was. It's the current hours they're
13 giving us based on the current hours that
14 they are working now.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: But there
16 has to be more that goes into it.

17 MR. PERSICH: There's a lot more
18 that goes into it. I mean there's a lot of
19 different assumptions.

20 I don't want to say it, but the
21 complex models that we sat and discussed
22 this, how we calculated the numbers, and
23 they're very extensive. It's almost
24 impossible for me to discuss what's in Xcel,
25 to go over, but they have assumptions, we

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2 have assumptions.

3 We kind of came pretty close to
4 where we both landed as far as what the
5 methodologies were. They used different
6 modeling than we did but we all came to the
7 same thing which is actually a good thing
8 when you're doing financial modeling, so
9 having had some experience here with that.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Assuming
11 that you took some sort of average salary
12 and factored that into that, correct?

13 MR. PERSICH: Absolutely, and it
14 was based on averages and numbers and
15 different assumptions for different things
16 but it's a model.

17 It kind of was -- I hate to say,
18 it is comforting to know that giving Maurice
19 and his crew what we thought were our
20 assumptions and him going off on an
21 independent review of it and coming close to
22 the actual savings was good.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Are there
24 any questions at this time? Legislator
25 Rhoads.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: A couple of
3 follow ups. Mr. Persich, could you please
4 describe how the step plan is going to work
5 for newly promoted detectives?

6 MR. PERSICH: It was covered the
7 last time. Correct me if I'm wrong here,
8 but anybody who is currently in the police
9 officer step will stay there until their top
10 step and if they flip over they will come
11 over to the detective grade.

12 But we also corrected the steps
13 within the detective division which was at
14 15 months to 12 months and upped the number
15 to the differential to what a police officer
16 was making to what a current detective will
17 be making. So it's a \$6,300 benefit jumping
18 from a police officer to a detective.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Specifically
20 with respect to detectives though that are
21 still in police officer status, are they
22 going to be required to work the ten days?

23 MR. PERSICH: Five days.

24 MS. FOX: Current detectives and
25 detectives that are designated within one

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2 year of full approval of this contract.

3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Will be
4 required to work the five days?

5 MS. FOX: Correct.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Before they
7 can officially transfer their status to
8 detective?

9 MS. FOX: No. So they are in
10 police office steps, but will be designated
11 as detective.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So they have
13 to work the five days before they can enter
14 detective status?

15 MS. FOX: No. They're separate
16 and apart.

17 So you are in police officer
18 steps, you're designated as detective. You
19 have to work if you are an incumbent,
20 already a detective, or you're newly
21 designated a detective within one year of
22 ratification you have to work five
23 additional days.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Just so I
25 understand it, maybe my own lack of

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2 knowledge of this, how do you separate
3 detectives who are still in police officer
4 steps? They are a detective. But they're
5 still technically in police officer steps.
6 How do you separate that from someone who is
7 a detective and from someone who might
8 become a detective?

9 MS. FOX: Separate in what way,
10 pay?

11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: No. In terms
12 of how they can transition going into
13 detective steps.

14 MS. FOX: Well, after they reach
15 top police officer step, they will go to
16 grade three step four -- thank you, step one
17 detective.

18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: It's my
19 understanding that the DAI opted not to
20 negotiate an agreement on longevity pay.

21 Is there money in the budget
22 currently to pay a decision on longevity pay
23 if there's arbitration or litigation that
24 requires the county to pay?

25 MR. PERSICH: No.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: What is the
3 administration's, I guess, way to account
4 for that if that eventuality occurs?

5 MR. PERSICH: We will have to
6 address that if and when it gets to the
7 court system and if we have to pay it. It's
8 not something I accounted for in my budget
9 for this year, next year, and the out years.

10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Can you
11 describe how is termination pay calculated
12 in this agreement? The contract makes
13 reference to base pay. Does that include
14 longevity, include overtime?

15 MR. PERSICH: Not overtime, it's
16 calculated the same way it was previously.
17 There's no change in that. It's two times
18 earnings is what it is so base earnings.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So what are
20 the termination pay provisions in the
21 contract?

22 MR. PERSICH: It's identical to
23 what it was, it's two times. There's been
24 no change.

25 For news coming in, there will be

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2 some changes if they can come on board, so I
3 think seven five and one five if I'm not
4 mistaken.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: With respect
6 to give back days, or additional
7 appearances, who determines how the days are
8 going to be used or assigned?

9 MR. PERSICH: I think that's at
10 the police commissioner -- the commander
11 will be making those decisions, how they are
12 going to allocate those resources.

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Is that
14 annual the give back?

15 MR. PERSICH: Five additional
16 appearances.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Per year?

18 MR. PERSICH: Yes.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: But it would
20 be at department not the employee that makes
21 the determination as to when they want to
22 work those give back days?

23 MR. PERSICH: I would say yes.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: What does the
25 agreement say or it doesn't?

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2 MR. PERSICH: It's at the
3 discretion of the police department how to
4 allocate resources. Just like everything
5 else, it's precincts and they determine how
6 it's going to be done.

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Is the
8 reconciliation of the days done I guess by
9 the department?

10 MR. PERSICH: Yes, it will be
11 done by them.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: With respect
13 to Section 4 of the agreement schedules, it
14 indicates that any incumbent detective may
15 elect to work I guess five additional
16 appearance, five additional appearance
17 enhanced scheduled days in exchange for what
18 he or she will receive a schedule
19 differential of 1.7 percent, what does that
20 actually mean?

21 MR. PERSICH: They are getting
22 shift differentials what it means to me. So
23 if they work a night tour or different
24 shift.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: But they are

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2 capped as far as - -

3 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: John Wighaus.
4 Just to make clear on termination pay
5 before, it's base, plus holiday, plus night
6 diff, plus longevity. Just the way we were
7 getting it. It's all of them.

8 And now with the enhanced
9 schedule we have to work five additional
10 days. If you opt in and want to work five
11 more days, there will be 1.7 percent of your
12 base pay you will get paid for.

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So you have
14 to work five if you want to work an
15 additional five beyond that, so for a total
16 of 10 you would be entitled to the 1.7?

17 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: Correct. If
18 you don't want to do the additional days,
19 you don't have to, and in let's say in 2021,
20 you opt in for the five additional, 2022
21 comes around and you can opt out. But it's
22 only a one time thing.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So once a
24 year you have to make a decision whether
25 you're in or out?

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2 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: Yes, and that
3 would be when we pick our vacation days in
4 October you would have to either opt in or
5 out.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Mr. Persich,
7 I guess it would be difficult to determine
8 who is opting in and who is opting out. Do
9 we have an idea?

10 MR. PERSICH: It's built into the
11 model that we built. We have savings. But
12 I can't calculate who is going to be
13 benefiting or what the cost is going to be
14 if somebody opts in to that. So it's built
15 into the cost of those savings.

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: How did you
17 build that in?

18 MR. PERSICH: It's a complex
19 model.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I guess the
21 question is, how did you build it in if you
22 have idea what the cost would be?

23 MR. PERSICH: My financial wiz
24 tell me it's cost neutral because of the way
25 it's structured. We are getting additional

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2 appearances.

3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: If you could
4 recap with respect to the health care
5 contributions. How is this going to impact
6 your retirees?

7 MR. PERSICH: It has no impact.

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: None
9 whatsoever?

10 MR. PERSICH: No.

11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I just
13 wanted to follow-up with respect to the 1.7
14 percent. What does that mean? It's a shift
15 differential, but what does the 1.7 mean?
16 Give a layperson's understanding.

17 MR. PERSICH: So if they work
18 five, they have to work five. If they
19 choose to work an additional five, they get
20 1.7 percent additional pay to do that.

21 If they want to work five
22 additional days on top of the five they are
23 required to do, they are getting paid an
24 additional 1.7 percent to do that.

25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: They're

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2 making an additional less than two percent
3 by working those extra days?

4 MR. PERSICH: That is.

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Minority
6 Leader Abrahams and Legislature Schaefer had
7 questions.

8 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Hi. How
9 are you?

10 MR. PERSICH: Good.

11 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So I know I
12 asked questions a couple of weeks ago and
13 one of my questions was about what we spoke
14 about, how many letters you had for police
15 officers that were looking to become
16 detectives.

17 Can you give me an update where
18 we are with that now? I thought it was 13
19 or something along those lines.

20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We are just
21 doing a finance part now, but go ahead.

22 MS. FOX: We received 24 requests
23 which were just approved and the department
24 just designated 24 detectives today, this
25 morning.

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2 Since the vote by the detective
3 union, we've just promoted 24 detective this
4 is morning. So proof that the incentive is
5 working.

6 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: But how is
7 that impacted with this contract that hasn't
8 been passed yet? Is it automatically going
9 to apply to them, and they understand that
10 obviously?

11 MS. FOX: Right.

12 MR. PERSICH: It was an incentive
13 to get them. I guess the point is, what the
14 interpretation of the contract is, the
15 membership or the new people coming on board
16 is attracting what exactly what we want to
17 do with this. Bringing new people into the
18 detective union. It worked. I think the
19 proof is, what we're saying is the 24
20 additional bodies.

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Do you have
22 any numbers of detectives that are looking
23 to retire this year let say?

24 MR. PERSICH: I don't have an
25 analysis.

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2 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Right. But
3 do you know how many?

4 MR. PERSICH: I can go back
5 upstairs but it's between ten and 20 I want
6 to say annually, somewhere in that range.

7 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So it's
8 guess?

9 MR. PERSICH: It's going to vary
10 because it depends upon age and years of
11 service, you know what I mean? There's I
12 hate to say it, but there's numbers that
13 retirees shoot for to get out at and that's
14 what we have to go back to that, and we do
15 it during the budget process but that's what
16 we think.

17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: May I just
18 suggest, you were handling the budgetary
19 aspects. Commissioner Ryder is here. I
20 don't know if he wants to add anything.

21 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So we never
22 know the head count as the year progresses,
23 people decide to leave or don't leave. We
24 can estimate five or 10 people we lose a
25 year.

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2 But with the new contract, if and
3 when it is ratified, most of these members
4 will stay because they want the benefit of
5 that raise that's coming in this year. So
6 we probably expect to lose less than what we
7 normally lose per year.

8 We have 24 that we promoted
9 today. Some that we couldn't promote that
10 also put letters in. We did not do that
11 because, one, probation time on the job and
12 experience.

13 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I guess my
14 next question would be then, why hadn't we
15 promoted them before?

16 It was just since they heard of
17 the new contract, you got 24 people
18 interested.

19 COMMISSIONER RYDER: That's
20 correct, because of the incentive in the new
21 contract, correct.

22 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Minority
24 Leader Abrahams.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you

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2 Presiding Officer.

3 Just a couple of questions, Andy,
4 more tied to get a better understanding of
5 the savings. I don't know if you had a
6 chance to review Maurice Chalmers'
7 independent budget review report and how
8 they have a total cost of the contract
9 versus the total cost you guys have. You
10 guys are a little bit higher than they are
11 but ultimately the cost of the contract
12 after the savings is roughly within a
13 million dollars of each other.

14 If possible, just quantify for us
15 the savings for 2020.

16 MR. PERSICH: The two biggest
17 things we are getting back is the additional
18 tours and the vacation cap. Those are two
19 biggest components of what we're getting
20 back.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What does
22 that generate in terms of savings, dollars
23 for taxpayers?

24 MR. PERSICH: Approximately 4.9
25 million is what we're getting.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So by
3 voting for the agreement today right off the
4 bat from the second we vote for it there is
5 going to be a savings of almost \$5 million?

6 MR. PERSICH: That's offset by
7 costs that are associated. We're giving an
8 incentive of a thousand and a thousand in
9 there plus a two percent bump up.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Is there a
11 cost for 2020?

12 MR. PERSICH: Yes, there is.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What's the
14 cost for 2020?

15 MR. PERSICH: Sorry. Hold on one
16 second.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sorry. I
18 think when we were looking at your appendix,
19 Andy, it looks like your numbers showed that
20 there was no cost but OBLR shows that there
21 is.

22 MR. PERSICH: That's correct. We
23 are showing it's a net savings to us in this
24 year.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And for

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2 next year as well?

3 MR. PERSICH: That's correct. So
4 it's cost neutral, beneficial to me up until
5 2022 when I have to start worrying about
6 paying for this.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: One more
8 question and if the body can indulge I have
9 some questions for Mr. Chalmers as well.

10 I think, Andy, as any taxpayer,
11 they are looking at the Legislature and
12 they're considering whether or not they
13 would lend their support towards this
14 agreement.

15 Taxes are always on people's
16 minds and I'm not going to hold you to a
17 tough tax question that leads in to the out
18 years but I do have a question in regard to
19 the immediate years as it pertains to 2021
20 when we have a budget that comes up this
21 year.

22 Do you anticipate that the
23 administration will submit any budget that
24 includes a tax increase for the 2021 year to
25 pay for this contract?

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2 MR. PERSICH: Legislator, I don't
3 think I can answer that at this point.

4 I don't have it in my multiyear
5 plan to do any tax increases, so I don't
6 want to give you that illusion just to pay
7 for this because it has no cost to me in
8 2021. This one specific section it has no
9 tax impact, is what I will say.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So there is
11 no tax impact for 2021?

12 MR. PERSICH: It's cost
13 beneficial to me so it wouldn't require me
14 to raise any side of the revenue equation to
15 cover it.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I
17 understand. So the answer would be --

18 MR. PERSICH: I don't --

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't
20 want to box you in because I know there is
21 multiple other things.

22 MR. PERSICH: There is so many
23 others things when we do develop the budget.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But I guess
25 what I'm asking is, if the playing field was

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2 level to today understanding, not knowing
3 what the problems could be for tomorrow, if
4 the playing field was level for today, and
5 you had an understanding that we were going
6 to pay for this contract going into 2021,
7 would the county have to raise taxes
8 understanding where we are today in January
9 not where we're going to be based off the
10 state budget or anything look those lines
11 what's going to happen there?

12 MR. PERSICH: Based upon the
13 information that's before you right now
14 there will be no need to increase taxes for
15 this.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.
17 That's the most important thing I wanted to
18 hear. I do have questions for Mr. Chalmers.
19 Thank you, Andy.

20 MR. PERSICH: Thanks.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Anybody
22 else?

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: This kind
24 of ties into what Minority Leader was
25 saying, your 24 new hires, how is that going

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2 to impact your budget now?

3 MR. PERSICH: They're already
4 included in what I have. I have 360 that
5 are budgeted in the 2020 budget. It's kind
6 of in the out years. We have that same
7 number with steps and everything else, but
8 they're included in my current year's budget
9 and my multiyear plan assumptions, in the
10 out years.

11 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So it's all
12 the same?

13 MR. PERSICH: It's all, yes.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
15 DeRiggi-Whitton has a question for you as
16 well.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
18 know that you just mentioned about the two
19 savings, but would you also anticipate a
20 savings in overtime with these new hires?

21 MR. PERSICH: It's hard to say
22 right away. I would say we are going to
23 have some savings in overtime because of the
24 new additional hires and everything else.

25 I don't want to give you

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2 delusions that it's going to be overtime
3 set. But with more appearances there's
4 always good things that happen with that.

5 But I can't tell you this is
6 going to quantify additional overtime
7 savings on top of it, but I would say yes
8 there should be some -- until we put it in
9 place, it's a new structure and everything
10 else, I don't want to give you -- start
11 screaming out numbers of what we're going to
12 save.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No.
14 And I hope you don't feel we're putting you
15 in an awkward position. In my mind, along
16 with the Minority Leader, we never want to
17 enter into something that would push our
18 budget further than it's already stretched.

19 However, there are a number of
20 things, there are savings that I see. It
21 would make sense if we have the numbers.
22 We're short, what, 60 detectives, so if we
23 can get closer to that, I would have to
24 anticipate just logically as a lay person
25 that there would be some savings in

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2 overtime.

3 The other thing is, people worry
4 about taxes but they also worry about the
5 quality of life and safety.

6 I think all 19 of us are making a
7 good faith effort to try to hire more
8 detectives because we've heard for years
9 there has been a safety issue, work quality
10 issue.

11 It's never just a simple answer.
12 We are all trying to come up with different
13 factors. I think we're all under the
14 understanding that this is a financial risk
15 that we're going to take.

16 So hopefully we are leaving it up
17 to you to figure it all out to make it as
18 cost effective as possible. I really do
19 think there are a lot of factors that may
20 come to our favor, I hope.

21 MR. PERSICH: This was a unique
22 one because of the structure of the way the
23 contract was done. There was a problem, for
24 years we were discussing with this body, so
25 I think this addresses the needs of what had

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2 to be corrected in that contract. It was a
3 give and take on both sides I will say.

4 I think both parties agree that
5 this is the best thing for both parties at
6 this point. Budget wise it looks good to me
7 on paper. I have to tell you that. I think
8 it's going to make sense going forward in
9 the future.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
11 Gaylor.

12 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you,
13 Presiding Officer. Can anybody tell me how
14 many detectives are on board today?

15 MR. PERSICH: Approximately 300.

16 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Is it 300 or
17 324?

18 COMMISSIONER RYDER: As of right
19 now, 324.

20 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So when will
21 we be at 360?

22 MR. PERSICH: I think the
23 commissioner is going to go through and see
24 what his needs are and adjust it.

25 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Well, the

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2 needs are 360. We know that. That's what
3 you budgeted for and that's what you asked
4 for. So when will we be up to 360?

5 MR. PERSICH: I can't speak to
6 that.

7 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Well, then
8 who can?

9 MR. PERSICH: We defer to the
10 police commissioner as far as what he needs
11 as far as personnel.

12 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So the
13 number as of today is 327, I think it was
14 303 I believe. We are 327 roughly. We want
15 to get 360. That's is our goal. That is
16 our budget number.

17 If and when the contract gets
18 ratified and is finalized, those who are on
19 the fence about it watching what the other
20 contracts do, will make their decisions
21 whether they want to move on into the
22 detective division. Still not a solid
23 answer of when that number comes. I can't
24 tell you what's in the mind of the officer.

25 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: What do you

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2 think? Give me an estimate.

3 COMMISSIONER RYDER: I would say
4 it starts growing right away once everything
5 is ratified and starts moving because we
6 have a problem now. We don't have a problem
7 in the outlying years. I don't need 360 in
8 two years or three year or five, I need 360
9 detectives today working to combat the gang
10 problem, drug problem, the warrant problem.
11 How many warrants are we backlogged?

12 COMMISSIONER RYDER: I don't have
13 that number at the top of my head.

14 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: It's a
15 rhetorical question. A whole bunch. So is
16 the 6,000 and change incentive enough or
17 should it have been 10,000? Why don't we
18 give them 10,000 to give them 360 today?

19 COMMISSIONER RYDER: I think we
20 wait and see what the numbers become. With
21 these numbers, we would be able to open up
22 the third -- excuse me, the Sixth and the
23 Eighth squads. So we will now be able to
24 open those two squads up in the next couple
25 of weeks after they get out of school.

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2 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: All right.

3 Thank you, Commissioner.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO:

5 Mr. Chalmers, do you want to join us?

6 MR. CHALMERS: Maurice Chalmers,
7 budget review.

8 MS. CARLSON: Helen Carlson,
9 Office of Legislative Budget Review.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Hey guys,
11 how are you? A quick question just for a
12 point of reference.

13 The commissioner noted that
14 obviously there's been 24 additional
15 detectives who have been promoted effective
16 today.

17 I know when you were calculating
18 your report, I'm guessing you didn't have
19 that information?

20 MR. CHALMERS: No. We had based
21 it on 15 which was the number -- it would
22 probably change some numbers, but in the
23 grand scheme of things, for the first couple
24 of years, it probably wouldn't make a big
25 difference.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's what
3 I was driving at. So it wouldn't make a big
4 difference in the first couple of years but
5 do you plan on revising it or wait and see
6 what the commissioner does throughout the
7 year as it points to Legislator Gaylor in
8 terms of additional personnel being hired
9 throughout the year?

10 MR. CHALMERS: Absolutely be
11 monitoring it and making any adjustments and
12 reporting back to the body as they hire and
13 we'll give you an updated number.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. If
15 you could include it as part of the budget
16 reports too, Maurice, that would be great.

17 MR. CHALMERS: Absolutely.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.
19 My next question is in reference to page
20 three on your report. I talk a little bit
21 about this with Mr. Persich in regards to
22 the total cost of the contract.

23 I brought this up with
24 Mr. Persich earlier, but what I was driving
25 at was the cost of the contract. Per your

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2 report, you're about \$20 million shy of
3 where he was.

4 I tried to follow your chart the
5 best way I could. My daughter had a math
6 meet today and she couldn't figure it out
7 either.

8 Ultimately you come back to the
9 same number so I think the end game has been
10 met, satisfied.

11 But can you explain to me, you
12 guys have a lower cost. What's the biggest
13 variables in that?

14 MR. CHALMERS: Correct. So for
15 example what we use to calculate the salary
16 extras, the overtime, make sure that's going
17 to happen, is we use the average of the past
18 two or three years as an inflater. They use
19 one year. That makes a big difference. So
20 just by using an average, that let's say we
21 use 20 percent and they use 24 percent for
22 the salary extras, then you get a bigger
23 number. We used an average in the past
24 couple of years.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Got you.

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2 Okay. Fair enough. I think that's all I
3 have. Thank you, Presiding Officer. Thank
4 you, Maurice.

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I have some
6 follow-ups with the administration. I don't
7 know who wants to speak.

8 There had been a great emphasize
9 on having all of the contracts expire at the
10 same time and be negotiated at the same
11 time. But largely because they have
12 reopening clauses in them.

13 By breaking this off and having
14 this settled now, does the administration
15 have a concern in terms of this reopening
16 clause?

17 MS. FOX: At this time we don't
18 since this is the framework for how we will
19 proceed to negotiate with the other unions
20 so we don't have a concern that we will
21 trigger the reopening clause.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Doesn't that
23 assume that the other unions are going to
24 accept this similar deal?

25 MS. FOX: It's just a framework.

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2 It's not going to be identical because they
3 don't translate perfectly with other unions.
4 So the theory of more appearances, health
5 care contributions. That's the framework
6 but the amounts and everything is specific
7 to each union.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: It is a
9 concern for us obviously because this
10 contract if voted on and approved today is
11 settled, and then down the road if there is
12 another deal or interest arbitration that
13 gives benefits that are greater than the
14 detective's association can simply reopen
15 this up and claim the greater benefits.

16 MS. FOX: We would have liked to
17 have all the unions together but we can only
18 work with who is at the table and DAI was at
19 the table.

20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: In terms of
21 the framework, here's why I'm concerned it
22 might not be.

23 I looked at this and obviously
24 part of the emphasis here, and we were all
25 on board with this, the emphasis was to

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2 create a framework which would help
3 recruitment for the detectives so in a
4 crisis situation all of us have been
5 encouraging this.

6 Clearly this contract is
7 structured in such a way that it's focused
8 on that recruitment, police officers earning
9 \$6,249 while they remain in the police
10 steps, with the additional different grades
11 of detectives. It seemed to us there is a
12 trade-off here that the detectives agreed to
13 perhaps a lower wage increase and/or health
14 care contributions.

15 Is this really going to be a
16 framework for anybody else?

17 MS. FOX: Well, as far as the
18 salary schedule that detectives did not have
19 and the problem they did have, that was
20 unique to the DAI. We don't have to fix
21 that in the other unions. That's really
22 unique to the DAI.

23 The other items are universal.
24 Health care, shifts, how many days you work.
25 So that is similar. Whereas the first

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2 problem is not.

3 The other unions, the SOA, for
4 instance, you test and there is a career
5 path. CSEA, same thing. Just pulling out a
6 title, accountant one, two, three, they have
7 civil service built in career paths which
8 detective did not.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: That was
10 actually my point. I don't see the other
11 unions having the same incentive because the
12 recruitment is not the issue with them.

13 MS. FOX: But I don't have to fix
14 that with them.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Exactly,
16 which I think it might be difficult for you
17 to be able to point to this contract as
18 being a framework for them, because they're
19 going to say, you don't have to do anything
20 for us for recruitment, so why would we give
21 back --

22 MS. FOX: Wage increase.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Yes. So,
24 anyway, I don't want to go too far with
25 that.

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2 MS. FOX: The incentive is wage
3 increases.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: The
5 question, with respect to the first grade
6 detectives, there are now fewer than 30, but
7 there is no maximum included. So the
8 commissioner could designate more than 30
9 first grade detectives if he so chooses?

10 MS. FOX: He could.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Can a first
12 grade detective be demoted back into a lower
13 grade?

14 MS. FOX: Any designation could
15 be, just like detective.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: With respect
17 to the five additional days worked, how is
18 the time period measured? Is it measured
19 from the date this contract goes into effect
20 or is it measured in an annual basis?

21 MS. FOX: Calendar year.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I think you
23 covered my questions. Anyone have any
24 additional questions for any of the
25 administration?

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2 (No verbal response.)

3 Good? Anyone else want to add
4 anything to the discussion?

5 MS. FOX: I just want to thank
6 you for supporting law enforcement as you
7 always do.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We always
9 do, absolutely. And thank you for your
10 presentation.

11 President Wighaus, did you want
12 to add anything or are you good?

13 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: I just want
14 to make it clear as we talk about the
15 recruitment of detectives from the police
16 officer rank, again, as I stated before, we
17 had so many things we had to fix in this
18 contract. The 24/10 being the \$2,400 you
19 got when you first made detective. 15 month
20 steps. 75 months to top pay.

21 When you make detective now, you
22 get \$6,249 and we would love to get every
23 police officer that wants to be a detective,
24 we would love for them to start at third
25 grade step one.

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2 Unfortunately with everything
3 else we had to do to not only attract these
4 police officers, we have to retain our
5 detectives because, as you know, last year,
6 we lost seven or eight wanting to go back to
7 being a police officer.

8 So, when you are doing a
9 contract, our top pay usually you get your
10 percentage raises on that top pay. We
11 lowered the 15 month steps to 12 month
12 steps. The top pay to 48 months from 75
13 months. So that stayed the same.

14 But we also built another step,
15 the second grade level, which that's not a
16 percentage raise. That's another grade
17 where now that's an additional \$8,000 over
18 your third grade detectives.

19 Everybody makes second grade
20 detective. Every detective at top pay today
21 once this contract is ratified will be a
22 second grade detective.

23 Everybody in third grade steps
24 and police officer steps will flow through
25 the chart and their steps right through the

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2 second grade detective.

3 We also added that first grade
4 step which a minimum of 30 detectives will
5 get, that will be based with a committee and
6 ultimately with the commissioner's approval
7 and that's going to be on years of service
8 and everything you do.

9 But with everything we had to
10 fix, we couldn't give these police officers
11 a \$50,000 raise just when they want to be a
12 detective.

13 What happens is, when I made
14 detective, it was five years to top pay. As
15 a police officer five years to top pay.

16 Now, a police officers has nine
17 steps. They are seeing the same thing out
18 in Suffolk now because Suffolk expanded
19 their police officer steps to 12 steps.
20 They're having the same issues as we are
21 having about making detectives because you
22 can't give these police officers \$50,000
23 raises.

24 But lowering the months to top
25 pay, we chopped off a majority of detectives

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2 that are in police officers steps right now,
3 we chopped off about 6 and a half years of
4 them getting to a certain point where it
5 would have been the old top pay.

6 Some of these detectives now it
7 would have taken them ten years to get to
8 our old top pay which they will be a couple
9 of thousand dollars past that in three and a
10 half years. Then they will continue another
11 almost \$30,000 to the new top pay.

12 I understand the concerns of
13 trying to attract these police officers, but
14 financially everything that was in this
15 contract it was spread across the board. So
16 I don't want to run on, I just want to
17 clarify it a little bit.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Let me say
19 this. You and Chris and the entire
20 organization has been tireless in the last
21 several years about this issue of
22 understaffing, and I think your advocacy and
23 your work is the result of why we're here
24 today.

25 I want to congratulate you

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2 because apparently what it is that you have
3 negotiated has led to 24 new detectives
4 being designated today.

5 It's a concern to all of us that
6 we have sufficient detectives. Especially
7 with respect to the gang unit and drugs and
8 things of that nature.

9 So, again, I want to thank you
10 and I think you have been tireless with all
11 of us, individually and collectively.

12 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: And I will
13 still meet with you too.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Look, it's
15 good for your members but it's extremely
16 important for the residents of this county
17 that public safety is really at risk.

18 So, again, thank you.

19 Legislator Ford.

20 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: We had all had
22 expressed the concern over the shortage of
23 the detectives and the fact that our police
24 officers were not moving up into the ranks.

25 So I have to say thank you very

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2 much because by your negotiations along with
3 yourself and your team, you negotiated a
4 good and fair contract for your members and
5 that was evidenced by their ratification of
6 it.

7 I also want to thank you too that
8 you kept in mind our taxpayers as well.

9 Thank you once again. I think
10 this is a good day for Nassau County,
11 especially for those men and women who serve
12 us so well.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
14 Rhoads and Legislator Gaylor.

15 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you,
16 Presiding Officer. John, absolutely great
17 job, great effort on behalf of your behalf
18 of your entire team to get us here today.

19 But listening to what you had
20 presented and the commissioner, 24 new hires
21 today; is there some mechanism to prevent
22 them when the PBA negotiates their contract
23 in a month from now or six months or year
24 from those 24 seeing a better deal and
25 jumping back?

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2 Is there a minimum requirement or
3 staying in detectives before they are able
4 to jump back, or could potentially somebody
5 jump from contract to contract, better deal
6 when they get closer to retirement
7 especially because the outlying years look
8 pretty sweet here.

9 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: Potentially
10 that could happen? I guess it could, but if
11 one of the other unions do get a better
12 deal, we can sit down and reopen it.

13 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Okay, very
14 good. All right. Thank you, John. Great
15 job.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
17 Rhoads and Legislator Birnbaum. Legislator
18 Birnbaum.

19 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I just want
20 to thank you for all that you've gone
21 through and gotten to this point. It's
22 great 24 new hires, new detectives are
23 coming on as of today. As you know, the
24 Sixth Precinct reopened in October.

25 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: I heard that.

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2 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: We are very
3 concerned about the detectives that we are
4 promised, so does that mean they'll be
5 starting there?

6 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: I would
7 assume the commissioner is thinking along
8 those lines.

9 COMMISSIONER RYDER: In three
10 weeks the doors will be open in the Sixth
11 Squad. In school now, starting tomorrow.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Good
13 answer. Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: Also, we feel
15 with the new detectives being designated
16 today, there is 24.

17 There is a lot of -- we had our
18 informational meetings about the contract
19 and sometimes it's like the telephone game
20 and things get misconstrued along the way.

21 There were a lot of false rumors
22 out there and we've had over the last
23 several weeks, police officers calling the
24 office and calling our cell phones. We feel
25 now with these 24 new detectives today,

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2 they're going to come in and they're going
3 to tell their police officer friends that
4 they worked with the truth, and we're hoping
5 that just spirals into more letters.

6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
7 Walker.

8 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I know
9 Commissioner Ryder said it before but that
10 will include the Eighth Precinct, right, the
11 detectives over there?

12 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I want to
14 thank you too for your hard work and
15 dedication. I know that today is a
16 wonderful day for you to know that 24
17 additional detectives are on board and will
18 go through their training and the three week
19 period -- I guess three week training period
20 when that three weeks are up that you have
21 those detectives on board with you.

22 I do hope that that's an
23 incentive for others to come on board and I
24 hope we reach that 60 number as quickly as
25 we possibly can. Thank you very very much.

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2 PRESIDENT WIGHAUS: Thank you all
3 for your continued support. I appreciate
4 everything, meeting with me, and listening
5 to me and being behind us. So thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Anyone else?
7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: It's time
9 for the item. All in favor signify by
10 saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Those opposed?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 Carries unanimously.

15 We are going to put this
16 legislative meeting in recess at this time.
17 We're going to now jump in the emergency
18 item emergency calendar.

19 We are now going to jump into the
20 emergency item, the emergency calendar.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Emergency
22 Resolution Number 1-2020. An emergency
23 resolution declaring an emergency for
24 immediate action upon a local to amend Title
25 79A of the miscellaneous law of Nassau

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2 County to provide relief from fees charged
3 by various departments of county government
4 to the victims of Super Storm Sandy.

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: To establish
6 the emergency?

7 LEGISLATOR MULE: So moved.

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
10 Mule makes a motion, Legislator Rhoads
11 seconds it.

12 All in favor of the emergency
13 signify by saying aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 Those opposed?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Emergency carries.

18 The item is 35-20 and I'm going
19 to call it right now. A proposed local law
20 to amend Title 79A of the miscellaneous laws
21 of Nassau County to provide relief from fees
22 charged by various departments of County
23 Government to the victims of Super Storm
24 Sandy.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
4 Legislator Ford, seconded by Legislator
5 Rhoads. Item is before us. What this does,
6 it provides for provides refunds or waivers
7 with respect to fees charged to individuals
8 by County Government for people who have had
9 to do various things as a result of damages
10 from Super Storm Sandy; sewer connections,
11 pre-demolition, indexing at the County
12 Clerk's Office.

13 The fees are waived if they show
14 good cause which is demonstrated by a
15 notarized document addressed to the
16 department heads stating that the permit or
17 service is necessary due to the effects of
18 Super Storm Sandy. Any debate or
19 discussion? Legislator Rhoads, then
20 Legislator Mule and then Legislator Ford.

21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Obviously
22 Nassau County has extended its fee waivers
23 for Super Storm Sandy victims for necessary
24 repairs in addition for tax map verification
25 fees, recording fees, and any fees related

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2 to loan satisfactions for SBA loans and any
3 other loans they may have incurred as a
4 result of Super Storm Sandy.

5 Our intention was to extend these
6 fees indefinitely. I don't think anybody
7 really anticipated the fact that here we are
8 eight years after Super Storm Sandy and
9 unfortunately people are still dealing with
10 issues related to Super Storm Sandy.

11 While it may seem as though
12 perhaps some of our colleagues up in Albany,
13 when you look at some of the deadlines they
14 have been unwilling to extend and have
15 forgotten the plight of those of us who live
16 on the South Shore, we can assure the
17 residents of Nassau County, south shore that
18 we have not.

19 We want to make sure that we are
20 doing everything that we can to make it
21 easier for them to become whole and for them
22 to finally put this sad chapter in our
23 history behind them.

24 So the intention with this
25 legislation is to extend those fee waivers

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2 indefinitely. It's our understanding with
3 respect to many of the SBA loans most of
4 them had to be repaid in a period of ten
5 years. So we will be looking hopefully at
6 the end of that process near the end of
7 2022.

8 But it's also our intention
9 because the fee waiver expired at the end of
10 2019 for the period of January 1st
11 throughout the effective date of this
12 legislation, once it's signed by the County
13 Executive, our intention is that any funds
14 that have been paid would be refunded to
15 those homeowners if they happen to fall
16 within that window.

17 I just wanted to make sure that
18 was stated for the record as it is part of
19 our intent in introducing this legislation
20 was that there be a retroactive application
21 to cover every one so that there is a
22 continuous period of fee waiving.

23 But I thank you my colleagues for
24 voting for the emergency, for these families
25 it is still an emergency and appreciate your

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2 support for this legislation as a whole.

3 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
4 Mule.

5 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you very
6 much, Presiding Officer. Coming from a
7 community that was affected by Super Storm
8 Sandy, I can assure people who do not that
9 there are still many many families who have
10 not been made whole and are not able to live
11 in their homes. Just going up and down my
12 block, there are many homes that are still
13 up in the air and we have seen no work being
14 done on them for many many months. So I
15 know that these people are not able to live
16 at home.

17 That being said I want to make
18 sure I'm understanding the legislation.
19 This is legislation that we had in place but
20 it expired at the end of 2019. We're just
21 making sure that it continues from this
22 point forward.

23 Also, the reason why it's being
24 extended indefinitely is because we don't
25 know when the last of the claims will happen

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2 but this is something that will eventually
3 there will be -- no longer have any claims;
4 is that correct?

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I think
6 that's perfectly accurate, yes.

7 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you.

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Just if you
9 don' mind, Presiding Officer, just to
10 clarify, it's not from this point forward,
11 we want to make sure there is coverage from
12 January 1st, 2020 indefinitely until we are
13 done with the last of claims.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: I too want to
15 echo my support for this. Too many of our
16 homeowners had to dig into their own pockets
17 to be able to raise their homes and fortify
18 them against future storms based on whatever
19 the insurance requirements are.

20 Even though we put this
21 indefinitely, this program will be ending
22 like 2022, 2023 and all claims have to be
23 put in by then, all work, and almost
24 everything has to be paid by then.

25 We are doing it indefinitely just

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2 in case there may be one or two that may
3 fall through the crack and we can still
4 cover them, but more than likely this
5 program will be finished in 2023. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
8 debate or discussion among the legislator?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Hearing none, all those in favor
11 signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 Those opposed?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 Carries unanimously.

16 Again, I'm putting the Full
17 Legislature in recess.

18 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
19 Committee recessed at 3:46 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 11th day of February, 2020.

FRANK GRAY