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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

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11 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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13 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

14 CHAIR

15

16

17 Theodore Roosevelt Building

18 1550 Franklin Avenue

19 Mineola, New York

20

21

22 November 9, 2020

23 2:29 P.M.

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2     A P P E A R A N C E S :

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4     LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

5                     Chair

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7     LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

8                     Vice Chair

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10    LEGISLATOR VINCENT MUSCARELLA

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12    LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI

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14    LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15                     Ranking member

16

17    LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

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19    LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

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1                   Public Safety - 11-9-20

2                   LEGISLATOR FORD:       Good afternoon

3   I am going to call the Public Safety Committee  
4   to order and ask the clerk to call the roll.

5                   MR. PULITZER:       Thank you madam  
6   chairwoman.   Public Safety Committee roll  
7   call.   Debra Mule.

8                   LEGISLATOR MULE:       Here.

9                   MR. PULITZER:       Legislator Siela  
10   Bynoe.

11                   LEGISLATOR BYNOE:       Here.

12                   MR. PULITZER:       Ranking Member  
13   Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

14                   LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
15   Here.

16                   MR. PULITZER:       Legislator John  
17   Ferretti.

18                   LEGISLATOR FERRETTI:       Here.

19                   MR. PULITZER:       Vincent  
20   Muscarella.

21                   LEGISLATOR FORD:       Rose Walker is  
22   substituting for him.   I'm sorry.   We should  
23   have told   you sooner.

24                   MR. PULITZER:       Rose Walker.

25                   LEGISLATOR WALKER:       Here.

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2                   MR. PULITZER:       Vice Chairman  
3   Steven Rhoads.

4                   LEGISLATOR RHOADS:     Present.

5                   MR. PULITZER:       Chairwoman Denise  
6   Ford.

7                   LEGISLATOR FORD:     Here.

8                   MR. PULITZER:       We have a quorum  
9   ma'am.

10                  LEGISLATOR FORD:     Thank you very  
11   much sir. There are seven items on the agenda  
12   today which are clerk item numbers 319-20,  
13   328-20, 329-20, 334-20, 338-20, 341-20 and  
14   342-20.

15                  Clerk item 319-20 is an ordinance  
16   supplemental to an appropriation ordinance in  
17   connection with the district attorney's  
18   office. I'm going to just go through the  
19   first one. May I have a motion? By  
20   Legislator Walker. Seconded by Legislator  
21   Rhoads. This item is before us. Good  
22   afternoon sir.

23                  MR. MCMANUS:       Bob McManus,  
24   district attorney. This grant was provided to  
25   the Nassau County District Attorney's Office

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2    by the United States Justice Department Office  
3    for Victims of Crime through the New York  
4    State Office of Victim Services. Funding will  
5    provide the formation of a new organizational  
6    unit called the Victims Services Unit. Direct  
7    services provided by the Victims Services Unit  
8    will focus on efforts that one, respond to the  
9    emotional, psychological or physical needs of  
10   crime victims. Two, help victims of crime to  
11   stabilize their lives after a victimization.  
12   Or three, to help victims to understand and  
13   participate in the criminal justice system.

14               LEGISLATOR FORD:     Actually, I'm  
15    really glad to hear about this. I think it  
16    will be something very key. So many people  
17    are traumatized as a result of being a victim  
18    of a crime. So, I guess this is just being  
19    started up at this point, right, and then  
20    you'll will see how to, maybe the DA will see  
21    how to staff it and what type of outreach that  
22    you'll have.

23               MR. MCMANUS:     Yes. This grant  
24    will allow us to greatly increase our efforts  
25    in that area. We are very excited about it.

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2                   LEGISLATOR FORD:       You should be.

3   Any other legislators?   Anyone from the

4   public?   No.   Legislator Mule.

5                   LEGISLATOR MULE:       Thank you.   I

6   too am really pleased to hear about this and

7   I'm wondering what type of professional will

8   you be using to staff it?   Will it be

9   psychologists, social workers or something

10   else that I'm not thinking about at the

11   moment?

12                   MR. MCMANUS:       The major staffing

13   component will consist of individuals in a

14   title called crime victims advocate, which is

15   a competitive civil service title where the

16   requirement is basically, the entry level

17   requirement is basically a bachelor's degree.

18   We also have at this particular time three

19   certified social workers also working in the

20   program.

21                   LEGISLATOR MULE:       Okay.   So, will

22   the entry level people, because obviously you

23   could have a bachelor's degree in anything but

24   that wouldn't make you qualified to deal with

25   victims of crimes.   You certainly need to have

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2   training for that.  What type of training  
3   would the beginner people be getting?

4           MR. MCMANUS:     The people, the  
5   individuals you referred to there has been an  
6   issue with the lack of experience.  But we  
7   have provided extensive training to the people  
8   who are already on board and plan on doing so  
9   again with additional people that we plan to  
10   hire in 2021.

11           In terms of details regarding the  
12   training curriculum, I think I would prefer  
13   providing that to you and other members of the  
14   legislature in writing because I was not  
15   directly involved in the training.

16           LEGISLATOR MULE:     Okay.  But just  
17   one further question with regards to that.  Is  
18   there money in the budget for training?

19           MR. MCMANUS:     Yes.  The funding  
20   for the training is included in the grant  
21   budget.  So, it's part of the grant and we do  
22   not have to use county funding for the  
23   training.

24           LEGISLATOR MULE:     Thank you very  
25   much.

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2                   LEGISLATOR FORD:       I just have a  
3   question just to follow-up on that.  
4   Considering, because I know that during the  
5   budget safety hearing, the public safety  
6   budget hearing, it was indicated that it's  
7   very hard for you to get DAs because the pay  
8   scale is so low and for other reasons. Is  
9   this pay going to be competitive so that we  
10  can attract people to come here and work?

11                  MR. MCMANUS:       In the crime  
12  victims advocate?

13                  LEGISLATOR FORD:       Yes.

14                  MR. MCMANUS:       Due to changes that  
15  occurred over the years with the union  
16  contracts, CSEA contract, I can't help but be  
17  honest and say I feel the starting salary is  
18  very low. It's in the high 20s.

19                  LEGISLATOR FORD:       I guess that's  
20  something that has to be addressed. I know at  
21  civil service is there any age restrictions on  
22  this position? Say if you were retired, had  
23  been a DA and you realize retirement is not  
24  working out for you, like an ADA, just want to  
25  come back and work, can somebody say in their



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2       50s come back and work? Or 40s or whatever?

3           MR. MCMANUS:       There's no question  
4       about it.

5           LEGISLATOR FORD:     Thank you very  
6       much sir. Anyone else? Any public comment?  
7       I see nobody. I would like to see if we could  
8       all -- who's in favor of passing item 319-20?  
9       All in favor say aye. Any opposed? The item  
10      passes unanimously. Thank you.

11           Clerk item numbers 328-20, 329-20,  
12      341-20 and 342-20 are ordinances supplemental  
13      to an appropriation ordinance in connection  
14      with the Office of Emergency Management.

15           May I have a motion. Moved by  
16      Legislator Walker. Seconded by Legislator  
17      Rhoads. These items are before us. Good  
18      afternoon sir.

19           MR. DELANEY:       Thomas Delaney,  
20      Nassau County Office of Emergency Management.

21           The first item, 328-20, that's our  
22      emergency management performance grant. This  
23      is a FEMA grant passed through New York State  
24      Department of Homeland Security emergency  
25      services. That affords us the ability to fund

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2   our salary and fringe for some of our  
3   employees within our office. There's a 50  
4   percent cost match on this which is funded by  
5   general funds. Again, with salary and fringe  
6   so it's in kind.

7           LEGISLATOR FORD:       Unless anyone  
8   has specific questions we'll just keep going  
9   and go back to any other questions, okay? So  
10   now it's 329, right?

11           MR. DELANEY:       329-20. This is  
12   also called the emergency management  
13   performance grant but it's suffix with a  
14   special. This is a one-time rollout from  
15   FEMA. Again, passed through New York State  
16   DHSES to allow us to purchase PPE that's  
17   outside of regular reimbursement channels.  
18   Right now FEMA has drawn that line in the sand  
19   since September 15th saying that all PPEs must  
20   be bought for medical if you're going to get  
21   FEMA reimbursement on it. This goes beyond  
22   that.

23           LEGISLATOR FORD:       This FEMA money  
24   has nothing to do with CARES Act through  
25   COVID-19, this is something separate?

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2                   MR. DELANEY:       Totally separate.

3                   LEGISLATOR FORD:     I think you  
4   have 341.

5                   MR. DELANEY:       341-20. This is  
6   called the public safety answering point  
7   grant. This grant is funded by New York  
8   State. It's not a federal grant. We use this  
9   to enhance the capabilities of our public  
10   service answering point. That is our 911  
11   center fire com, med com. Got a wide array of  
12   investments we are allowed to make with this  
13   including purchasing furniture.

14                  LEGISLATOR FORD:     That's  
15   interesting. How about 342 then?

16                  MR. DELANEY:       342-20 is our state  
17   Homeland Security grant award. This is a FEMA  
18   grant. Again, passed through New York State  
19   DHSES. As you can see on this there are  
20   multiple supplemental appropriations tied into  
21   this. So, with this funding we provide  
22   allocations for OEM and for the health  
23   department, for DPW and medical examiner's  
24   office. Everybody gets their own  
25   appropriations. They can make their own

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2   purchases. But the budgets are put upfront so  
3   that we know where the money is going to go  
4   and it's all approved by New York State.

5           LEGISLATOR FORD:     Thank you very  
6   much. Any debate or discussion? Anything  
7   from the legislators? Any public comment?  
8   Legislator Walker.

9           LEGISLATOR WALKER:    Just on clerk  
10  item 342. Is each of those departments  
11  allotted a certain amount or is it split  
12  equally?

13          MR. DELANEY:     It's not split  
14  equally. We look at it with our commissioner  
15  of our department as far as like how the best  
16  needs of the county are going to be met. I  
17  will tell you that OEM keeps a substantial  
18  amount on hand and that's so that when things  
19  pop up we are able to address them. That  
20  could be a purchase for the police  
21  department. Those lines that you see out  
22  front if you came in the front entrance that  
23  money wasn't budgeted for the PD. We had it  
24  in our budget, we bought it for them.

25          LEGISLATOR WALKER:    I had one

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2     other question as far as I think it was clerk  
3     item 329. How do we stand with all our PPE  
4     purchases? Do we feel we have plenty?

5                   MR. DELANEY:       We've got a very  
6     good stockpile that we built up in the very  
7     beginning of the incident. We have been  
8     drawing down as rapidly as we might have  
9     initially forecast on that. Again, we don't  
10    know where this disease is going to go. We  
11    are moving forward with continued procurement  
12    of PPE. Setting up a blanket order for the  
13    purchase of disinfectant wipes so that we can  
14    purchase them on a reoccurring basis and not  
15    on an emergency basis. Also setting up a  
16    blanket order for like face masks like I'm  
17    wearing now. The three-ply blue surgical  
18    masks. Again, set up as a blanket order so  
19    they're not emergency purchases.

20                   The big thing with this though is  
21    that, like I said, after September 15th FEMA  
22    drew that line so that everything that's going  
23    to be federally reimbursable has to be a  
24    medical need.

25                   LEGISLATOR WALKER:       So by that

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2    you mean that either we're running low on  
3    particular items -- explain that to me, a  
4    medical need.

5                   MR. DELANEY:     If I have this face  
6    mask and I give this to somebody in EAB,  
7    emergency ambulance bureau, that's a medical  
8    need. If I take it and I give it to somebody  
9    in DPW it's not a medical need.

10                   LEGISLATOR WALKER:     It's really  
11    who you give it to will make a difference if  
12    it's going to be any type of reimbursement?

13                   MR. DELANEY:     Correct.

14                   LEGISLATOR WALKER:     I'm sure  
15    during the height of COVID we were, because we  
16    were desperate, we were spending a lot of  
17    money on equipment that now we can possibly  
18    save money, buy it at a more reasonable price  
19    because we're not in that utmost state of  
20    emergency and have to get it from where ever  
21    we can get it?

22                   MR. DELANEY:     That's correct.

23                   LEGISLATOR WALKER:     Thank you.

24                   LEGISLATOR FORD:     Thank you very  
25    much. All those in favor of passing these

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2   items please signify by saying aye. Any  
3   opposed? The items pass unanimously. Thank  
4   you very much sir.

5           Clerk item number 334-20 is an  
6   ordinance supplemental to an appropriation  
7   ordinance in connection with the police  
8   department. The item is before us. Can I  
9   have a motion? Legislator Walker. Seconded  
10   by Legislator Bynoe. Who is here from the  
11   police department?

12           MR. FIELD: William Field, deputy  
13   inspector for the police department.

14           Item 334-20 is a supplemental  
15   appropriation of \$425,009 in funds received  
16   from the United States Federal Emergency  
17   Management Agency, FEMA. This is an award of  
18   the COVID-19 assistance to fire fighters  
19   grant. The grant funding will be utilized to  
20   purchase PPE, personal protective equipment,  
21   to be used by members of the Nassau County  
22   Police Department Emergency Ambulance Bureau  
23   in their ongoing response to COVID-19. These  
24   supplemental appropriations have no net impact  
25   on the budget. The award does require a 15

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2   percent cash match.

3                   LEGISLATOR FORD:       Thank you.   Any  
4   of the legislators?   Anyone from the public?  
5   I see none.   May I have a motion to pass this  
6   item.   All those in favor please signify by  
7   saying aye.   Any nays?   The item passes  
8   unanimously.

9                   We now have clerk item 338-20 is an  
10   ordinance supplemental to an appropriation  
11   ordinance in connection with the emergency  
12   response department.

13                   May I have a motion.   Legislator  
14   Walker.   Seconded by Legislator Bynoe.   Who is  
15   here to speak on this?

16                   MR. PERSICH:       Andy Persich,  
17   Office of Management and Budget.   This item is  
18   appropriating the additional funds that we  
19   received from the CARES funding back in May.  
20   It's the second half of the second tranche of  
21   it.   We did it in pieces because we weren't  
22   sure if the legislation was going to change,  
23   that it could be used for revenue offset.   But  
24   as we sit here now we're getting close to the  
25   end of the year in order for me to make the



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2   appropriate actions within the budget the  
3   other half of it has to be done.

4           LEGISLATOR FORD:     Thank you very  
5   much.   Any questions?   I see none.   All those  
6   in favor of passing this item please signify  
7   by saying yes.   Any no's?   The item passes  
8   unanimously.

9           Since we have an addendum, may I  
10   have a motion to suspend the rules.  
11   Legislator Ferretti.   Seconded by Legislator  
12   Walker.   Item number 346-20 is an ordinance  
13   supplemental to the annual appropriations  
14   ordinance in connection with the Office of  
15   Emergency Management, the correctional center  
16   and the fire commissioner and the police  
17   department.   Who is here from the  
18   administration?

19           MR. DELANEY:     Item 346-20 is for  
20   urban area security initiative grant.   This is  
21   a grant that comes through FEMA and passed  
22   through New York State DHSES.   We get the UASI  
23   grant because of our proximity to New York  
24   City.   They're the primary beneficiary of it.  
25   But we get about two percent of that award.

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2           Again, it's similar to the state  
3   homeland security grant program I described  
4   before where we split the allocations with  
5   receiving departments. This one is used for  
6   our law enforcement agencies, the fire marshal  
7   gets some of it, PD gets some of it and as  
8   does the correction unit.

9           LEGISLATOR FORD:     I don't have  
10   the summary, the whole thing on it but what is  
11   the amount of funding that we're receiving  
12   under this? Do you have that handy?

13          MR. DELANEY:     Yes, I do. The  
14   total amount of the award is \$2,649,658. And  
15   contractually 25 percent of it has to go to  
16   law enforcement.

17          LEGISLATOR FORD:     Any questions  
18   from the legislators? Public? I see none.  
19   May I have a motion to pass this item. All  
20   those in favor say aye. The item passes  
21   unanimously. We're finished. Thank you very  
22   much.

23          There's no other business before  
24   this committee. May I have a motion to  
25   adjourn. Moved by Legislator

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2       DeRiggi-Whitton.   Seconded by Legislator

3       Ferretti.   All those in favor?   This committee

4       is now adjourned.   Thank you very much.

5                       (Committee was adjourned at 2:47

6       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 13th day of  
November 2020

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FRANK GRAY