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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO
PRESIDING OFFICER

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

Monday, May 4, 2020
1:25 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

5 Presiding Officer

6 9th Legislative District

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8 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

9 Deputy Presiding Officer

10 7th Legislative District

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12 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

13 Alternate Presiding Officer

14 4th Legislative District

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16 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

17 Minority Leader

18 1st Legislative District

19

20 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

21 2nd Legislative District

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23 LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

24 3rd Legislative District

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2 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

3 5th Legislative District

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5 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

6 6th Legislative District

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8 LEGISLATOR VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA

9 8th Legislative District

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11 LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM

12 10th Legislative District

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14 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15 11th Legislative District

16

17 LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

18 12th Legislative District

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20 LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

21 13th Legislative District

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23 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

24 14th Legislative District

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2 LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

3 15th Legislative District

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5 LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

6 16th Legislative District

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8 LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

9 17th Legislative District

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11 LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

12 18th Legislative District

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14 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

15 19th Legislative District

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17 MICHAEL PULITZER

18 Clerk of the Legislature

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going
3 to call this meeting of the Nassau County
4 Legislature. We are going to have an
5 emergency meeting and then a Rules Committee.
6 But call the meeting to order and ask that
7 Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel to lead us in
8 the Pledge of Allegiance.

9 We have a brief emergency calendar
10 for today's legislature. Before we get to
11 that obviously we have to call the roll.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Deputy
13 Presiding Officer Kopel.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
16 Ford.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
19 Bynoe.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
22 Solages.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
25 Mule.

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2 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

4 Gaylor.

5 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: The colonel

6 is present.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

8 Muscarella.

9 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

11 Birnbaum.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

14 DeRiggi-Whitton.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

16 Here.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

18 Kennedy.

19 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Present.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

21 McKevitt.

22 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

24 Schaefer.

25 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

3 Ferretti.

4 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

6 Drucker.

7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

9 Walker.

10 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

12 Lafazan.

13 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator

15 Rhoads.

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Minority

18 Leader Abrahams.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I am

21 here. So all 19 of us are present either in

22 person or via remote.

23 We have three emergency items. I'm

24 going to call the emergency for all three.

25 The three items are 117, 118, 119. They are

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2 ordinances supplemental to the annual
3 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
4 Office of Housing and Community Development.
5 That's all three of those items.

6 We need a motion to establish the
7 emergency. Moved by Legislator Rhoads.
8 Seconded by Legislator Muscarella. Any
9 discussion or debate on the emergency nature
10 of these items?

11 Actually, Kevin, you can give us a
12 presentation on the items themselves that will
13 establish why there is a an emergency.

14 MR. CREAN: Thank you very much.
15 Thank you for considering it as an emergency
16 today. Kevin Crean from the Office Community
17 Development. These are items 117-20, 118-20
18 and 119-20. They represent supplemental
19 appropriations under two grants. Supplemental
20 funding from the US Department of Housing and
21 Urban Development under the Emergency
22 Solutions Grants, Coronavirus Grant and the
23 Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus
24 funding. About eight and a half million
25 dollars in CBDG funding Coronavirus and about

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2 \$4.2 million under the Emergency Solutions
3 Grant Coronavirus funding.

4 The Emergency Solutions Grant is
5 separated into two different supplementals.
6 That's why we have three. Two different
7 allocations but that grant is separated into
8 two parts. Which just follows along the
9 process before HUD merged two programs
10 together as we just continue to keep them
11 separate.

12 These funds are specifically
13 appropriated by Congress and signed by the
14 president to push funds out to local
15 communities for items such as food banks,
16 purchase of personal protective equipment and
17 also some supplemental funding for general
18 community development and Emergency Solutions
19 Grants. The Emergency Solutions Grants
20 program specifically addresses the homeless
21 and those at risk of becoming homeless.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Yes,
23 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
25 Ellen wanted to say something.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Ellen, can
3 you hear us?

4 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I have a
5 question. How will PPE be monitored and the
6 expenditures to be sure that the funds are
7 being expended properly?

8 MR. CREAN: These two programs
9 are already administered by our office. So
10 this is supplemental funding. The rules are
11 generally the same although HUD has waived
12 some of the requirements. For instance, they
13 have waived caps on specific types of funding
14 for different types of activities. But
15 essentially the requirements are the same. So
16 our office that's what we are tasked to do
17 every year is to monitor the use of these
18 funds. So that's no different.

19 Most of these funds will go out to
20 various nonprofit organizations via
21 contracts. So those contracts will be
22 authorized and the payment to the nonprofits
23 will be done by a voucher against those
24 contracts. Those vouchers will be approved by
25 the comptroller's office, checks issued by the

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2 treasurer's office. It's the same process
3 that our office follows generally.

4 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Thank you.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Is there
6 some sort of expedited procedure that you're
7 going to have as opposed to the general
8 procedures which will take some time?
9 Obviously we want to get these monies into the
10 hands of the nonprofits and others to
11 administer these programs as quickly as
12 possible.

13 MR. CREAN: That's why we asked
14 for the supplemental to be done as an
15 emergency so we can start entering into
16 contracts. Whether we will have an expedited
17 process for the contracts I can't say at this
18 point. But right now we will be submitting
19 the amendment that you approved two weeks ago
20 to HUD for approval. They, hopefully, will
21 have an expedited process, although we have
22 not heard that.

23 We are still waiting for final
24 regulations from HUD to come down. But they
25 have encouraged municipalities to submit the

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2 amendment and to get started with allocating
3 funds in advance of the amendment.

4 Most of the funding that we are
5 authorizing do not require any waivers from
6 HUD other than the waiver of the cap on public
7 services and that's already been authorized.
8 So we're not looking for anything special on
9 this.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thanks.
11 But I guess getting this to you today as
12 opposed to two weeks from now it helps the
13 process along.

14 MR. CREAN: Absolutely. This
15 will allow us to enter into contracts and
16 encumber funds.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
18 else? Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So,
20 if someone were to be interested in trying to
21 get funding for like past electric bills that
22 were due what would be the advice to them? To
23 contact DSS?

24 MR. CREAN: Is this a renter?

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Just

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2 a constituent. In other words, how are we
3 getting this message out to people that this
4 is available?

5 MR. CREAN: We already had an
6 application portal -- we have a portal under
7 our regular grant funding, so we opened that
8 up to nonprofits and municipalities already.
9 So applications have already been received.

10 But for individuals who are looking
11 to access the funding they can contact my
12 office. We can put them in touch with a
13 nonprofit who may be providing those
14 services. If it's someone who is at risk, who
15 has not been able to pay their rent or not
16 been able to pay their electric utility bills
17 as a result of losing their job or loss of
18 income that's a program we already have in
19 existence. It's the Homeless Prevention
20 program. That's administered out of our
21 office. This is extra funding that will allow
22 us to reach a higher income threshold. So we
23 hopefully will be able to reach more people
24 with that program.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Just

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2 to make it easy, if we wanted to advertise,
3 not advertise, make it known we would say to
4 inquire about the Homeless Prevention Grant or
5 service?

6 MR. CREAN: Correct.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm
8 sorry to do this, but would you mind just
9 giving me the phone number that they should
10 call to make it easy?

11 MR. CREAN: Sure. It's
12 572-0100. We are coordinating with DSS on
13 this because we are expecting the volume of
14 applicants to increase. So the assessor is
15 going to assist us with the higher income
16 applicants and we are going to continue
17 processing the lower income applicants through
18 our office.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
20 Thank you all for the work you are doing.

21 MR. CREAN: Thank you.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
23 questions on the emergency?

24 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I have a
25 follow up to my first question. Is anyone in

1 Full Leg 5-4-20
2 overall charge of monitoring the county's
3 expenditures of COVID funding making sure we
4 are in compliance with all the applicable laws
5 regarding the regulations? Is there anyone in
6 particular in the administration? How are you
7 running this?

8 MR. CREAN: I'm the director of
9 Office of Community Development. These funds
10 are coming through my office. So I'm in
11 charge of oversight. But we are in turn
12 overseen by the comptroller's office which
13 audits our office annually.

14 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Okay.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Is that it
16 Ellen? You good?

17 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Yes.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone
19 else have any questions? Legislator
20 DeRiggi-Whitton.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
22 was happy that the funding that is going
23 through this process is going to be tagged
24 specifically COVID funding, correct?

25 MR. CREAN: Yes.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
3 anyone can just go back and trace it if
4 there's any questions later?

5 MR. CREAN: Absolutely. Yes.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
7 Which is much better than what we've had in
8 the past. I think that's a great improvement.

9 MR. CREAN: Through the
10 supplemental process we established a separate
11 grant line. So you see the two digit
12 extension. It's CBDG CV, which stands for
13 COVID virus. Actually it's C1 in the county.
14 HUD has termed it CV. We termed it C1 because
15 we are expecting a second allocation of
16 funding. That will be C2 when we receive
17 that.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
19 Thank you.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
21 legislators? I need a motion to establish the
22 emergency. Moved by Legislator Birnbaum.
23 Seconded by Legislator McKevitt. All in favor
24 of establishing the emergency signify by
25 saying aye. Those opposed? The emergency has

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2 been established by a unanimous vote.

3 Now on the items themselves, 117,
4 118, 119, I will call them. These are
5 ordinances supplemental to the annual
6 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
7 Office of Housing and Community Development.

8 Moved by Legislator Gaylor.

9 Seconded by Legislator Bynoe. We had
10 discussion both on the emergency and on
11 substance. If anyone has any additional
12 questions you can ask them now. Hearing none,
13 all in favor signify by saying aye. Those
14 opposed? Passes unanimously.

15 MR. CREAN: Thank you for your
16 attention to this. I appreciate it.

17 Motion to adjourn by Legislator
18 Ferretti. Seconded by Legislator Lafazan.
19 All in favor of adjourning the legislature
20 signify by saying aye. The legislature is
21 adjourned.

22 (Meeting was adjourned at 1:35
23 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATION

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this 12th day of
May 2020

FRANK GRAY