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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

NORMA GONSALVES,
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, January 23, 2017
1:09 P.M.

1

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

3 NORMA GONSALVES, Presiding Officer

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

8 STEVEN RHOADS

9 DENISE FORD

10 LAURA CURRAN

11 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

12 VINCENT MUSCARELLA

13 ELLEN BIRNBAUM

14 LAURA SCHAEFER

15 DONALD MACKENZIE

16 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,
17 Minority Leader

18 ROSE MARIE WALKER

19 DENNIS DUNNE

20 ARNOLD DRUCKER

21 JAMES KENNEDY

22 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

23 CARRIE SOLAGES

24 SIELA BYNOE

25 MICHAEL PULITZER,
 Clerk of the Legislature

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2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: With
3 everyone in their seats, we will begin with
4 Dennis Dunne, please lead us in the Pledge
5 of Allegiance.

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

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: In light
9 of the forecast, I'm going to try to do this
10 in the most orderly fashion. It will make
11 it possible for people to get home before
12 anything does materialize. So there may be
13 a point where I will recess the Full Leg,
14 however, hopefully, the weather forecast,
15 which we will be given updates every two
16 hours as to what is anticipated, and so I
17 will gauge the time based on those reports.

18 In the meantime, I'm going to ask
19 Acting President of the PBA to approach us
20 and so not to be remiss in not having the
21 top cops at every Full Leg meeting.

22 So I'm going to call on acting
23 president of the PBA, Pete Paterson to come
24 up and introduce our honorees for today.

25 Before we do that, I must admit

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2 that we -- that we do not have the
3 presentations to present to them today,
4 however, they will be forthcoming and we
5 will send them the citations that they duly
6 deserve.

7 Introduce yourself, please. Tell
8 us about our top cops.

9 MR. PATERSON: I'm acting
10 president of the PBA.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I said
12 acting president of the PBA.

13 MR. PATERSON: I know. I heard.
14 It's got to remain that way. You can't
15 change it.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm not
17 going to change it. It's not up to me.

18 MR. PATERSON: Acting President
19 Pete Paterson from Nassau County PBA. Once
20 again, we would like to thank you for
21 honoring our cops as you do each and every
22 month. It's important for our membership to
23 know that we have the public support as well
24 as the elected officials.

25 By doing this every month, it's a

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2 perfect illustration of how you have our
3 backs. I would like to introduce you to
4 officers Andrew Crosby and Dan Concannon of
5 the Fifth Precinct.

6 Back in June of 2016, they
7 received a radio assignment for shots fired
8 in the vicinity of Hempstead Turnpike and
9 Elmont. They responded knowing this is a
10 dangerous situation. They started
11 canvassing the area. They got a description
12 from witnesses of a car with six occupants
13 in it.

14 While they were on patrol, they
15 also received another call and,
16 unfortunately, an innocent bystander was
17 driving home with their son. She heard like
18 a loud popping noise almost like shots
19 fired. When she got home, she realized her
20 car got hit by some of the stray bullets and
21 apparently one of the bullets must missed
22 her two year old son striking the child.
23 Thank God no one got hurt.

24 And the officers, realizing the
25 severity of the situation, kept up looking

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2 for what we call the bad guys.

3 Officer Crosby came across the
4 car eventually due to good police work. He
5 summoned some assistance immediately and
6 Officer Concannon responded as a backup.
7 They successfully arrested the individuals
8 out of the car, they recovered a loaded gun,
9 took another gun off the streets, and
10 brought another successful conclusion to a
11 very, very dangerous situation.

12 Once again, I stand here, our
13 officers make the commissioner look good.
14 He makes the rest of the chiefs, the
15 department, and makes the PBA proud that we
16 represent two officers like this. Thank you
17 very much.

18 COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER:
19 Legislator Gonsalves, Minority Leader
20 Abrahams, thank you for recognizing the
21 police.

22 It's a great time in Nassau
23 County. I can't say just how much it means
24 to me and how much it means to the
25 department that we have your support.

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2 One of the great things about
3 Nassau County is that we do have the support
4 of our elected leaders, so thank you for
5 that.

6 I do want to just take a moment
7 to acknowledge these officers. This is a
8 situation that could have went horribly
9 wrong where you could have had a young child
10 that was brutally, senselessly, murdered.
11 By the grace of God, that did not occur.
12 Thanks to the fine work of these officers,
13 it goes without saying that Nassau County is
14 a safer place because of them.

15 Pete Paterson touched on it, and
16 I have an office over in headquarters, but
17 I'm not the reason that Nassau County is
18 among the safety suburban communities, it's
19 because of the fine work of these police
20 officers and all of our police officers in
21 this department, all about civilians, who
22 every day truly make a difference in the
23 quality of lives here in Nassau County. So,
24 congratulations and a great job. How much
25 time do you have on the job right now?

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2 OFFICER: Seven months.

3 COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: I sort of
4 knew that before I asked the question. That
5 goes to show you these new cops out there
6 that are being hired each and every day,
7 over 600 of them are making a difference.

8 It's a great thing because we
9 hear about it every day, the staff, about
10 the great work that they're doing, so
11 congratulations and the best of luck. It
12 really is something special. Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I see you.
14 Legislator Solages.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
16 very much, Presiding Officer. Good
17 afternoon to everyone and good afternoon to
18 Acting President Paterson and also
19 Commissioner Krumpter.

20 Mr. Paterson said before that the
21 works of the officers made the chiefs look
22 good. But I'm also here to say that you
23 also made the community look good.

24 The Fifth Precinct and officers
25 who are dedicated and to the community truly

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2 are a wonderful contribution to the
3 community. I get many compliments about the
4 great professionalism of the precinct and
5 the officers and I'm here to thank you for
6 what you did for saving lives, but also to
7 thank you for your work day in and day out.
8 Thank you and God bless you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now it's
10 the opportunity to take a picture. So I
11 think we're going to come up here. Is that
12 okay?

13 COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: I think
14 that's where they come.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I asked
16 the officers if they wanted to speak and the
17 answer was "absolutely not." One was seven
18 months on the job and the other a year and a
19 half. Amazing.

20 This is not going to be the
21 ordinary format for the Legislature today.

22 I believe Minority Leader Kevan
23 Abrahams mentioned that there are two people
24 that we should remember today with a moment
25 of silence.

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2 I'm going to begin with one that
3 I knew for many, many years. She recently
4 passed on Friday. She was a former
5 councilwoman for the Town of Hempstead but,
6 more importantly, Angie Cullen was truly
7 truly a public servant.

8 I emulated her in many ways,
9 however, I could not surpass the openness
10 and the biggest heart that any elected
11 official has ever had and a dear friend, and
12 I would liked to call her sometimes my older
13 sister because we were able to communicate
14 in a way that we knew that there were things
15 that had to be done and they could be done
16 and they got done.

17 So, Angie Cullen was a great
18 councilwoman but she certainly was a great
19 person to the communities that she served
20 primarily because she only had the interests
21 of the residents in mind.

22 I know that we have someone here
23 today who knew and worked with Angie on a
24 first hand basis and former supervisor of
25 the Town of Hempstead, Richard Guardino, and

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2 I think -- would you like to say a few words
3 on behalf of Angie? It's bringing tears to
4 my eyes here.

5 MR. GUARDINO: Thank you, Norma,
6 and thank you for the opportunity to say a
7 few words. I'm Rich Guardino, currently the
8 executive director of the Regional Planning
9 Council. But in my former life, I was the
10 Supervisor of the Town of Hempstead and
11 served many years with Angie both during the
12 time she was the Receiver of Taxes and later
13 as a councilwoman.

14 I could echo everything that you
15 said, Norma. She had a huge heart. She was
16 always available to the folks in the Town of
17 Hempstead. Didn't matter where they lived
18 in the town. She was 24-7. The whole
19 purpose of her life was to help people out
20 to make things better, to assist, and she'll
21 be sorely missed.

22 I thank all the members of the
23 legislature for giving me a few moments to
24 recognize her here today. I know that she
25 would appreciate it very much and her family

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2 appreciates it very much. Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

4 Now, Minority Leader.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
6 Madam Presiding Officer. This past week we
7 lost two great Freeporters. One obviously
8 in Angie Cullen, and, Bishop Frank White,
9 who was the pastor of the Zion Cathedral,
10 which some of you may have had an
11 opportunity to visit in Freeport, moved to
12 Suffolk County, but obviously originated and
13 grew up there.

14 Freeport has lost two individuals
15 that not only put Freeport first but put
16 this county first. Two individuals that had
17 tremendous amounts of leadership.

18 To spend a second on Angie, I
19 knew Angie from my time in office. She was
20 always a very very classy lady. She joked
21 with me whenever I wanted to do a project in
22 Freeport, she made sure that I had to talk
23 to her first to make sure she was okay with
24 the project.

25 And to speak on the man, Bishop

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2 White, you will not meet a more generous
3 person in your lifetime. Somebody that has
4 opened his arms like all our religious
5 leaders are in opening the doors of the
6 church to make sure that those who are in
7 the community that can't for themselves
8 could ensure that they're cared for. He was
9 a tremendous man and both will be a
10 tremendous loss for this county. So please
11 join me in a moment of silence.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Please
13 stand for a moment of silence for Bishop
14 White and Councilwoman Angie Cullen.

15 (A moment of silence was
16 observed.)

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
18 very much.

19 I did have, and I still will have
20 a point of personal privilege for Legislator
21 Rhoads, but we are awaiting another group of
22 students from Wantagh I believe, and they
23 have not arrived as of yet.

24 And, without any further ado, I'm
25 going to ask the clerk to please call the

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2 roll, beginning with the Full Leg first.
3 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
4 Deputy Presiding Officer Richard Nicoletto?
5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.
6 CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
7 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel?
8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.
9 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela
10 Bynoe?
11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.
12 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
13 Carrie Solages?
14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.
15 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
16 Denise Ford?
17 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.
18 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
19 Curran?
20 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.
21 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
22 Vincent Muscarella?
23 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.
24 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.
25 William Gaylor III?

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2 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Here.
3 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Ellen
4 Birnbaum?
5 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.
6 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
7 DeRiggi-Whitton?
8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
9 Here.
10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
11 Kennedy?
12 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
13 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
14 Schaefer?
15 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.
16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
17 Dennis Dunne, Sr.?
18 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.
19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
20 Arnold Drucker?
21 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.
22 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
23 Rosemarie Walker?
24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.
25 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

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2 Donald MacKenzie?

3 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

5 Steven Rhoads?

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader

8 Kevan Abrahams?

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Presiding Officer

11 Norma Gonsalves?

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

13 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
14 quorum.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
16 very much, Mr. Pulitzer.

17 We usually have 30 minutes of
18 public participation and, guess what? We
19 are going to begin with the 30 minutes of
20 public participation. And the first one I
21 have is Pat Boyle, I believe. Did I see
22 him? And then we will proceed.

23 I ask that you try to maintain
24 the three-minute limit so that we can move
25 on as quickly as possible because everybody

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2 has something worthwhile to say.

3 MR. BOYLE: Hi everybody. As
4 this is the first meeting since the passing
5 of John Ciotti, I thought it would be
6 appropriate to make an acknowledgment from
7 the public regarding John.

8 As one of the original 19
9 legislators, John helped set the tone of the
10 Legislature and was known as one of the true
11 multi-partisan legislators of his day.

12 He was a staunch Republican but
13 he was always willing to reach across the
14 aisle. His dedication to Elmont was evident
15 in being ever present in community meetings
16 and events, but as he mentioned to me often,
17 his true passion was for seniors, veterans
18 and youth.

19 Whenever there was an issue to
20 discuss regarding youth services, he would
21 call and we would sit down and we would
22 strategize about what was best and he would
23 come back to the leg and try to work out the
24 best thing that he could.

25 That made him very different from

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2 a lot of people. He looked for input. He
3 looked for ways to be able to make things
4 work well. That I think made him stand out
5 from many others.

6 No constituent issue also was too
7 big or too small for John. I could go on
8 about John for a long time and talk about
9 everything he did. I think most of you have
10 read about it in the papers over the course
11 of the past two weeks and I would be just
12 reiterating the same thing.

13 But I just wanted to make sure
14 that people knew that John is going to be
15 sorely missed by both the Elmont community
16 and he wasn't a personal friend of mine but
17 I did consider him a work friend of mine.
18 I'm going to miss him quite a bit as well
19 too. Thanks.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
21 Pat. John Michon.

22 MR. MICHON: I come before you
23 today on this stormy day, annoyed,
24 frustrated and disappointed by all of you
25 along with the County Executive for cutting

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2 funding for bus service.

3 Whenever the county has budget
4 problems, it is almost always those who have
5 the least which are impacted the most. Us
6 bus riders didn't cause the county's budget
7 woes, so why should we be forced to suffer?

8 It was touted in 2011 how
9 changing to a private operator would save
10 service, yet here we are not that many years
11 later facing a similar scenario in which
12 nearly half the bus routes are cut.

13 The company has not maintained
14 their buses well, they are much less
15 reliable than the MTA. It's not just the
16 quality but also the quantity of the service
17 that is less.

18 So here we are with a Legislature
19 that is literally going to throw bus riders
20 to the taxi wolves instead of standing up
21 against our indicted County Executive.

22 The cuts in April will leave
23 thousands without a way to get to work,
24 school, and appointments. The impact to the
25 economy will be devastating, welfare rolls

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2 will grow and crime will go up.

3 Even if you do not take the bus,
4 these cuts will affect you. Unlike the
5 storm outside, this is a storm you can
6 prevent by coming up with the funding to
7 stop these cuts. These aren't like the cuts
8 made last year. These cuts will affect busy
9 routes and actually cost the system money as
10 passenger revenue is lost.

11 One of the routes I use, the N35
12 is going to be eliminated in Westbury,
13 forcing me to use the Long Island Railroad,
14 or the always jammed and late N22 and
15 walking through a town that is not so safe
16 after dark.

17 So it will become that much more
18 important for me to move to a safe area with
19 good train service, but it's an uphill
20 battle. I'm mentally disabled and in a
21 housing program. Rents are high. Housing
22 is in short supply and many landlords
23 discriminate against us.

24 I know perhaps this is part of
25 the plan to make Long Island only a place

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2 for rich people. Well, I'm not going to
3 stand for it. You should all be ashamed of
4 yourselves and this is coming from a
5 Republican, by the way.

6 Now it is time to take immediate
7 action to save bus service in Nassau County.
8 If you fail an economic disaster, an
9 avoidable one will ravage Nassau County.
10 NICE has been a colossal failure from the
11 start.

12 Admit your mistake and turn the
13 buses over to the MTA since you obviously
14 don't seem to have any interest in funding
15 it.

16 God is watching over all of you
17 to make sure you do the right thing by us
18 and I really hope you will. Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Aaron
20 Watkins Lopez.

21 MR. LOPEZ: Good afternoon. My
22 name is Aaron Watkins Lopez. I'm with the
23 Long Island Bus Riders Union as well as a
24 resident of Lynbrook.

25 As we sit here and talk right

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2 now, NICE Bus is planning to make cuts in
3 April. They have already thrown in the
4 towel, but as John said, we don't need to
5 get to that point.

6 Last year NICE Bus had to spend
7 an additional \$1 million to reinstate those
8 routes that they cut in February. Routes
9 they didn't need to cut. The funding was
10 there. There are games that are being
11 played and they don't need to be played.

12 If the money is there, if Nassau
13 County can pony up more money for the buses,
14 they should, and they should do it
15 post-haste.

16 Aside from that, there are other
17 ways we can get money for NICE Bus. I don't
18 know if you are all aware of this, but a
19 couple of years ago, there was the idea of
20 regulating Uber. We were talking about
21 doing that as a county.

22 Now, the city has undercut us and
23 plans on doing it for the state. The
24 problem is that the legislation says all the
25 Uber revenue, all of the money made with

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2 that tax will go straight to the MTA. That
3 means that all of Long Island, all of
4 upstate will be paying more money to the MTA
5 and we won't be seeing that return back.

6 We need, as a county, as this
7 Legislative body, to make that not happen.
8 We need to be talking to our senators and
9 our assembly members about editing and
10 amending this ridiculous legislation from
11 giving more money to the MTA.

12 As you are all aware, the MTA
13 commuter tax that employers pay on Long
14 Island sends over \$200 million to the MTA
15 per year. On top of that, they are
16 estimating another \$102 million from this
17 Uber tax. That's \$102 million we could be
18 using for our own bus system.

19 We need to stop letting the state
20 get away with taking our money, our tax
21 money, and sending to the city and us not
22 getting that money back.

23 Lastly, we need to hold NICE Bus
24 accountable. I want to commend Legislator
25 Bynoe for calling for this audit of NICE

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2 Bus. We need to see, why are they making a
3 profit every year, and, yes, they are a
4 private company. They are allowed to make a
5 profit. But when they're making a profit
6 that's half the deficit of our bus, there is
7 a problem there.

8 If they're not increasing
9 service, they shouldn't be seeing an
10 increase in their profits. Especially since
11 ridership has been dropping. We're down
12 almost 10,000 riders since the inception of
13 NICE Bus.

14 I would like everyone to know
15 that NICE Bus is having two public hearings
16 on February 16th. I would implore you to go
17 to these hearings. They're not just going
18 to be about the cuts, they're going to be
19 about the fare increase that the MTA is
20 about to force on us. That's \$3 per one way
21 trip on the bus. \$6 round trip and we are
22 seeing less service and they're planning on
23 cutting those buses and not giving us that
24 money back.

25 So, once again, I implore you.

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2 If there is money in the county, find it,
3 use it. We can't wait until the last
4 minute. We need to be talking to our state
5 representatives about getting this Uber tax
6 to be equitable and fair to all transit
7 systems, not just the MTA, and we need to be
8 holding NICE Bus accountable.

9 Because, as John said, we've been
10 here for five years. They have been cutting
11 service, raising fares, and we haven't seen
12 nothing for the amount of money, time and
13 effort we have put into this system and it's
14 about time is held accountable. Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr. Lopez.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Deputy
17 Presiding Officer Nicolello.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just real
19 briefly, one of the points that you made was
20 with respect to Uber and eventually when
21 they do wind up licensing them or permitting
22 them to operate in New York State.

23 I am 100 percent with you in
24 terms of the money, the revenues not going
25 to the MTA but being earmarked towards Long

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2 Island Bus.

3 Senator Martins was working to do
4 exactly that before the end of the session.
5 He's not there anymore, but we will be in
6 touch with our state senators to make sure
7 that that happens. We do not want that
8 money to go into the overall MTA pot. We
9 want that money to go to pay for Long Island
10 bus operations.

11 MR. LOPEZ: I'm happy to hear
12 that but really this needs to be worked on
13 soon. If you go to the website, you go to
14 the senate website and you check that bill,
15 it's making its way through.

16 New York City does not mess
17 around when it comes to getting money for
18 that bus system. We shouldn't be messing
19 around either. As well, Suffolk County is
20 already working their Legislative body on
21 lobbying their legislators.

22 We are looking to send a
23 contingent of all Long Islanders up to talk
24 about this, both Nassau and Suffolk. As a
25 region, we need to come together and talk

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2 about what we need to make sure we're
3 expanding, we are taking care of our own
4 before we start funneling money to a system
5 we don't use.

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

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I would like
9 to respond to the point first. And it
10 appears that the rest of the football team
11 is there. Just wanted to address one point.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
13 Rhoads.

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
15 Madam Presiding Officer.

16 Just to correct the record on one
17 point and not a point by you, Mr. Watkins,
18 and I agree with what you said, 100 percent,
19 and I think most of us do, if not all of us.

20 I just want to correct the record
21 that Nassau County did not cut funding for
22 NICE Bus. Nassau County is funding 100
23 percent of what it is supposed to fund for
24 NICE Bus.

25 What was cut was the additional

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2 funds that we were able to find last year to
3 stave off the cuts that were initially put
4 in place last year.

5 For budgetary reasons, we weren't
6 able to find those additional funds this
7 year. I believe that once the 2016 numbers
8 are closed, we may be looking at some other
9 things that we might be able to do to aid
10 that situation if we can't find other
11 funding.

12 I do want to correct the
13 statement that Nassau County actually is
14 under funding its allotment to NICE Bus.

15 MR. LOPEZ: I appreciate that but
16 Nassau County gives pennies. If you look at
17 Suffolk County who funds \$30 million a year
18 to their bus system compared to the \$2.5
19 million, it's underfunding, even if its the
20 state allotment.

21 I do understand that the money
22 was a one time kind of band-aid, but the
23 problem is we keep on having these one time
24 band-aids where we just try to stave off
25 cuts and we have nothing sustainable. We

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2 definitely need to be looking at sustainable
3 annual revenue streams that we can dedicate
4 to the bus so when things happen, if there
5 is a lack of money in the Nassau budget,
6 it's not taking away extra money that we
7 need regardless. That's the reason why the
8 deficit is \$12 million instead of \$7
9 million. Thank you.

10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,
12 Mr. Lopez.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Joanne
14 Borden.

15 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I will be
16 brief, I promise.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
18 Curran.

19 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thank you
20 very much. Also, another idea, Uber, which
21 I think Carrie Solages brought up a while
22 ago as well, something that I'm asking our
23 Albany representatives to look to is the MTA
24 payroll tax, obviously we pay it, we're not
25 getting much.

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2 If the suburban counties can get
3 one or two percent of that, that's ten, \$15
4 million a year in recurring revenue. It's
5 MTA payroll tax makes sense to go for public
6 transportation infrastructure and buses is a
7 great fit for that.

8 I have written to our legislators
9 who have proposed it last year in Albany.
10 It didn't go anywhere. I'm hearing there's
11 a new push for that. So I think that's
12 something that your group can advocate for
13 and I'm sure we'd be partners with you on
14 that.

15 MR. LOPEZ: Absolutely. Once
16 again, that's \$502 million we, as Long
17 Island businesses, are sending to the MTA
18 and we're not seeing a return back. Any
19 money that is being sent from Long Island
20 that we're not seeing an investment in our
21 own infrastructure is money we deserve back.
22 So I agree. Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now Joanne
24 Borden.

25 MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon. I'm

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2 here today to ask for justice for
3 transgender people. If you believe in our
4 country's founding principle of all men are
5 created equal, you must understand to
6 achieve that principle, all men must be
7 treated equally.

8 I ask you for equal treatment
9 because that is just, fair, right and
10 patriotic. Patriotism, patriotism has no
11 room for prejudice.

12 For over 100 years, experts who
13 study us believed we are born transgender.
14 Modern scientists have found we are born
15 transgender. From childhood we transgender
16 people know we were born transgender.

17 So I ask you to stop harming us.
18 God never intended for you to harm his
19 creations. Our founders reflected equality
20 in our country's mantra. Equal treatment is
21 what America is.

22 We urgently need you to end our
23 fear, our fear, of harmful discrimination.
24 You do this by including us in the county's
25 Human Rights Commission Law. The majority

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2 of Nassau citizens favor human rights for
3 transgender people.

4 The laws of our neighboring
5 counties and surrounding states treat us
6 equally and nothing bad ever happens.

7 Furthermore, this country's
8 principle of all men are created equal
9 cannot happen spontaneously to fulfill our
10 founding father's dream, all men and women
11 must be treated equally, treated like every
12 one else.

13 As legislators, it's your duty
14 and responsibility to protect all your
15 citizens. As politicians, it's incumbent
16 upon you to heed the majority of your
17 constituents.

18 Jefferson said, every human being
19 has a right to equal, indeed identical
20 treatment, in the machine of the law.

21 Stop punishing us and pass the
22 Gender Clarification Law. God made us this
23 way, so he must have intended for us to be
24 this way. I have two seconds. Thank you
25 for listening.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Pearl

3 Jacobs.

4 MS. JACOBS: I support the grant
5 agreement on behalf of the Department of
6 Parks, Recreation and Museum in the
7 Historical Social of the Ameri-cultural
8 initiatives, and I support that they should
9 be supported and embraced by our county, our
10 state and our country.

11 As should beautification
12 initiatives that invoke pride in one's
13 community should also be supported and
14 embraced.

15 Ms. Gonsalves, has contract
16 B-11-16 been placed on the legislative
17 calendar?

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No, it has
19 not.

20 MS. JACOBS: It is disappointing
21 to learn that the dispute among the
22 Legislative body continues with no
23 resolution in sight.

24 As adults, we teach our 6 year
25 old children to get along, to communicate

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2 with each other, to respect one another and
3 try to do your best to compromise.

4 Yet, we, as adults, do not model
5 similar behaviors. How sad this is.

6 As legislators, you should be
7 modeling these behaviors for your
8 constituents. You talk the talk, but do not
9 walk the walk.

10 The residents of Uniondale will
11 not remain silent or rest until project
12 B-11-16 is moved to the Legislative
13 calendar. We will walk the walk. We are
14 more united than ever and we will continue
15 to take action orientated initiatives to
16 ensure that our community is included in
17 Governor Cuomo's vision of a sustainable and
18 an economically vibrant Long Island.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
20 much. Minority Leader.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Pearl,
22 Heidi, as well as everybody that's here
23 today. I want to continue again to thank
24 you for continuing to come down.

25 This has been an issued that has

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2 stymied now for almost a year and why this
3 item has not been called. Unfortunately, it
4 doesn't seem to be anything more than petty
5 politics that's being played by my
6 colleagues in the majority, because the
7 County Executive, who is from my party, seen
8 fit to send this item down and go above the
9 politics, and do the right thing by the
10 Uniondale community.

11 So, this, so we can frame it out
12 is being held up by the Presiding Officer
13 for whatever reason. They claim it's tied
14 to the capital plan.

15 Unfortunately, this was something
16 that was tied into a capital plan of many
17 many years ago. This was a vision that all
18 people that represented the Uniondale
19 community, myself, at the time Supervisor
20 Murray, County Executive Mangano, Senior
21 Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby, all support,
22 the community support it.

23 But it's now being road blocked
24 because of the politics that exist. It's
25 unfortunate that we continue to have good

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2 people like yourselves that keep coming down
3 meeting after meeting and not get a result.

4 So I'm going to ask the question
5 again that I asked several months ago to the
6 Presiding Officer: When will this item be
7 on the calendar so that these people can
8 finally see the beautification in their
9 community that their tax paying dollars have
10 paid for, Madam Presiding Officer?

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I will
12 tell you this, there is more than one side
13 to every story. Sometimes people do not
14 hear both sides of the story.

15 We are a governmental body,
16 that's for sure. However, we should be
17 acting in unison and that does not happen.
18 I'm not going to look for a debate at this
19 point in time. But, when all of us join
20 together in endorsing contracts that are
21 germane to the health and public safety and
22 wealth of this county, then we can move
23 forward as one body.

24 Until that, when we do not get
25 cooperation from those who were elected to

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2 do the right thing then, guess what, we in
3 turn need to do what is right by this county
4 as a whole. Heidi, thank you very much.

5 MS. JACOBS: My name is Pearl.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know
7 what your name is.

8 MS. JACOBS: You probably don't
9 want to thank me, but that's okay.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know who
11 you are and don't be confrontational.

12 MS. JACOBS: I'm not being
13 confrontational.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I got news
15 for you, I understand where you're coming
16 from.

17 MS. JACOBS: I don't think you
18 do.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Don't tell
20 me what I understand and what I don't
21 understand.

22 MS. JACOBS: I don't think you
23 do. That's my opinion.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Guess
25 what? It's my opinion as well.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam
3 Presiding Officer, just to correct the
4 record on two fronts; one, this Legislature,
5 and you know full well, you bring up working
6 in unison on contracts. This particular
7 item, and Pearl and Heidi and everyone
8 that's here, you know this. This item is
9 funded for.

10 We passed the capital plan for
11 this particular item going back to 2012. We
12 are now five years from that point when the
13 funding was in place.

14 The money has been put into the
15 economy's finance system. It's ready to go.
16 The County Executive said, send it down.

17 To tie this into the debate on
18 capital projects and contracts which is a
19 whole other debate in regards to the
20 county's ability to have independence and
21 integrity and transparency in this process
22 is absurd. To me it's a farce to try to
23 tell these good people that their project is
24 tied into that.

25 This was a project that goes back

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2 to 2012. You know this. The public knows
3 this. It's being held up not because of the
4 funding that's in front of the county now
5 that's being considered in terms of the
6 capital plan, it's being held up for petty
7 politics. Let's call it for what it is.

8 I mean, you can't dispute the
9 fact that the funding has been in place for
10 almost five years. The County Executive
11 sent the contract down almost a year ago.

12 No one can dispute that it's tied
13 into capital project funding for the 2016
14 capital plan, or 2017 capital plan. It's
15 been passed in the 2012 capital plan.

16 MS. JACOBS: Legislator Abrahams,
17 we do understand that Baldwin's
18 beautification project is going forward.
19 How is that happening?

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Well,
21 Baldwin's project is going forward. Well, I
22 can say a couple of different things.
23 Baldwin's project has received the bonding
24 to go forward. That is bonding that we do
25 not -- most of my colleagues in the

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2 Democratic minority did not support because
3 it was done in a manner which was done at 10
4 o'clock at night which we feel the time of
5 day did not add to the transparency, and
6 that is a project where we did not support
7 the bonding for that project. Not that we
8 don't support the project. The project does
9 have merit. That's not the issue.

10 The issue was the time of day
11 and how it was handled and the rush and the
12 deal in terms of how it was made.

13 But that, Pearl, is a contract
14 that still needs to come before the
15 Legislature for a vote.

16 This is different. This project
17 in Uniondale received the bond votes, just
18 like the Baldwin project. But it also now
19 has a contracted vendor to go along with it.
20 Baldwin is not at that point yet.

21 So this is ready to go. We have
22 a contractor that has been waiting for
23 funding to be put in place for almost a year
24 and has not seen anything move forward on
25 this project.

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2 It's two different things. That
3 contract still needs to be developed for
4 Baldwin. This one, the contract is ready to
5 go and the contract sits in the Clerk's
6 Office waiting to be calendared by the one
7 person who can calendar it, the Presiding
8 Officer.

9 It has not been calendared for
10 one -- I can only see one reason, unless I
11 hear something different. It has not been
12 calendared for one reason which is tied to
13 petty politics because of what's going on in
14 the county.

15 If somebody wants to have a
16 debate on why we're withholding capital
17 funding for the 2016 plan, I would welcome
18 the hearing, would love to have a debate.

19 People in this county see what is
20 going on in terms of this county, in terms
21 of transparency, and the need for integrity
22 in terms of county contracts. That is very
23 clear. We want to have that hearing and
24 debate, I welcome that. Please schedule
25 that date. We would be happy to have that.

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2 We have not had one hearing since
3 the AbTech scandal happened almost two years
4 ago, not one hearing in regards to the
5 county's procurement process, which
6 everybody is entitled to their day in court,
7 but the County Executive has been indicted
8 on.

9 We all know the facts, so we have
10 not had one hearing in this legislative
11 process since then. Not one. Not one.
12 Millions of dollars being spent and we have
13 not had one hearing on procurement practices
14 in this county.

15 So if you want to have that
16 debate and say that that's the reason why
17 you are holding up this particular contract
18 because we're not supporting capital
19 funding, I welcome the debate. Let's have
20 it. I look forward to that day.

21 You know what? That day will
22 never happen because they will never
23 schedule the hearing.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
25 very much.

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2 MS. SANFT: I just want to say,
3 I believe this is the fifth time Pearl and I
4 have come up to speak. I'm just getting
5 over the flu, that's why I'm not speaking
6 very much, but I just felt like I had to be
7 here.

8 Spring is almost here. Could you
9 please push this through? It's like 75, 85
10 percent ready to go. We're just waiting for
11 you. Just do the right thing. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
13 very much, Heidi.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I agree
15 with the Minority Leader on one point. This
16 is petty politics and it originates in the
17 minority.

18 The Nassau County sewage
19 treatment plants are being held up, has
20 nothing to do with what they want to do.
21 It's simply to make a point and use their
22 leverage.

23 There are traffic studies all
24 over this county being held up in al 19
25 districts.

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2 There are projects that are not
3 going forward. There are public safety
4 issues not going forward because they're
5 playing petty politics.

6 For him to expect in his district
7 we are going to mover something when he is
8 holding up everything else in the rest of
9 the county on petty politics, it's just an
10 unreal expectation. Of course things are
11 going to be held up. Things are being held
12 up in my district, being held up in
13 Legislator Ford's districts.

14 MS. SANFT: Well, then, maybe you
15 can negotiate something.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I agree.
17 Let's move the items along.

18 MS. SANFT: Kevan, maybe you can
19 give them a little and they'll give us a
20 little. Maybe that's what it has to come
21 down to.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We need to
23 move all these projects.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Heidi, let
25 me correct a couple of things. I don't

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2 think Deputy Presiding Officer Nicoletto was
3 completely forthright with you.

4 One, we have voted for public
5 safety bonding before. When the police
6 officers who we just honored today needed
7 vests, we voted for those vests. We were
8 willing and able to do the traffic studies
9 that the Deputy Presiding Officer also
10 brought about.

11 We will be happy to do it. But
12 let's just call it for what it is. This is
13 a negotiation where they want the Democrats
14 in the minority to negotiate for something
15 that's already passed, has been contracted,
16 and the only people we're talking about
17 negotiating with are the folks on that side
18 that want to look to try to get something
19 for themselves.

20 Because the County Executive has
21 already sent it down. This is good for
22 Nassau County to have all our communities be
23 beautified.

24 Second thing, what we are talking
25 about, they're glancing over. What they are

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2 talking about what we are looking to fight
3 for, we have been fighting for an
4 Independent Inspector General to oversee the
5 contract process.

6 Now, if I asked anybody in this
7 room, does the contract process need
8 independence and transparency? Every single
9 person is going to say yes. You know why?
10 Like I said before, everybody is entitled to
11 their day in court.

12 However, that being said, we have
13 a cloud of doubt with the County Executive
14 under indictment. We have a cloud of doubt
15 with the AbTech scandal which led to the
16 convictions of Senator Skelos and son.

17 There are contracts that are
18 going through this process, that would go
19 through with the same funding that they want
20 to push through, hundreds of billions of
21 dollars that they want to push through, that
22 will go through the same procurement process
23 without it being corrected. That's what
24 they want us to go along with.

25 MS. SANFT: That's a little too

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2 much. We are talking about a project that's
3 under a million dollars here.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're
5 talking about a project that would go
6 through, but your project --

7 MS. SANFT: Our project and what
8 you're talking about, we're talking about a
9 tiny little pea compared to a big apple.
10 I'm just saying, if you're going to
11 negotiate, let it be something on the same
12 level.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But what
14 they want to negotiate Heidi, is the ability
15 for us to procure and fund those projects in
16 the future similar to what the Uniondale
17 streetscape would be, or any other project
18 in the county such as the Deputy Presiding
19 Officer brought about.

20 What we believe is that we cannot
21 go forward in the future. Remember, this is
22 2012 we're talking about in terms of
23 Uniondale.

24 We cannot go forward with bonding
25 hundreds of millions of dollars without the

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2 proper integrity and independence that needs
3 to be involved in our procurement process.
4 They want us to bond no matter what. Would
5 you agree, would you want this Legislature
6 to bond hundreds of millions of dollars
7 beyond this year to fund contracts without
8 any integrity in light of what we're seeing
9 with the County Executive?

10 MS. SANFT: Things have to be
11 done properly. That's all I have to say,
12 and transparency.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I
14 appreciate you coming down and Pearl as
15 well. There will be one more comment before
16 we move on to the Full Legislative meeting.
17 That will be the Deputy Presiding Officer.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Two very
19 short points and I hope it strikes everybody
20 in the room that is arguing that we should
21 pass this contract, but the rest of the
22 contracts you can't possibly get through it
23 without integrity, number one.

24 Number two, this is what it comes
25 down to. Why this is being held up, why the

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2 sewage treatment plant is being held up, why
3 the traffic study is being held up, why
4 projects in all 19 districts throughout the
5 county are being held up, they want an
6 Inspector General. We have a Commissioner
7 of Investigations.

8 So, in my mind, it's a matter of
9 semantics. This is a semantic argument, a
10 political argument, it's petty politics.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: This is why
12 we need the rebuttal because we can't even
13 bring ourselves to be truthful when the
14 public is asking us questions about --

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Altering
16 the facts.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Now, Rich,
18 you know full well that the county brought
19 together a Commissioner of Investigations
20 but you know full well that person --

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority
22 Leader Kevan Abrahams --

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And then,
24 number two, you know full well -- one second
25 Heidi -- you know full well I have been

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2 asking for this item to be called at least
3 placed on the calendar which you can't even
4 bring yourselves to do that. So it has
5 nothing to do with pass.

6 I'm not going to be presumptive
7 and assume you will pass it, we need your
8 votes, but I'm not going to assume that. It
9 needs to be debated and discussed like every
10 contract in the county.

11 But with that being said, let's
12 just be honest and forthright with the
13 people. We are talking about an Independent
14 Inspector General that does not work for the
15 County Executive like what the Deputy
16 Presiding Officer is indicating, somebody
17 who is independent to review the process and
18 have subpoena power to investigate
19 corruption when they see it or possible
20 corruption when they see it. It's totally
21 two different things.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The debate
23 is now over. And public comment is over.
24 Thank you, Heidi, and thank you, Pearl, and
25 hopefully maybe something will be resolved

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2 down the road. Heidi, thank you, 30 minutes
3 have expired.

4 I would like to move on. There
5 is a group of young people out there that
6 have been waiting to be called upon. So I
7 would like to go on with it.

8 If you want to talk to me talk to
9 me after the meeting.

10 MS. SANFT: Okay. We'll talk to
11 you after the meeting.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I will be
13 here to talk to you.

14 MS. SANFT: Good. Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now,
16 Legislator Steven Rhoads for a point of
17 personal privilege and then we are going to
18 go on with the agenda with the calendar for
19 the Full Legislature. Go ahead.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you
21 very much, Madam Presiding Officer. I rise
22 on a point of personal privilege today to
23 recognize the Wantagh High School Varsity
24 Football Team, who won the Long Island
25 Championship. I'm glad you guys are here

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2 today and I'm glad that you are learning a
3 little bit about civics or lack of civics,
4 as the case may be.

5 You had a remarkable season and
6 many people may not recognize that even
7 though the school year starts in September,
8 football begins much earlier than that.
9 Weight training, full practices start in the
10 middle of August, and there's a lot more
11 work that goes into it than just the start
12 of the school year. Their season officially
13 started with a win over defending Conference
14 III County Champions Plainedge, and through
15 the first four games, Wantagh had outscored
16 their opponents 134 to 7.

17 One of the most important and key
18 games on the Warriors schedule was against
19 the Rough Riders of Roosevelt, always a
20 tough opponent. But was truly special about
21 this game was that it was a Friday night
22 game, everybody watched the show, "Friday
23 Night Lights," and the first night game in
24 Wantagh for over five years.

25 Wantagh had an impressive victory

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2 against Roosevelt by the score of 28 to
3 nothing. Warriors would go on and beat
4 Hewlett 42 to 21 following an impressive
5 performance from Gavin Casey and Tom Rohan.
6 Next they beat Roslyn by a score of 42 to 8,
7 with an impressive defensive performance
8 leading with Sean Colbert, Joe Valenti,
9 Jimmy Joyce and Gavin Casey, and to finish
10 their quest of an undefeated regular season
11 at a conference championship, they faced the
12 Golden Eagles at Bethpage. After a slow
13 first quarter, the Warriors put up 14
14 unanswered points, and the defense did the
15 rest. Wantagh won the game by a final score
16 of 24 to 7.

17 Their quest for a conference
18 championship was complete but there was more
19 to accomplish. The Warriors started their
20 play off run with a home game against Floral
21 Park, they went on to win that game 48 to
22 nothing following notable performances by
23 defensive player on offense.

24 Sean Colbert rushed for two touch
25 downs including one fumble recovery for 30

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2 yards. Seven different Warrior players were
3 responsible for touchdowns and next up was
4 Bethpage in the semi finals at Hofstra.

5 Wantagh would go on to win
6 another shutout and win by a score of 28 to
7 nothing. The defense limited Bethpage to
8 total of 88 yards.

9 For the county championship,
10 Wantagh would have to face Roosevelt yet
11 again. Gavin Casey ran for 121 yards and
12 advancing the Warriors to their first county
13 championship in 10 years.

14 The final game, win or lose would
15 be the Long Island Championship against East
16 Islip. The game was November 25th, the day
17 after Thanksgiving. East Islip struck first
18 but Wantagh didn't hang their heads and
19 answered with a 30 yard touch down pass from
20 Castellano to Rohan evening the score at
21 seven a piece.

22 At half time the score was 21 to
23 14 with Wantagh up, but that was the
24 offensive part of the game. The entire
25 second half was defense. No one scored.

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2 Wantagh won the game 21 to 14 resulting in
3 their long awaited Long Island Championship,
4 their first in 15 years.

5 The statement is true that
6 defense wins championships as demonstrated
7 by their effort. Wantagh would only give up
8 a total of 14 points on their entire playoff
9 run finished with an undefeated season, a
10 conference championship, a county
11 championship and a Long Island championship,
12 and a Long Island Championship, and it
13 doesn't get much better than that.

14 I'm rising today to recognize you
15 and your remarkable accomplishments. I
16 would like you to have the opportunity to
17 meet the members of the Wantagh Varsity
18 Football Team.

19 If you'll come up to the front,
20 as I call you, we will be presenting you
21 with your own individual citations.

22 First off, I want to recognize
23 Head Coach Keith Sacks. If you come to
24 legislative meetings you may recognize Coach
25 Sacks, you may recognize some of the

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2 players, because he coached the Wantagh
3 Varsity Baseball Team to a New York State
4 Championship earlier in 2016. So great job.

5 Assistant head coach is Maurice
6 Carter and James Merrill, and special
7 assistant Matt Robbins who actually would
8 have played but for an injury he sustained
9 it kept him out for the season.

10 I'm going to call up the players
11 individually, just hold your applause till
12 the end otherwise we're going to be here for
13 a while. I know that there's other business
14 to attend to.

15 First Christopher Hogan, Vincenzo
16 Larosa, Brett Pine, Ryan McCarty, Andrew
17 Russo, Joseph Rodriguez, Jay Castellano,
18 Ryan Murphy, Vincent DeMayo, Kevin Murphy,
19 Thomas Rohan, Jason Corso, Patrick Walsh,
20 Devin Kennedy, Jake Picarillo, Donald
21 Shaumwaffel, Jr., I went to High School with
22 your dad, making me feel old. Rauol Aurora,
23 Anthony Bonno, Russell Hack, Jesse Beard,
24 Gavin Casey, Samuel Slovez, Kevin Murphy,
25 Richard Kirchner, Anthony D'onofrio, Daniel

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2 Urena, Nicholas Libretto, Matthew Kirk,
3 Jason Kiernan, Frank Grogan, Joseph Grogan,
4 Sean Colbert, Jack Lavoshe, Colin Geraffo,
5 William Bonasera, William D'Mateo, Michael
6 Frendo, Samual Cioffe, Ryan Alessius, Thomas
7 Mulane, Dillon Finley, Felix Hunter, Logan
8 Von Runnen, Richard Label, Owen Nolan, Colin
9 Kusak, Michael Kessler, Leon McDermott,
10 Patrick Smith, Gavin Gerrara, Luke Paladino,
11 Jack Codlin, Justin Wosniak, Michael Peer
12 Giovani, Kyle Graham, and our four captains,
13 Joseph Valenti, James Joyce, Sean Colbert,
14 and Nolan Foley.

15 Ladies and Gentlemen, it's my
16 honor to present to you the Conference Three
17 Champions, Nassau County Champion, and Long
18 Island Champion Wantagh Warriors Varsity
19 Football Team.

20 There is no way to accomplish a
21 victory like you guys did without playing as
22 a team. You guys have been the model of
23 fight all year long. We couldn't be more
24 proud of you in the 19th legislative
25 district and on behalf my fellow

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2 legislators. Congratulations.

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Are you going
4 to repeat next year, coach?

5 COACH SACKS: Well, as they
6 learned, there are a lot more important
7 things going on than what we're doing here.

8 But thank you very much for
9 having us. It's really an honor to be here.
10 Any opportunity to honor these kids is
11 great, and whatever work ethic and time and
12 effort and energy they put into, they are
13 going to be great in life, not just on the
14 football field. So they really make us
15 proud every day. Thank you for having us.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now it's
17 time to get to the calendar of the Full
18 Legislature. We are going to go out of
19 order primarily because one of today's
20 appointees was here the last time to the
21 bitter end, and I could not believe that she
22 went through, I believe four or five hours
23 of our debating and trying to get things
24 done here at the Legislature.

25 It's my privilege today to call

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2 two items. I know that there are people
3 here on their behalf and, the first item is
4 Resolution 11, Number 19, a resolution to
5 confirm the County Executive's appointment
6 of Margaret Martinez Malito to the Long
7 Island Regional Planning Council;

8 And the second item is Item 20,
9 resolution 12, a resolution to confirm the
10 County Executive's appointment of Nancy
11 Engelhardt to the Long Island Regional
12 Planning Council.

13 Motion, please.

14 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
17 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
18 Walker. Mr. Becker?

19 MR. BECKER: Yes, Madam Chair,
20 John Cameron who is the Long Island Regional
21 Planning Chair would like to speak on behalf
22 of the appointees.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very
24 much, Madam Chair, as well as members of the
25 Legislature. Today we have two prospective

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2 new appointees to the Regional Planning
3 Council; we have Maggie Martinez Malito, as
4 well as Nancy Engelhardt and I would like to
5 speak on behalf of both individuals. Many
6 of you probably know both of them.

7 Maggie Martinez Malito is the
8 executive director of the Nassau County
9 Youth Bureau. She's actually here joined
10 also by her brother Ray Martinez, the former
11 commissioner of the Department of Motor
12 Vehicle for the State of New York, now the
13 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for the State
14 of New Jersey. So I welcome Mr. Martinez
15 here to join in support of his sister.

16 Also, I'm joined by our executive
17 director which you acknowledged before Rich
18 Guardino, the former supervisor of the Town
19 of Hempstead. As well as fellow board
20 member, Elizabeth Kustudio, of the Regional
21 Planning Council, as well as Elizabeth Cole
22 who is also the Deputy Director of Regional
23 Planning Council in support of the two
24 nominations.

25 Both Ms. Malito as well as Ms.

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2 Engelhardt have accounted themselves
3 outstandingly for many many years.

4 As I mentioned, Maggie is the
5 executive director of the youth bureau and
6 Nancy Engelhardt actually serves on the
7 council now but has moved from Suffolk
8 County to Nassau County, I guess she's seen
9 greener pastures to the west.

10 But Nancy is now a resident of
11 Nassau County and has served the council
12 beautifully over the last number of years.

13 Nancy is one of the founding
14 directors of the Energia Partnership, the
15 leadership of -- the council for leadership
16 here on Long Island through Molloy College.

17 Both will bring outstanding
18 expertise as well as various perspectives to
19 the Council. We feel that they will help us
20 achieve our goals in reaching out to the
21 diverse communities of Nassau County and
22 Long Island. I heartily endorse the
23 appointments of both Nancy as well as Maggie
24 Malito.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you

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2 very much, Mr. Cameron. Anyone else who
3 would like to speak on behalf of Maggie and
4 Nancy?

5 MR. BECKER: Yes, the former
6 supervisor would like to speak as well, Rich
7 Guardino.

8 MR. GUARDINO: Thank you again
9 for recognizing me. I would just add to
10 what John said. Both of these individuals
11 are outstanding leaders who have contributed
12 so much to the community and we really
13 appreciate the fact that they're willing to
14 volunteer their time once again to members
15 of the council.

16 As you all know it doesn't pay
17 anything to be a member of the council. It
18 is time consuming and we would just be
19 delighted to have them as part of the
20 Council to bring their leadership to the
21 Council and certainly glad to recommend them
22 for confirmation. Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

24 MR. BECKER: Madam Chair, I would
25 like to present the two appointees to you.

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2 Please come forward.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Before you
4 do that, I have a legislator who wishes to
5 speak, Legislator Dunne.

6 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Just for Rich
7 Guardino's sake. I remember sitting in the
8 audience when you were on the Board of
9 Supervisors and I would wonder, how the heck
10 does he sit here and listen to this minutia
11 all day, I don't know how he does it. Never
12 did I dream that I would be here and you
13 would be sitting in the audience. My God.
14 Now I see how you did it. It takes a lot of
15 patience. You know what it is, my hearing
16 is going, so it makes a little easier.

17 MR. GUARDINO: Dennis, I actually
18 heard Rich say the same thing to me earlier.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES:
20 Mr. Becker, we can hear from Margaret
21 Martinez Malito.

22 MR. BECKER: Yes.

23 MS. MALITO: Good afternoon,
24 Presiding Officer, Leader of the Minority
25 and the legislators.

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2 I would like to thank you for
3 your consideration of my appointment. I'm a
4 woman of some maturity and for many decades
5 I'm known most for my involvement with the
6 not for profit community, youth services,
7 and the arts.

8 Of course, I, as a mother of four
9 and a grandmother of five children, I know
10 that the work that I've done for all of
11 these years really has been to connect the
12 dots with development and growth and
13 visioning for Long Island.

14 I believe in Long Island. My
15 kids got good education here. I know that
16 for the 100,000 young people in my programs,
17 I wish for them what I wish for my own
18 family; an opportunity, education, jobs and
19 certainly a place in the society that
20 recognizes and respects not only our young
21 people but our seniors and the community
22 that in fact is dependent on the economic
23 well being of this region.

24 So I look forward to serving, if
25 certainly I'm confirmed, and to working with

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2 all of you. And it is a real privilege to
3 be here today. Thank you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're
5 welcome. Now Nancy Engelhardt.

6 MS. ENGELHARDT: Good morning,
7 Presiding Officer and member of the
8 Legislature. It is an honor and privilege
9 to stand before you in consideration of my
10 appointment to the Long Island Regional
11 Planning Council.

12 As founding director of the
13 Energia Partnership which is regional
14 leadership program on Long Island, whose
15 mission is really to help educate the most
16 influential leaders on Long Island about the
17 critical issues we are facing and also to
18 understand how they are connected and what
19 the systemic reasons that they exist are.

20 So it is my hopes to be able to
21 use the resources and expertise of the 370
22 graduates of Energia who are committed to
23 the future of Long Island and to work with
24 the wonderful executive director and the
25 chair John Cameron on the very significant

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2 work that is before us on the Council.

3 So I appreciate your
4 consideration and I'm honored to be here.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you
6 very much. Are there any other guests here
7 who came to support you today?

8 MR. BECKER: I think that's it.
9 They don't want to belabor the afternoon.
10 They've heard so many exciting things
11 already.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm sure.
13 Legislator Ford.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: I just wanted
15 to say, Maggie, I would be remiss if I
16 didn't recognize you. I'm thankful that you
17 are agreeing to serve on the Long Island
18 Regional Council Planning Board. You work
19 with a lot of great people, I know both John
20 and Rich and how great they are.

21 I think that by bringing your
22 passion that you have had for the youth and
23 for the communities and for your family on
24 to this, you are really going to serve the
25 county well and I thank you very much for

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2 agreeing to do this because you are one
3 great woman. That's all I can say.

4 It's a pleasure. I don't know
5 you, but I just wanted to say something
6 about Maggie because I happen to know her
7 and I know how great she is.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I feel bad
9 because I think everybody up here knows
10 Maggie Malito and I know Maggie now since
11 the time in the youth board, she's done a
12 very very good job in that capacity, but I
13 do know Nancy Engelhardt very well, and I
14 feel bad that many of you do not know her.

15 I'm actually an Energia alum. I
16 went through the program. It's a fabulous
17 program. It teaches stewardship throughout
18 Long Island in terms of our resources and
19 how we can better manage it and our future
20 and how it progresses as a one community of
21 Long Island, and Nancy has done a fabulous
22 job in that capacity and I think she will do
23 a great job in this capacity as well.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.
25 Now it's time for the vote. All those in

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2 favor of the appointment of Margaret
3 Martinez Malito and Nancy Engelhardt to the
4 Long Island Regional Planning Council
5 signify by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 Any opposed?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 The vote is unanimous. Thank you
10 very much. We wish you the very best.

11 MR. BECKER: Madam Chair, I'm
12 sure you agree with the County Executive
13 that we appreciate the service and the
14 Legislature appreciates the service of the
15 new appointees, but of Rich Guardino and
16 John Cameron as well, for all the amazing
17 things they do and their commitment to
18 Nassau County and our area I'm sure you
19 agree.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We
21 certainly do agree.

22 MR. BECKER: Madam Chair, John
23 Cameron would like just another minute of
24 your time.

25 MR. CAMERON: Just one minute, if

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2 I may, have the attention of the
3 Legislature. I just want to bring to your
4 attention that there is a potential serious
5 issue in the budget, and Madam Presiding
6 Officer is aware of it and we have had
7 discussions about this.

8 In the County Executive's revised
9 budget, in order to comply with NIFA
10 requirements, as well as available revenue
11 as projected, is the funding for this year
12 was suspended for the Regional Planning
13 Council; \$250,000, which candidly equates to
14 less than 100th of one percent of the
15 county's budget.

16 I'm not saying it's not
17 insignificant, however, considering the work
18 that the Council is doing, and I know that
19 many of the members of the Legislature may
20 not be fully apprised of all the work we're
21 doing and I'm not going to go ad nauseam of
22 everything that we are doing, but you should
23 be aware that in last year's budget, the New
24 York State budget actually included \$5
25 million for Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan

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2 and you probably heard both County
3 Executives call nitrogen the number one
4 environmental enemy on Long Island, both
5 County Executive Bellone as well as Mangano.

6 And the state Legislature
7 actually assigned the Long Island Regional
8 Planning council as co-managers of the
9 Nitrogen Action Plan in conjunction with the
10 DEC.

11 That \$5 million was split three
12 point -- \$2 million for the DEC, and 1.8 to
13 the Regional Planning Council, not for our
14 operations but for us to advance a nitrogen
15 action plan with procurements and various
16 consulting teams, et cetera.

17 We had a series of hearings on
18 Long Island and, after those hearings, which
19 we co-manage, the DEC saw how the council
20 handles itself. They felt more confident in
21 how we could manage the plan, moved another
22 million dollars from their allotment to the
23 Council's allotment.

24 So we now have \$2.8 million to
25 manage in outside funds for the development

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2 of this nitrogen action plan.

3 The Legislature is fully apprised
4 of the challenges we have. Bay Park is a
5 major major issue which is defiled Hempstead
6 Bay for decades. Nitrogen is a major
7 challenge here. We are co-managing this
8 plan if we do not receive the funds to
9 operate, we blow up in the night.

10 After we received our funding
11 last year, we went forward and we actually
12 hired staff, we hired Rich Guardino from
13 Hofstra University. You all know Rich
14 Guardino very well from Hofstra University
15 and his resume that he has had in
16 government.

17 We had Elizabeth Cole who came
18 from Michele Shimbel's Office from the State
19 Assembly. Could have stayed in the assembly
20 with the new assembly person, but, no, they
21 came to the Regional Planning Council
22 because of the important work we're doing.

23 Now all of a sudden our funding
24 is at risk. If that funding, \$250,000 is
25 not restored, it puts the very existence of

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2 the Planning Council at risk.

3 I ask you to pay attention to it.
4 Look at the merits. Look at the work we've
5 done. We have actively worked with the
6 state in securing hundreds of millions of
7 dollars for Long Island as well as many
8 other initiatives here.

9 Most of you know me, they know
10 members of the Council. Our work is very
11 important. I ask you to pay attention to
12 that and make our sure that our funding is
13 in place. Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.
15 Now, we have what is called a consent
16 calendar. Items that have gone through
17 committees and were voted unanimously. We
18 usually call those items first right after
19 the consent calendar, and I'm going to
20 recess the Full Leg to go into a rules
21 meeting.

22 Without any further ado, I'm
23 going to call the items on the consent
24 calendar.

25 I'm going to call those items and

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2 the resolution or ordinance related to the
3 items all at once and if there is any
4 additional public comment, it will be heard.

5 The item is 1, Resolution Number
6 1-2017; the item is 2, Ordinance Number
7 1-2017; Item 4, Ordinance 3-2017; Item 5,
8 Ordinance 4-2017; Item 6, Ordinance 6-2017;
9 Item 7, Ordinance 6-2017; Item 8, Ordinance
10 7-2017; Resolution 4, Item 12; Item 14,
11 Resolution 6; Item 15, Resolution 7; Item
12 16, Resolution 8; Item 17, Resolution 9;
13 Item 18, Resolution 10; Item 19, Resolution
14 11 -- I'm sorry, we called those two. Item
15 22, Resolution 14; Item 24, Resolution 16;
16 Item 25, Resolution 17; Item 26, Resolution
17 18.

18 Just for the clerk's records, we
19 are going to include all of the testimony
20 from the committees into these items by
21 reference.

22 (Whereupon, please refer to the
23 minutes of prior committees pertaining to
24 above items.)

25 A motion regarding these items

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2 that were just called.

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
6 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
7 Walker. Any questions or comments from the
8 legislators, from the public?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 There being none, all those in
11 favor of the items just called signify by
12 saying aye.

13 (Aye.)

14 Any opposed?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 The items pass unanimously.

17 Now I'm going to recess the Full
18 Legislature meeting so we can go on to Rules
19 primarily because the actions of the Rules
20 Committee are related to the calendar.

21 So, therefore, we will do the
22 items that are on the Rules Committee and
23 then come back to the Full Legislature.

24 The two appointments have been
25 confirmed so, again, congratulations, Nancy,

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2 and congratulations, Maggie, and thanks for
3 all who came to support the two.

4 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
5 Committee recessed at 2:27 p.m. and
6 reconvened at 3:53 p.m.)

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Please
8 take your seats. I want to clarify
9 something before we move on with the rest of
10 the calendar. I need Robin too.

11 When is the testing for the
12 vapors going to take place?

13 MS. PATRELLA: We are going to
14 schedule it for this week. I have to get
15 back to the office and call the lab.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: So the end
17 of this week is the 27th. By that time it
18 should have been done, right?

19 MS. PATRELLA: I'm sorry?

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The
21 testing should have been done by the end of this
22 week which brings us to January 27th?

23 MS. PATRELLA: Correct.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And the
25 results, when will that be?

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2 MS. PATRELLA: We can ask them
3 for expedited and I can have them by the
4 following Friday which would be February
5 3rd.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: What is
7 it?

8 MS. PATRELLA: February 3rd, that
9 would be the following Friday.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It would
11 have to be that week, yes.

12 MS. PATRELLA: And we can
13 expedite them, yes.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, we
15 are asking you to do that. I just needed
16 that clarification. Thank you.

17 Now, there are three items that
18 are related to one another, and that's Item
19 3, Ordinance 2; Item 9, Ordinance 8; and
20 Item 10, Resolution 2.

21 At this time I'm going to ask for
22 a motion to table. Sorry, I have to put the
23 items on the floor.

24 Motion, please.

25 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
4 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
5 Nicolello. This is to get them on the floor
6 before I can table them.

7 Now to table, motion.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Second.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now we
11 have Legislator Nicolello moved to table
12 those items and seconded by Kevan, Minority
13 Leader. You got it? Did you want to say
14 something? What do you want to say?

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just want
16 to make sure that we're clear. We want to
17 be able not only see the findings come back
18 but ensure the safety of the individuals
19 that are there will continue to be safe as
20 well.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Did you
22 hear that? That's a tall order. All right
23 so here we go. Motion to table.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Second.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
3 Legislator Nicoletto, seconded by Legislator
4 Abrahams. All those in favor of tabling 3,
5 9 and 10 signify by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 Any opposed?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 That was a unanimous vote to
10 table. We're going on.

11 Item 11, Resolution 3, a
12 resolution authorizing the County Attorney
13 to compromise and settle the claim of
14 plaintiff Seemona Sumasar and Chiara
15 McDonald as set forth in the action entitled
16 Sumasar and McDonald versus Nassau County
17 and Detective Lisa Charles, case number
18 11-CV-0587 pursuant to the County Law, the
19 County Government Law of Nassau County and
20 the Nassau County Administrative Code.

21 Motion, please.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.

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

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2 Schaefer. Someone to speak on this item?

3 MS. LOCURTO: Lisa Locurto. Yes,
4 Legislator, I believe there were some
5 questions at the last executive session on
6 these matters. We have some information to
7 provide to answer those questions and we
8 request to go into executive session.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Are we
10 going to need an executive session for 13?
11 Yes?

12 MS. LOCURTO: Yes.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: So we may
14 as well call that one too. I'm going to 13.
15 Ladies and Gents, calling Item 13,
16 Resolution Number 5.

17 Motion, please.

18 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

19 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
21 Legislator Muscarella, seconded by
22 Legislator Dunne. At this point I need a
23 motion to go into executive session.

24 Motion, please.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

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2 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
4 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
5 Kennedy. All those in favor of going into
6 executive session signify by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Any opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 We are now going into executive
11 session for the legislators and their
12 attorneys.

13 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
14 Committee recessed into executive session at
15 4:01 p.m. and reconvened at 4:18 p.m.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I think
17 all the questions and concerns were
18 addressed in session and, if there are no
19 comments from the public on Items 11,
20 Resolution 3, and Item 13, Resolution 5.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam
22 Presiding Officer, just really quick on 13,
23 a one line statement, although we don't have
24 any questions or anything for executive
25 session, we are just very concerned with the

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2 item with 11, 13 in regards to everything
3 that is occurring at the jail, we are
4 extremely concerned this is one more
5 significant issue that is occurring at the
6 jail that cast a cloud over that center.

7 Again, we are going to continue
8 to call for a greater amount of transparency
9 if not hearings to oversee what is going on
10 at the correctional center.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Gotcha.

12 MR. PODLESACK: Madam Presiding
13 Officer, I would just like to point out for
14 the record that this case does not involve
15 the jail in any way.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You are
17 right, Mr. Podlesack. It's actually the
18 sheriff. It's more indicative of the
19 sheriff. You're absolutely right. I
20 apologize. The same individual that also
21 runs the jail, but, yes, it does not involve
22 the correctional center.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.
24 Let's go. That being said, all those in
25 favor of Item 11, Resolution 3, and do you

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2 want to do it separately, and Item 13,
3 Resolution 5, all those in favor signify by
4 saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 Any opposed?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 The items pass unanimously.

9 Let's move on. The next item is Item 21,
10 Resolution 13, a resolution to amend
11 Resolution 387, 2008 as last amended by
12 Resolution 244, 2015 to designate newspapers
13 to publish and identify the real property
14 listed by school district number, et cetera,
15 et cetera.

16 Motion, please.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
20 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator
21 Kopel. There is an amendment in the nature
22 of a substitution. That amendment is to add
23 a newspaper and I believe that newspaper,
24 Floral Park Dispatch.

25 Motion to amend Item 21, please.

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2 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: So moved.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by

5 Legislator Muscarella, seconded by

6 Legislator Nicoletto.

7 Are there any other comments or
8 questions from the legislators?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Is there any public comment?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 There being none, all those in
13 favor of the amendment signify by saying
14 aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Any opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 The item passes unanimously.

19 Now, Item 21 as amended,

20 Resolution 13, that is, all those in favor
21 of Item 21 as amended signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 The item passes again

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2 unanimously.

3 I believe the last item is Item
4 23, that's Resolution 15, a resolution to
5 authorize the transfer of appropriations
6 heretofore made within the budget for the
7 year 2016.

8 Motion, please.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

10 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
12 Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator
13 MacKenzie.

14 Any questions or comments
15 regarding Item 23, Resolution 15?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Is there any public comment?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 There being none -- I'm sorry.
20 Legislator Curran.

21 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: What is this
22 one about?

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Who is
24 going to speak on it. 23 is the transfer of
25 appropriations within the budget for the

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2 year 2016. Who is going to address this?

3 MR. BECKER: Madam Chair, could
4 we just skip that briefly and go to the
5 other three, 24, 25, 26?

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We already
7 did those.

8 MR. BECKER: I'm sorry.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: They were
10 part of the consent calendar. 24, 25, 26.
11 Anybody address 23?

12 MS. D'ALLEVA: Unfortunately I
13 don't have the item before me so I'm waiting
14 for a copy, I was here to speak on the other
15 transfers.

16 This item is to transfer an
17 appropriation of \$860,000 within the debt
18 service fund from interest to principal.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any
20 questions of Roseann?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 Is there any public comment?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 There being none, all those in
25 favor of Item 23 signify by saying aye.

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2 (Aye.)

3 Any opposed?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 The items passes unanimously.

6 Thank you very much.

7 Mr. Pulitzer, please call the
8 emergencies. There's two of them, 30 and
9 36.

10 CLERK PULITZER: I have 30
11 available now.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. I
13 will give you 36 in a minute. Go.

14 CLERK PULITZER: An emergency
15 Resolution 1-2017 declaring an emergency for
16 immediate action upon a resolution 18-A-17
17 requesting the Legislature of the State of
18 New York to amend the Real Property Tax Law
19 in relation to partial abatement of county
20 taxes for senior citizens in special
21 assessing units.

22 Presiding Officer, take votes on
23 the motion.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: A motion
25 to establish the emergency.

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2 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

4 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAEFER: Moved by

5 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator

6 Schaefer. All those in favor of

7 establishing the emergency say aye.

8 (Aye.)

9 Any opposed?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 Now, the emergency has been

12 established and now on the item itself, item

13 30, the resolution in regard to the partial

14 abatement of county taxes for senior

15 citizens in special assessing units.

16 Motion, please.

17 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Second.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by

20 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator

21 Gaylor. Any questions or comments?

22 Legislator Curran.

23 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I'm wondering

24 if someone from the administration can

25 answer a question about this. Is it just

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2 the home rule? Maybe I will save my
3 question for the other one then.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. For
5 the record, I need to state the time that
6 this was submitted. It's January 23, 2017
7 and it looks like 4:08. That's for the
8 record. You had no questions of Legislator
9 Curran?

10 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I may as well
11 ask it now.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You know
13 what, let's call this one and we can go to
14 the next one. We have to establish the
15 emergency for 36. We didn't establish that
16 emergency.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Shall I read
18 that?

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.
20 We have to take a vote on 30-17.

21 All those in favor of Item 30-17
22 signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 Any opposed?

25 (No verbal response.)

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2 The item passes unanimously.

3 Now for the second emergency. Do
4 you have it, Mr. Pulitzer?

5 CLERK PULITZER: Yes, I do. An
6 emergency resolution, 2-2017, declaring an
7 emergency for immediate action upon local
8 law 1-2017, a local law to amend the Nassau
9 County Administrative Code to reenact the
10 Real Property Tax Abatement for senior
11 citizens with eligible property.

12 Motion to establish the
13 emergency, please.

14 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
17 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator
18 Walker. All those in favor of establishing
19 the emergency signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 Any opposed?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 The emergency is established.

24 Just for the record, the time that this was
25 submitted was January 23, 2017, 4:08 p.m.

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2 Now for the item itself, a local
3 law to amend the Nassau County
4 Administrative Code to reenact the Real
5 Property Tax Abatement for seniors citizens
6 with eligible property.

7 Motion, please.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by
11 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator
12 Walker. Any comments or questions regarding
13 that? I think Legislator Curran had a
14 question. Go.

15 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thanks. Did
16 the administration know about this at any
17 point that the abatement was going to expire
18 during the budgeting process?

19 MR. BECKER: All I can say is
20 that this just came down and the County
21 Executive is fully in favor of the abatement
22 but he we didn't know -- we didn't know it
23 was going to hit today, to represent or
24 speak on this, but he's fully in favor of
25 it.

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2 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: So there is
3 no one who can answer if the administration
4 knew about it during the budgeting process
5 that it was going to expire?

6 MR. BECKER: No, as I said, it
7 just came down just now, Legislator Curran.
8 And I have nobody here.

9 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Since we are
10 going to be voting on it, I think it would
11 be good to have the answer.

12 MR. BECKER: What was the
13 question again?

14 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: The question
15 is, did the administration know at any point
16 during the budgeting process know that this
17 abatement was going to expire?

18 MR. BECKER: I can't answer that.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: If you
20 can't, maybe you can get the answer before
21 we adjourn or recess?

22 MR. BECKER: Madam Chair, this is
23 a legislative item. I'm sure the County
24 Executive is in full support of it. Whether
25 he knew about it or not --

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2 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: I think we
3 all support it. That's not the issue.
4 That's not the question.

5 MR. BECKER: Then let's just do
6 it. Let's get it done.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on,
8 Legislator Curran. We will get an answer
9 for you after the fact, but this is our
10 legislation.

11 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: If I can get
12 the answer at a later date, I'm perfectly
13 happy to vote for it, in favor for this,
14 yes, absolutely, but I think it's important
15 to get that answer at some point soon.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority
17 Leader Kevan. Do you want to say something?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes, I do.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority
20 Leader.

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

23 I recognize the fact that
24 obviously this bill encompasses many of the
25 same things that the bill that we clocked in

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2 also this morning has, and we're glad to see
3 in this Legislature's effort that the
4 majority and the minority are able to come
5 together and work together to benefit the
6 seniors in this county.

7 That being said, our particular
8 amendment had language that indicated that
9 we were not only going to be retroactive
10 being that we were in the middle of January,
11 that we were going to make people whole.

12 I want to make sure, Madam
13 Presiding Officer, that it is your
14 estimation on the record that not only will
15 it be retroactive but our language went one
16 step further to ensure that people will be
17 made whole, that every single person that is
18 entitled to some level of refund will get it
19 back.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So it's
21 your intention that people will be made
22 whole?

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, the
24 intention.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can you

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2 just say that? Can he --

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: He can't
4 say it, but I can say it.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay, you
6 can say it. Just want to make sure.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's
8 intended to be retroactive and, of course,
9 to make our seniors whole, correct?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Norma, I
11 can't say correct because that version is
12 changed from our bill to your bill. So I
13 want to make sure that's your intention as
14 well.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's the
16 intention because I believe that's the
17 intention of Albany as well. Thank you.

18 On the motion, all those in favor
19 of the local law regarding the property tax
20 abatement for senior citizens with eligible
21 property signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 The item passes unanimously.

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2 Guess what? Now this meeting
3 will be put into recess because we need to
4 come back on, I believe the first week of
5 February, and I'm hoping that we can do it
6 on February 6th. That's our target date to
7 come back and vote on the OEM property. So
8 we are now in recess. Unfortunately we
9 still have to go on.

10 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
11 Committee recessed 4:48 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 13th day of February, 2017.

FRANK GRAY