

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES

PRESIDING OFFICER

FULL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

Monday, September 25, 2017

1:19 P.M.

1

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

3

4 LEGISLATOR NORMA L. GONSALVES

5 Presiding Officer

6 13th Legislative District

7

8 LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

9 Deputy Presiding Officer

10 9th Legislative District

11

12 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

13 Alternate Presiding Officer

14 7th Legislative District

15

16 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

17 Minority Leader

18 1st Legislative District

19

20 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

21 2nd Legislative District

22

23 LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

24 3rd Legislative District

25

1

2 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

3 4th Legislative District

4

5 LEGISLATOR LAURA CURRAN

6 5th Legislative District

7

8 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

9 6th Legislative District

10

11 LEGISLATOR VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA

12 8th Legislative District

13

14 LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM

15 10th Legislative District

16

17 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

18 11th Legislative District

19

20 LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

21 12th Legislative District

22

23 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

24 14th Legislative District

25

1

2 LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

3 16th Legislative District

4

5 LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

6 17th Legislative District

7

8 LEGISLATOR DONALD MACKENZIE

9 18th Legislative District

10

11 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

12 19th Legislative District

13

14 MICHAEL PULITZER

15 Clerk of the Legislature.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
3 Gaylor would you lead us in the pledge.

4 (Whereupon Pledge of Allegiance was
5 recited.)

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
7 Legislator Gaylor.

8 Each month, ladies and gentlemen,
9 the Nassau County Legislature recognizes
10 members of the Nassau County Police Department
11 and this month is no different. So, we are
12 privileged today to honor two members of the
13 police department's marine bureau. I'm going
14 to ask -- where is the PBA president? -- to
15 please come up and introduce the two
16 honorees. And I believe is the commissioner
17 is here as well? I will join you and I see
18 the two gentlemen who are being recognized
19 today. Mr. McDermott.

20 MR. MCDERMOTT: Good afternoon.
21 We are here today to recognize the good work
22 done by police officers Joseph Weller and
23 Timothy Waterbury, both from the marine
24 bureau.

25 On June 9th at approximately 10:30

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17
2 p.m. while on routine patrol in the Long
3 Island Sound officers Weller and Waterbury
4 received a radio assignment for the area of
5 Center Island Beach. 911 operators received
6 several calls that three fishermen somehow
7 capsized their 14 foot canoe and were clinging
8 to the overturned craft in frigid waters and
9 strong currents.

10 Within minutes Marine Two was on
11 the scene fighting darkness and currents.
12 Officer Weller was captaining the vehicle and
13 he was maneuvering around a treacherous rock
14 jetty in order for officer Waterbury to be
15 able to pull the three victims out of the
16 water and to safety. Once they got them on
17 board the victims were transported to the
18 hospital and were treated for hypothermia.

19 The police officer marine two
20 performed heroically. They responded quickly
21 to the scene and took immediate action, and
22 because of their training and experience saved
23 three men's lives and we are proud to honor
24 them as legislative top cops. Thank you.

25 I just want to take this moment in

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 time to speak about things like NIFA reports
3 where they decide that we can cut things and
4 one of the things is the marine bureau was
5 mentioned. This is just one water rescue that
6 happens. It was brought to light because of
7 the treacherousness of the area in which they
8 were responding. They do this all the time
9 and it just doesn't make it to print, doesn't
10 make it to the media. I want everyone here to
11 know that is what these guys do, and to lose
12 something like the marine bureau because of a
13 report is ridiculous. We live on an island.
14 We have water on both shores. I don't want to
15 make it all about a NIFA report, but this is
16 what these guys do and I want to say thank you
17 guys for your great work. And thank you very
18 much for honoring our guys once again.

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES:

20 Commissioner Ryder.

21 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank you
22 for taking the time out of your schedule today
23 to honor our cops. As we were walking up you
24 called where am I and Joe Weller pushes me
25 into the inside. I said "Joe, they're not

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 here to honor me, they're here to honor you."
3 And then he ends it with thank you. Our men
4 and women that serve this county are very
5 humble. They go out and do their jobs just
6 like everybody else does every single day.
7 Sometimes we take some beatings in the media,
8 but the men and women go out there and take
9 care of the 1.3 million people of this county
10 and they do it as professionals and they do it
11 with gratitude and are thankful for the
12 support they get from this board. Because I
13 tell them without the support from this board
14 we get nothing done.

15 I'd first like to say thank you for
16 that support. Thank both of these two men for
17 the courageous work that they've done and
18 hopefully they will be with us for a long time
19 and continue to do more of that service for
20 the people of Nassau County. Thank you.

21 MR. WATERBURY: On behalf of
22 officer Weller and myself I would like to
23 thank the legislature, the PBA and the
24 department for this acknowledgment. Thank
25 you.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I'm
3 assuming you're Timothy then. And Joseph
4 would you like to say anything?

5 MR. WELLER: I also want to thank
6 everybody. I believe our unit does a very
7 good job and it's nice to be acknowledged
8 every so often. It's a nice feeling because
9 our guys in our unit do a real good job. Is
10 there a lot of down time? Yeah. But when it
11 hits the fan they come alive and they do a
12 very good job and the public sees it and we
13 need to be out there. I think we need more
14 guys on patrol for the waterways.

15 Also education. A lot of public
16 needs to be educated. Safety courses. The
17 less things happen out there they're a little
18 sharper unless issues will occur. But thank
19 you and thank you so much.

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
21 Joseph. Thank you Timothy. And thank you
22 commissioner and thank you Jim. Now it's
23 picture taking time. So I guess -- Legislator
24 MacKenzie has something to say.

25 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: I wanted

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 to join everyone in thanking the officers for
3 what they did. I represent the area of Oyster
4 Bay and the surrounding communities and grew
5 up there. And the waterways up there are
6 constantly active between clammers and
7 oystermen who work late into the year. We
8 have many high schools and private groups that
9 have rowing organizations within the bay,
10 beyond the people who also are just there
11 casually fishing and rowing and many people
12 are there throughout the year. When they see
13 the weather like a day like today how
14 beautiful it is outside they may not realize
15 how cold the water is. And the fact that even
16 though it's 80 in the air the water is much
17 colder and they can fall in and fall victim to
18 hypothermia very quickly. And without the
19 officers quick actions this could have turned
20 into a tragedy, and we've had those in the
21 past and we recognize the importance of what
22 you guys do every day and we thank you for
23 it. I think everyone here joins me it that
24 thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: On behalf

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 of the Nassau County Legislature we have
3 citations for both of the officers. Now I'm
4 going to ask the officers to join us here for
5 a photo opportunity.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, before we go
7 into the points of personal privilege I'm
8 going to ask my colleagues -- I don't have
9 your attention -- thank you -- I'm going to
10 ask my colleagues to join me with another
11 moment of silence for Craig Craft. We did
12 recognize his passing during the committee
13 sessions but I think since we are all here now
14 it would be a good thing that we all join in
15 this moment of silence for Craig Craft.

16 Thank you very much.

17 I have a point of personal
18 privilege which I think all of us here on this
19 body will share wholeheartedly in this point
20 of personal privilege. The individual that we
21 are going to be recognizing today is John
22 Anthony Priest. John Anthony is a 23 year old
23 resident of East Meadow. He's a graduate of
24 East Meadow High School and a very active
25 member of the East Meadow Fire Department.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 John Anthony is employed by Nassau County as a
3 mechanic in the DPW Fleet Service Bureau.

4 On April 10, 2012 John Anthony, his
5 sister Jamie and their parents, John and
6 Barbara, suffered the sudden and devastating
7 death of their brother and son Robert, who I
8 also knew. Robert lost his life to a heroin
9 overdose. While coping with a loss such as
10 this is difficult and will always be
11 difficult, John Anthony has tried to make
12 something positive to come out of it. On his
13 own initiative he met with the administration
14 of his former high school, and after some
15 negotiation, he was able to arrange to return
16 to the high school to do a presentation on the
17 dangers of heroin.

18 In the last three years, twice a
19 year, John takes off from work with the county
20 and spends two full days at East Meadow High
21 School where he meets with every health
22 education class and shares the story of his
23 brother's death, teaches about the dangers of
24 heroin and how heroin becomes so addictive.
25 And even one time experimenting with heroin

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 will be enough to cause someone his or her
3 life. John Anthony feels that a person his
4 age can better present this message to kids
5 who are basically the same age.

6 Over the past three years his
7 presentation has been given very high praise
8 by the teachers and administration of East
9 Meadow High School and we're sure that his
10 work has had a positive, tremendous affect on
11 the youth of our community.

12 I would like to present to you,
13 John Anthony Priest, and his dad John Priest,
14 to receive a citation and to share some of his
15 inner thoughts with us. And I remember the
16 day when his brother Robert overdosed.

17 MR. J. PRIEST: Thank you.
18 Ladies and gentlemen I would like to thank you
19 for this recognition. It means a lot to me.
20 I would like to thank my parents, my sister.
21 Without their support it's impossible. Also
22 the East Meadow School District for allowing
23 me to present and talk to the students. I
24 feel it impacted them very much and I hope it
25 did.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I know it
3 did and it will continue to make an impact.
4 Sometimes they need to talk to people close to
5 their own age and they tend to listen. I
6 remember the day when your brother did
7 overdose, and unfortunately, experimentation
8 did not work well for him and this is what we
9 have to say to our young people.

10 I remember in 2012 -- and ex-chief
11 of the East Meadow Fire Department please join
12 John Anthony. I remember when Chief Priest at
13 that time talked to me about the loss of his
14 son. I said we're not going to let this go
15 unless we do something. Something that will
16 certainly help maybe not alleviate the problem
17 but at least to lessen the problem. I think
18 Chief you remember that conversation.

19 MR. PRIEST: I remember it will.

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: It's
21 something that I think a promise was made and
22 a promise was kept. Am I correct?

23 MR. PRIEST: I'd like to think
24 so.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Now, I

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 have them on pins and needles. What promise
3 was made? John, do you want to share it?

4 MR. PRIEST: We promised we would
5 find a way of fighting through this and
6 finding a way of educating the people not only
7 of this community. Obviously my wife Barbara
8 and our family are proud of John. And you all
9 know that I work with the county's program
10 with some very, very dedicated volunteers on
11 the Narcan training. John works in the
12 training hopefully with prevention. And I
13 know and you all know that there are going to
14 be changes come January. It's part of life.
15 But we've received support from both sides and
16 strong support from both sides of the aisle
17 for the heroin, for the opioid education and
18 Narcan program and we are very, very pleased
19 and very happy for that support and we hope
20 that in the new year that we will continue to
21 receive the same support and I know we will
22 because it's just that important.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You can
24 count on it I'm sure.

25 MR. PRIEST: I thank both sides

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 and all the members who have helped me in our
3 program. And again, today is John's day not
4 mine. We will leave it at that.

5 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I have to
6 say, John Anthony, you have gotten a great
7 deal of help from the Nassau County Police
8 Department and they have programs in the
9 schools throughout Nassau County educating our
10 young people with the problem of drug
11 overdose. And I have to say thank you to the
12 police department as well for their vigorous
13 energy in getting as much help out there as
14 possible. I'm sad but guess what Anthony?
15 I'm very, very proud, extremely proud of you,
16 John Anthony, for doing what you're doing and
17 I know you will continue to do it. And mom
18 thank you so much. I know it's not easy. And
19 sister Jamie thank you so much and continued
20 success.

21 I have a citation on behalf of the
22 Nassau County Legislature to present to you to
23 remind you that you are in good hands not only
24 with your parents but with this body here. So
25 continue your efforts and hopefully one day

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 John Anthony, and with two names that I hold
3 very dearly, John and Anthony, I know we are
4 going to make a difference. Thank you again
5 on behalf of this body. John, this time we
6 will take a picture with you down there.

7 We have one more point of personal
8 privilege and this time it's Legislator Rose
9 Walker who would like to present the
10 individual for a job well done.

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you
12 Legislator Gonsalves. And although I am the
13 one doing the point of personal privilege, it
14 really does involve each and every one of us
15 in our districts.

16 I'm honored today to give special
17 recognition to Dr. Eisenstein and the entire
18 staff at Nassau County Department of Health.
19 Last week the Department of Health was
20 notified that they achieved national
21 accreditation by the Public Health
22 Accreditation Board. This is an incredible
23 milestone as they are the first large local
24 health department in New York State to achieve
25 this prestigious distinction since its

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 national launch in 2011.

3 This accomplishment is the
4 culmination of over five years of hard work,
5 dedication and commitment of the Department of
6 Health staff. This achievement recognizes
7 that the Department of Health meets and most
8 often exceeds the rigorous standards
9 established by the Public Health Accreditation
10 Board. Public Health Accreditation signifies
11 that Nassau County Department of Health is
12 committed to continuous quality improvement so
13 that the residents of this county receive the
14 highest level of public health services. This
15 national accreditation demonstrates that the
16 health department is dedicated to promoting
17 and protecting the health of the residents of
18 this great county.

19 I am equally proud to announce that
20 once again this year the Department of Health
21 received a national model practice and two
22 promising practice awards from the National
23 Association of County and City Health
24 Officials.

25 To date, the Department of Health

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 has received an astounding 17 national awards,
3 making them the most award-winning health
4 department in all of New York State. We are
5 truly blessed to have a commissioner like Dr.
6 Eisenstein. Certainly all his staff.

7 And on a personal note, I'm sure I
8 can say it for all the other legislators, no
9 matter when we call your office or reach out
10 to your staff they're here to help us and make
11 things better for the health and to our Nassau
12 County residents. Thank you so much.

13 And Dr. Eisenstein, if you would
14 please come forward.

15 DR. EISENSTEIN: My staff should
16 come up and join me. Thank you Legislator
17 Walker. Thank you to the entire legislature.
18 I am blessed and lucky that I get to stand in
19 front of you and hear such nice words. But
20 the fact is this is the executive staff of the
21 Nassau County Department of Health. And when
22 people say how have you done it? How have you
23 won more model practice awards than the rest
24 of all of the health departments in New York
25 State combined? I will repeat that. We have

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 won more national practice awards than the
3 rest of the local health departments in New
4 York State, including New York City,
5 combined. And the answer is standing right
6 behind me.

7 I have a team of rock stars and
8 they do lifesaving work. Whether it's
9 protecting our residents from micro organisms,
10 making sure that our water or air is safe,
11 making sure that social justice is
12 continuously on the tips of our tongues, these
13 are the leaders that do that. We are so
14 extremely proud. We made the decision to go
15 for accreditation. Thousands of hours have
16 gone into becoming and accredited health
17 department. We are the only large health
18 department in New York State accredited. We
19 are the only suburban large health department
20 in the entire northeastern United States
21 accredited. We believe that it's going to
22 position us better when it comes to achieving
23 federal grants in the future. We think it's a
24 matter of survival.

25 I envision down the road that other

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 health departments are mandated to do it and
3 we are going to be the leaders in the field
4 and we always do what we think is best for our
5 residents and this is an example.

6 I just want to acknowledge quickly,
7 the executive staff is wonderful. Our two
8 accreditation coordinators, Dr. Tavera Buchman
9 and Selena Cabayo, who have done thousands of
10 hours working on this are here.

11 When we originally were invited
12 here it was for our model practice awards and
13 timing was very lucky that we got our
14 accreditation last week.

15 Mark Rothstein, one of our
16 sanitarians, authored this year's model
17 practice award. And Andy Simone, who you've
18 known as our director of Public Health
19 Preparedness. She has a staff of two in
20 Public Health Emergency Preparedness but when
21 a storm or disaster occurs she immediately
22 becomes the leader of our entire department
23 and we have seen her amazing work during
24 Hurricane Sandy and at other times. She
25 authored one of the promising practices.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 Just very appreciative of all that
3 you do for us and we're so thrilled about this
4 because we feel that the legislature and our
5 residents should know the great work that is
6 coming out of our department. Thank you for
7 the acknowledgment.

8 From the bottom of my heart to my
9 staff thank you. This was not easy. It was
10 thousands of hours of work and a lot of emails
11 and meetings and late meetings. We also got a
12 lot of before. In order to become accredited
13 you have to take care of things including
14 branding and facility. So we received a lot
15 of help from our partners at public works and
16 from our partners in IT. And quite frankly,
17 we can't do this without the support of all of
18 our elected officials. So I thank you all.

19 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you Dr.
20 Eisenstein and certainly all your staff. I'm
21 going to ask if we can all go down and take a
22 photo with the group. Probably easier for us
23 to come down there. Not room for all of us
24 and you up here.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Mr.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 Pulitzer please call the roll.

3 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Roll
4 call. Deputy Presiding Officer Richard
5 Nicoletto.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
8 Presiding Officer Legislator Howard Kopel.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

10 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela
11 Bynoe.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

13 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
14 Legislator Carrie Solages.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

16 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Denise
17 Ford.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
20 Curran.

21 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.
23 William Gaylor III.

24 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

25 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Vincent

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 Muscarella.

3 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

4 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Ellen

5 Birnbaum.

6 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

7 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia

8 DeRiggi-Whitton.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

10 Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James

12 Kennedy.

13 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura

15 Schaefer.

16 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold

18 Drucker.

19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose

21 Marie Walker.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Donald

24 MacKenzie.

25 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven
3 Rhoads.

4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

5 MR. PULITZER: Minority Leader
6 Kevan Abrahams.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Presiding Officer
9 Norma Gonsalves.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Present.

11 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
12 ma'am.

13 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
14 very much Mr. Pulitzer.

15 As is customary before we begin the
16 calendar we have 30 minutes of public comment
17 and we ask that each individual who has
18 submitted a slip, and I have them here, adhere
19 to the three minute rule. And if we don't get
20 through all of the residents who have put in
21 the slips in the 30 minutes we remain right
22 after the calendar to hear further comments.

23 So without any further ado, I'm
24 going to call on the first individual. Pete
25 Gaffney of Westbury.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 MR. GAFFNEY: My name is Pete
3 Gaffney. I reside in Westbury, Long Island.
4 I'm here on two issues. One is community
5 policing. I've spoken about this many times
6 before this legislative body about community
7 policing. I haven't really heard too much.
8 It's election season right now and officials
9 are running for office. But really, I would
10 like to hear from each one of the legislative
11 body and also of our candidates that are
12 running for office for executive legislation
13 meeting what they feel about community
14 policing.

15 I know financially Nassau County is
16 not in the best shape and I know it's
17 expensive to have community policing. But the
18 reality is we need it just because of things
19 that are going on on our roadways. People
20 excessive speeding. People making illegal
21 U-turns. It's just crazy. And it's not just
22 one section, it's all over the place. They're
23 not just going five miles an hour. They're
24 pushing ten, 20 miles above the speed limit.
25 It's crazy.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 I attended a police meeting back in
3 November in Mineola and I was told that there
4 was going to be an additional POP officer put
5 into the Third Precinct. Currently right now
6 they have two. So I was looking at three.
7 That didn't happen.

8 Now I understand as of yesterday
9 or, excuse me, as of today they've enacted an
10 officer just to strictly write tickets.
11 That's a basic start. We need to find a way
12 to fund this.

13 The actual police force right now I
14 understand that is down to levels of the
15 1950s. That's totally unacceptable for Nassau
16 County, which is one of the richest counties
17 in New York. I would like to hear from each
18 one of the legislators do something about as
19 far as community policing. Maybe put out a
20 statement with their thoughts. That kind of a
21 thing. It doesn't have to be right now. I
22 really think we need to have that.

23 The other thing I want to talk
24 about is the county department of works. I
25 mean, I'm not sure if they're getting their

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 funding or the necessary resources that's
3 needed, because when you look at some of the
4 county roads out there it's a disaster. You
5 look at Old Country Road for example in the
6 left lane heading westbound from the mall all
7 the way down to Post Avenue there's a one inch
8 gap that's in the roadway. It's horrendous to
9 try to drive over some of these bumpy roads.
10 This is creating some of the problems with car
11 accidents, frustration with people going on.

12 I just think you need to give them
13 the necessary resources to do the job properly
14 and then you hold them accountable. Remember
15 our snowstorm that we just had last year, the
16 two snowstorms? We had inches of ice on the
17 streets for a couple of days across the board
18 on all the county roads. The towns around us
19 they did an exceptional job cleaning up the
20 streets. Why can't the county do it as well?

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES:

22 Mr. Gaffney thank you.

23 Kathleen Spatz.

24 MR. SPATZ: Good afternoon. I'm
25 Kathleen Spatz. I reside in South Hempstead.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 I've been a resident there for over 30 years.
3 President of the South Hempstead Civic
4 Association. And presently I am a republican
5 candidate for Nassau County legislator LD5.

6 I would like to speak to -- the
7 gentleman before me led me right into what I
8 want to speak to which is the condition of
9 Long Beach Road in the area of south
10 Hempstead. If you travel south from the
11 underpass of the Southern State Parkway past
12 Covert Elementary School, even further, down
13 into Rockville Centre, the roads there are
14 horrendous. I've addressed this on numerous
15 times in the past ten years with nothing
16 getting done to that road. There is constant
17 flooding. You just have a simple downpour, a
18 three minute downpour, the entire area is
19 flooded. Including the underpass of the
20 Southern State Parkway.

21 The conditions of the sidewalks,
22 which I understand are probably the
23 responsibility of the residents, which I have
24 addressed that many times also with the Town
25 of Hempstead, the condition of the curbs, the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 condition of the sewers. I feel if the sewer
3 condition was addressed it would help to
4 eliminate a lot of the flooding that takes
5 place in just a common downpour in that area.

6 We have children walking to school
7 there and with the cars, with the flooding,
8 with the cars it can be a dangerous situation
9 having to walk around the flooding. Having
10 the cars speeding by and splashing water all
11 over your child as they are trying to get to
12 school.

13 I would appreciate some
14 investigation into this situation. The
15 residents of South Hempstead have asked me to
16 address this situation again. They would like
17 to see some type of results. Thank you for
18 listening.

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
20 Ms. Spatz. Alex Slatky.

21 MR. SLATKY: Good afternoon
22 everyone. My name is Alex Slatky. I'm here
23 representing Triple A Northeast. It's a
24 pleasure to be with you here. I'm right
25 across the street so I figured I'd stop over.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 I know it's not technically the budget
3 meetings yet, but I did want to speak about
4 the proposed public safety fee. I know the
5 Rules Committee will be meeting next week and
6 two weeks after that will be the full
7 legislature. Fortunately for me I will be at
8 the New York State Highway Symposium up in
9 Niagara Falls then so I wanted to make sure I
10 got the chance to address the full
11 legislature.

12 Obviously you know our position
13 from last year. We strongly opposed the
14 public safety fee last year. We continue to
15 strongly oppose the public safety fee this
16 year. Just what was done in the budget, this
17 year they proposed \$64 million in the budget
18 for the public safety fee in terms of revenue
19 that would go to fund the police. The same
20 was proposed last year. That got reduced to
21 \$28 million.

22 And the initial proposal last year
23 was \$105 on traffic, red light camera and
24 parking tickets. It ended up being \$55 on
25 traffic and red light camera tickets. But

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 there's no specific proposal in the budget
3 this year. All it says is that we need \$64
4 million from the public safety fee. There's
5 no actual policy that's being proposed. It
6 doesn't suggest a particular dollar amount for
7 the public safety fee. It doesn't say whether
8 it should be applied to the parking violations
9 like was suggested last year.

10 And the fact that the county wants
11 to highlight the revenue that it needs from
12 the public safety fee without even stating the
13 policy that's necessary for the county to earn
14 that windfall that sends an extraordinary
15 clear signal that the public safety fee is
16 purely about earning revenue and balancing the
17 budget. It's not about sound public policy.

18 We always oppose using traffic
19 enforcement to balance the budget. That's
20 just something we oppose. We don't
21 necessarily have sympathy for someone who gets
22 a ticket for texting or speeding
23 aggressively. But when you use fines or
24 really fees or taxes to fund police contracts
25 that are being collected by the police that's

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 just a poor system of governance. Without
3 casting aspersions on the county police
4 department, that offers some incentives for
5 wrongdoing and it definitely increases the
6 skepticism about the police officers' motives
7 from the public. That's going to increase
8 distrust that I think has already been
9 increased last year between drivers and the
10 public.

11 I know the budget is going to be
12 discussed next week and two weeks from now,
13 but I'd urge you to reject the public safety
14 fee increase today. Thank you very much.

15 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you.

16 Mr. Jack McCloy.

17 MR. MCCLOY: Thank you Ms.
18 Gonsalves, Mr. Abrahams and members of the
19 legislature. Thank you for allowing me to
20 address you again today.

21 Briefly, I want to mention the fact
22 that this week in Newsday there was a report
23 about the red light cameras in Suffolk County
24 being possibly suspended. Recommendation by
25 some of the Suffolk County legislators

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17
2 regarding the incidents of accidents reported
3 at those intersections being manicured so to
4 speak. I hope you keep an eye on that issue.
5 I hope that Nassau County's accident reports
6 are accurately reported.

7 But today I didn't come to talk
8 about that. I wanted to mention something
9 that could possibly eliminate the potential of
10 a multimillion dollar lawsuit against Nassau
11 County. I left two pieces of printed
12 literature. I will read these quickly to
13 you].

14 Dear Legislators, the attached
15 email message was sent to Nassau County
16 Executive Ed Mangano, Town of Hempstead
17 Supervisor Anthony Santino and Bill Muller in
18 Anthony Santino's office.

19 I would like you to be aware of and
20 take appropriate legislative action to
21 prohibit the inappropriate use of high
22 intensity lasers at events in Nassau County.
23 Projecting beams from high intensity laser
24 units directly at those in an audience is
25 strictly prohibited by New York State law.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 Yet it continues to be common place here in
3 Nassau County.

4 The photo taken at the recent Roger
5 Waters concert at Nassau Coliseum shows laser
6 light beams being projected directly into the
7 audience.

8 If you take a look at the picture,
9 all of those little dots are laser beams
10 hitting audience members.

11 Nassau County is risking a
12 multimillion dollar lawsuit should someone
13 become injured or possibly even blinded by
14 this type of occurrence.

15 In the absence of strict
16 prohibition of such practices by the county
17 executive and town supervisor, I appeal to you
18 as our legislative representatives to propose,
19 enact and request enforcements of policies
20 which are consistent with New York State
21 guidelines.

22 In the message that I sent to those
23 mentioned I will read that the Town of
24 Hempstead and Nassau County have made
25 themselves the target of a multimillion dollar

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 lawsuit due to inappropriate use of high
3 intensity lasers at Nassau Coliseum and other
4 venues. Here is a photo also attached for
5 clarity of the laser in operation at Nassau
6 Coliseum this week during the Roger Waters
7 performance. It is clearly focused directly
8 onto the crowd, which is a violation of New
9 York State laser operations code. I know this
10 because I am certified to operate high
11 intensity lasers in New York State.

12 I previously communicated with
13 Nassau Coliseum to let them know that they
14 should have a compliance official to ensure
15 proper operation of lasers at Nassau
16 Coliseum. I can be contacted to that effect.

17 They never contacted me. They
18 continued to feature shows which feature high
19 intensity lasers and, as shown, they are using
20 them inappropriately. It is only a matter of
21 time before someone is injured and they file a
22 multimillion dollar suit, which they would be
23 very likely to win. This can be prevented.

24 I suggest requiring all shows at
25 Town of Hempstead and Nassau County venues to

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 file a declaration that no lasers will be used
3 during any performance unless a New York State
4 certified high intensity laser operator has
5 inspected the equipment in advance and is
6 present during the performance. There is a
7 reason that New York State requires
8 certification. Yet the venues which feature
9 lasers shows are obviously ignoring the law.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
12 Mr. McCloy.

13 Timothy Lachapelle.

14 MR. LACHAPELLE: Thank you. My
15 name is Tim Lachapelle. I'm the legislative
16 liaison for the Long Island Board of
17 Realtors. I'm here to urge the legislature to
18 reject the portion of the executive's budget
19 proposal that raises the land recording and
20 tax map verification fees.

21 In the budget it states that the
22 county clerk's office accounts for \$11.6
23 million in new revenue due to the increase in
24 block fees from \$300 to \$400. It also
25 increases the tax map verification fee from

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 \$355 to \$455, raising an estimated \$12 million
3 in revenue.

4 Last week the county clerk held a
5 press conference and stated that her office
6 doesn't need that revenue. She urged the
7 legislature to reject that budget and work to
8 roll back the fee increases over the past two
9 years. LIBOR finds that position reasonable
10 and would like to take the same position.
11 LIBOR stands by the county clerk. The revenue
12 from the proposed fee hike belongs to the
13 clerk's office and they have demanded that it
14 is returned to the taxpayers.

15 I understand there are varying
16 opinions about the fiscal health of the
17 county. But for realtors, builders and title
18 professionals it appears that this county is
19 in some fiscal turmoil because it's their
20 client who have had to foot the bill for an
21 unbalanced budget for the past two years.

22 Every day they work with clients
23 who are shocked when they discover an extra
24 charge on their closing costs that can easily
25 run over \$1,000.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 We realize that many of the
3 residents of Nassau County don't feel the same
4 way we do because they don't feel the same
5 pain day in and day out and work with people
6 that are paying these fees every day. But if
7 you didn't buy a house or sell a house,
8 refinance, obtain a home equity line of credit
9 or satisfy a mortgage, you may have been
10 completely unaffected by this fee.

11 Obtaining a new mortgage instrument
12 is a major life event. It can take place
13 decades apart from each other. And the county
14 has only been on this destructive path for two
15 years. Rest assured that if the county
16 continues raising these fees many residents
17 will be faced with sticker shock when it comes
18 time to record a mortgage instrument.

19 I know the stance is that taxes
20 haven't been raised in a while but I would
21 like you guys to tell that to somebody who is
22 two years away from ending a 30 year mortgage
23 and is going to have to owe the county \$1,000.

24 The strategy of using fees to
25 balance the budget is ineffective. If the fee

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 generated the intended revenue it wouldn't be
3 needed to raise three years in row.

4 In New York State it's generally
5 accepted that a fee should only generate
6 enough revenue to pay for the services that it
7 provides. By passing the proposed budget the
8 legislature is doing a tremendous disservice
9 to the county clerk and to the taxpayers of
10 Nassau County.

11 Once again, I urge the legislature
12 to reject that portion of the budget. Roll
13 back the fees and start looking for better
14 ways to balance the budget. Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
16 Mr. Lachapelle.

17 Rafe Lieber.

18 MR. LIEBER: Good afternoon
19 everybody. My name is Rafe Lieber. It's odd
20 for me to be here on this side of the room. I
21 spent so many years working on behalf of some
22 of you, which of course as politics goes tends
23 to me I was working against the other half of
24 you. But that's all right. We are here today
25 to talk about other things. Please don't hold

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 that things against me all these years later.

3 I'm here to voice my opposition to
4 the proposed real estate fee increases.
5 Speaking from the perspective of the title
6 industry, it's our job to disclose all of the
7 taxes and the fees that borrowers and buyers
8 are going to pay on a real estate
9 transaction. And we see how overloaded the
10 buyers and borrowers are with mortgage taxes
11 and transfer taxes and mansion taxes and
12 peconic taxes and of course all of the
13 recording fees that people have to experience
14 in Nassau County.

15 My industry, the title industry, we
16 saw our fees cut by the state a few years ago
17 in an effort to save borrowers money. We ate
18 those cuts. We didn't like it but we ate
19 them. However, it didn't really work because
20 whatever they may save from our new reissue
21 rates it doesn't compare to what they're
22 paying for new fees. I've still yet to
23 receive an adequate explanation to exactly
24 what the tax map verification fee is for and
25 certainly why it's so expensive.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 The fees as they exist they are
3 unsustainable. Increases to the current fees
4 would be beyond unfair. I think we are all
5 sympathetic to the budget woes that you are
6 grappling with, but please, for the sake of
7 those who want to realize the dream of
8 homeownership in Nassau County oppose these
9 outrageous hikes. Thank you.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank
11 you.

12 Joanne Borden.

13 MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon. I'm
14 here today asking for transgender people's
15 equal protection from the harmful
16 discrimination that all other people in Nassau
17 County have. My previous discussions here
18 have given you every reason and every
19 scientific fact for you to give transgender
20 people equal protection in our law. Not
21 implied protection, not protection as your own
22 legal counsel says, protection we are likely
23 to have, but equal equality. Protection in
24 fact.

25 Today what I ask has nothing to do

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17
2 with the biological facts or scientific facts
3 I present. It's not another of the many
4 reasons why transgender people deserve and
5 have earned equal treatment by virtue of
6 citizenship and service in time of war. It
7 has everything to do with the American
8 principal of equality. Everyone is equal.
9 Identical treatment under the law. Give us
10 equality. It's not difficult or time
11 consuming. You simply need to add the
12 transgender human rights law already on file.
13 That proposed law will put in writing no more
14 than what you have repeatedly said is now in
15 the law's meaning.

16 My previous request to you
17 emphasized our worthiness. We don't choose to
18 be transgender. God made us this way. So he
19 must have intended for us to be this way.

20 Your belief in our equal
21 protection, Mr. Nicolello, your belief is
22 appreciated but you need to demonstrate that
23 you want gender identity and gender expression
24 people to unquestionably have human rights.
25 If you believe in the American principal of

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 equality you will pass the law that simply
3 defines the word gender so we will
4 unquestionably be protected from harmful
5 discrimination equal to all other people. It
6 will not only give transgender people
7 identical protection from harmful
8 discrimination in employment, housing and many
9 other life needs, but it will fulfill Theodore
10 Roosevelt's promise that no man is above the
11 law and no man beneath it.

12 Thank you for listening.

13 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
14 Joanne.

15 Michael Scully.

16 Pearl Jacobs.

17 MS. JACOBS: Good afternoon. I
18 have a question. Is there any update to
19 report on the Uniondale streetscaping project
20 contract B-11-16? That's a question.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Hi Pearl.
22 How are you?

23 MS. JACOBS: Fine. Is the clock
24 still running? I'm going to lose time when
25 you speak Legislator.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I thought
3 you wanted me to actually answer it. The item
4 has not been calendared to give you the short
5 answer and then we can get more elaborative
6 after your time.

7 MS. JACOBS: That's my first
8 question. And the second question, if not, if
9 the money is still allocated to Uniondale for
10 this project or were they reassigned to on
11 another line to another project? That would
12 be my second project. I see that there are
13 streetscapings and community development
14 projects aggressively moving forward in East
15 Meadow as well as Baldwin. And these also, to
16 my understanding, East Meadow and Baldwin are
17 also hamlets. As a civic leader, I have been
18 told time after time by our elected officials
19 that Uniondale is a hamlet and has no mayor to
20 advocate for it. This is the reason that
21 Uniondale languishes so far behind other
22 communities in Nassau County.

23 If this statement is true, then why
24 are other hamlets in Nassau County thriving
25 and Uniondale is in rapid decline? Uniondale

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 cannot even get its streets cleaned. Why
3 would a hamlet as neglected and excluded as
4 Uniondale continue to pay taxes to a county
5 that does not represent or advocate for it?
6 Why does other hamlets in Nassau County have
7 beautiful gateway signs and Uniondale does
8 not? The one and only gateway sign that
9 Uniondale has that was provided by the county
10 is on Quentin Roosevelt Boulevard. This is
11 the same gateway sign that was removed and
12 then reinstated after Uniondale residents
13 banded together to demand that Uniondale
14 boundaries be identified. This was the East
15 Garden City campaign. If you may answer my
16 questions. Thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So to
18 answer your first question, the item has not
19 been recalendared as you know. I mean, part
20 of my position has been trying to get the item
21 calendared and have it actually have a vote,
22 which has not taken place.

23 The second part of your question,
24 has the money been reallocated? No. The
25 money's been designated. It's in what the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 county has as its financial system. The money
3 is designated for this particular first phase
4 of this contract and that has not changed
5 since that time frame up until we checked
6 sometime last week. That money has not been
7 reallocated to some other project.

8 MS. JACOBS: So, with the
9 residents of Uniondale I ask, would they be
10 able to see that these monies have not been
11 allocated in writing? Would they be able to
12 see proof of this in writing?

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I can
14 provide to you the financial page. Before you
15 leave I will have one of my people put it
16 together. We can put together the financial
17 page which you can see what I'm seeing. But I
18 have no authority to put it in writing because
19 that money in that contract was awarded by the
20 county executive. The county executive has to
21 give you that letter. But I can give you the
22 page that I'm referring to that could indicate
23 to you that the money is still there in the
24 budget allotment.

25 MS. JACOBS: One last question

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 regarding the gateway signs. Is there any
3 reason that Uniondale doesn't have any
4 esthetically attractive gateway signs?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's funny
6 that you mention that. Years ago I was able
7 to get signs along Hempstead Turnpike as you
8 enter in from East Meadow. Esthetically nice
9 wooden decorative signs and someone took them
10 down. I'm not too sure who it was. We tried
11 to investigate that. But I had signs, not
12 only those signs, I had congratulatory signs
13 for our teams that were successful in
14 winning. Like those signs that go up all
15 throughout the county. And again they were
16 taken down. Then I even had signs at one time
17 that the first district had asked me to
18 allocate as well.

19 I have no problem putting up the
20 signs. We just have to make sure that when
21 we're putting them up they're on county
22 property. My sense is they got taken down by
23 state officials or someone in state
24 government. Maybe DOT. But those signs came
25 down for whatever reason. Maybe the proper

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 permission was not given and they could have
3 been taken down. But I have no problem
4 putting in those signs. When you enter in
5 from Hempstead, from East Meadow, when you
6 come in from the north, on Quentin Boulevard,
7 all those signs I have no problem putting them
8 back up.

9 MS. JACOBS: One last question if
10 I may. I asked the question regarding other
11 hamlets that are receiving developments and
12 improvements and Uniondale has not been for
13 many, many years and why is that?

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Why isn't
15 is the other hamlets --

16 MS. JACOBS: Why are other
17 hamlets, East Meadow, Baldwin, they're
18 receiving, aggressively receiving improvements
19 and developments and Uniondale is not. That's
20 just a straightforward question.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I agree. I
22 think it's a question you have to point to all
23 19 not just myself. That being said, I would
24 say in regards to Uniondale this would have
25 been a great project that I thought would have

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 started the process in enhancing the Uniondale
3 community. Pearl, you and I are on the same
4 page. I've always advocated and supported
5 this project. I even went one step further
6 when we were going with the Coliseum and the
7 Coliseum did not want to do any community
8 benefit to the community stood with you to
9 ensure that the Coliseum does its fair share
10 of community investment. Stood with the
11 school district when the school district was
12 looking for a community benefit with all of
13 the development that goes on whether it's
14 Avalon Bay, what's going on now at A. Holly
15 Patterson. In terms of community involvement
16 and making sure that the community is enhanced
17 and we see it is esthetically improved, that's
18 not an issue.

19 MS. JACOBS: I must say to you
20 Legislator Abrahams that not everyone in
21 Uniondale is happy about the A. Holly
22 Patterson development. That's another issue.

23 But like I said, talk is talk but
24 nothing is coming to fruition in Uniondale.
25 The only way that this might be resolved is by

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 a civil rights lawsuit. Have a wonderful
3 day. Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I have, I
5 believe, five more speakers and we are
6 approaching the 30 minute limit. However,
7 since the five individuals are here, I hope,
8 I'm going to move on Mr. Clerk for another 15
9 minutes. That will take us to approximately
10 2:50. So Ms. Mereday you're up. You are
11 within the 30 minute limit.

12 MS. MEREDAY: Good afternoon.
13 Meta Mereday. Where does one begin? Since
14 I'm on the clock let me get to this quickly.
15 I agree with the gentleman that spoke
16 previously with regard to not incorporating
17 that real estate fee. I find it interesting
18 that we pursue funding to address the zombie
19 house crisis but you don't have any problem
20 jacking up the prices for those struggling
21 homeowners that are currently here in Nassau
22 County. I want to put that out there.

23 Parking. Okay. I believe that the
24 sign on this side of the building where it
25 says visitors parking is that actually for

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 visitors or is that continuing the excess for
3 staff et cetera to come rolling in and park so
4 that many residents, including those with
5 disabilities, have to park almost clear across
6 the county line to be able to come and
7 participate at these meetings? There needs to
8 be some kind of structure and it should not be
9 left to the wonderful job that the officers
10 have to do to try to monitor who in fact parks
11 there. You all have your designated spots.
12 There's an employee parking lot and visitors
13 have those few spaces that are on that side of
14 the building. If we can address that that
15 would be greatly appreciated.

16 Veteran services. You know that's
17 my thing. But now that we're just coming off
18 of the 16 year anniversary of 911 and I know
19 all of us have been touched by that directly,
20 indirectly et cetera, we have a health crisis
21 on top of the opioid crisis that unfortunately
22 if you continue to do the same methodology
23 you're going to generate the same result as
24 far as the healing process.

25 Over 60,000 people have been

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 identified as having some connection to 9-11
3 and the 9-11 recovery, myself included. But
4 unfortunately just over 30,000 are now part of
5 the actual World Trade Center monitoring, and
6 what they are finding out is that those that
7 are coming forward now are processing in the
8 early stages of the cancers that will take
9 them out. Which will result in catastrophic
10 penalties for their families. So I do have
11 information for the activities that I'm going
12 to be involved with that.

13 And lastly, because I definitely
14 want to be punctual because I don't plan to be
15 here too long but I will be here for the
16 course of the meeting, so if I have other
17 things to say I want to be able to have the
18 time to say it while folks are still here.

19 I noticed a picture in Newsday that
20 talked about a pantry that was set up at the
21 medical center to provide veterans with food,
22 clothing and other necessities. The problem
23 that we still have in Nassau County and Long
24 Island is the lack of transportation. It's
25 nice to have all the food stuff and the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 clothing but if they can't get there because
3 they're living on the street corner and have
4 no car, what are you going to do about that?

5 So, the budget considerations I'm
6 hoping that you can look into providing some
7 real resources for the veterans who do not
8 have the transportation.

9 And secondly, I'm still waiting for
10 some kind of benchmark report or something
11 about the veteran businesses that have been
12 included in county projects. Because to date,
13 as far as I'm concerned, the county is still
14 in violation of state and federal law.

15 As previous speakers have brought
16 up, the county faces the opportunity, because
17 they seem to love having the opportunity to
18 being sued, maybe it allows for more friends
19 who might leave the county and go to work for
20 a law firm to get more contracts, but the
21 lawsuits you are going to be facing with the
22 lack of inclusion in contracts when you're
23 receiving state and federal money will be
24 tremendous. So, give the taxpayers a break.
25 Okay? Thank you.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
3 Ms. Mereday.

4 Patty Harris.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Excuse me
6 Presiding Officer. As our next speaker makes
7 her way to the podium may I ask, implore that
8 you look at the bill that I filed that would
9 support minority women business owned
10 enterprises as well as service disabled
11 veterans in being able to participate in the
12 contracting process. I believe that bill
13 would really enhance and improve the
14 likelihood that they could do so.

15 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
16 very much.

17 Ms. Harris.

18 MS. HARRIS: My name is a Patty
19 Harris. My husband was the late commissioner
20 Melvin Harris. I usually don't do this. It
21 must be very important for me to be up here.
22 I live in Uniondale. I've been a resident of
23 Uniondale for many years. I went to Turtle
24 Hook. I went to Uniondale High School. I
25 brought Melvin into Uniondale. That's how you

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 guys got to know him. By living there all
3 these years to see how Uniondale is being run
4 down and to see how the commercial area is
5 being built up it's a disgusting, disgraceful
6 thing.

7 As legislators, as the town leaders
8 and as the community wants to live where they
9 are proud of. You want people to come to live
10 in Uniondale you have to make it look nicer.

11 So I am asking to please get the
12 streetscaping on the calendar. I'm asking you
13 as a resident and I'm asking you as being a
14 thorn in your asses to make sure that
15 Uniondale start, the resident area start
16 getting built up as soon as the commercial
17 area starts getting built up.

18 We have one daughter left in our
19 house. 15 years old. She'll be 16. She had
20 somebody come to the house to visit. They
21 were actually scared because they think
22 Uniondale is like a ghetto and it's not. But
23 because everyone of you guys on this panel
24 can't get together and sign off on a simple
25 bill that the taxpayers would like to have the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 area looking decent and nice. You even
3 stripped us of our water tower. Took the name
4 of Uniondale off of it. That's a disgrace.

5 I don't care that you're saying
6 it's this one and that one. Grow up. I
7 brought my daughter here for one of your
8 meetings and you all sounded like asses to
9 her. She said this is what they do? I'm
10 embarrassed as a Uniondale resident and as a
11 Nassau County taxpayer. Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: If I may?

13 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
14 Solages.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Mrs. Harris,
16 just out of respect for your husband I have a
17 great deal of respect for your family and your
18 husband. I pray for your family and I thank
19 him for his service to the county. And I
20 definitely take your remarks very seriously.
21 But again, God bless you and God bless your
22 family. Thank you Ms. Harris.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Mark
24 Schulman. Clifford Lewison.

25 MR. LEWISON: Thank you for

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 calling upon me. I come today as a resident
3 for the last 25 years of the village of East
4 Hills in Nassau County. I'm here to speak to
5 the proposed increase in the tax map
6 verification fee and the block fee, components
7 of recording any single document with the
8 county clerk. Other people have spoken about
9 it already. Already Nassau County is the
10 highest priced county for recording fees
11 throughout the state of New York. A multiple
12 of most other counties, not just slightly
13 higher.

14 As an example, Nassau County would
15 charge more than -- about \$1,045 to record a
16 deed. New York City, the five boroughs of New
17 York City, charge \$177. And as most of you
18 I'm sure are aware, at many closings there are
19 multiple documents. So you multiply that
20 multiple by the many documents being recorded
21 it becomes exorbitant for a homeowner either
22 refinancing or purchasing a house.

23 The title industry at present is
24 under siege from the New York State Department
25 of Financial Services. They are threatening

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 to lower our state regulated title insurance
3 premiums because we allegedly walk away from a
4 closing with so much money. Unfortunately and
5 sadly, most of the money is due to mortgage
6 tax and transfer tax and mansion tax and now
7 even higher recording fees in the County of
8 Nassau. Increasing these fees will penalize
9 current homeowners who are trying to do some
10 estate planning or refinancing. And more
11 importantly, it will discourage future home
12 buyers from purchasing houses and property in
13 Nassau County. And clearly our county needs
14 young homeowners to decide to settle here and
15 raise families here as that will help our
16 economy even more than raising these fees.
17 Thank you.

18 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
19 very much. Joanne, is there anyone with you
20 that wishes to speak? That's you right? I
21 figure it was.

22 MR. DOBROUF: I'm here on behalf
23 of Joanne and transgender advocacy. I'm going
24 to ask if you don't mind if whoever supports
25 rights for transgender people and all people

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 be able to stand while I speak so the
3 legislature can see the support for this
4 issue.

5 Basically I'm here because I
6 believe all citizens are entitled to equal
7 rights. In theory, you'll say that's the case
8 because it's really not the case. People who
9 are transgender are not covered in Nassau
10 County. So when you do the Pledge of
11 Allegiance and you say liberty and justice for
12 all that's not really the case but it's only
13 for some people. That can be changed. It's
14 pretty simple. All Presiding Officer Norma
15 Gonsalves has to do is put this up for a vote
16 and then perhaps it can pass and we can move
17 on to another issue.

18 So, by a show of hands legislators
19 who supports rights for all citizens?

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: We're not
21 going to be able to do that. I know this is
22 what you want to us do but we're not going to
23 be able to do that. Not at this forum.

24 MR. DOBROUF: Another thing I
25 will point out, I'm disappointed that after

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17
2 the election in November that that hasn't
3 wakened up the Nassau County Legislature yet
4 to put this up for a vote. I do sincerely
5 hope that you think this over and in the
6 coming weeks you'll have a change of heart and
7 put this up for a vote so this can be voted
8 on. That's it.

9 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
10 very much David.

11 It's now 2:50. We did get through
12 all the speakers and we will move on to the
13 calendar. But before we do, I want to check
14 with the counsel to see if we have a consent
15 calendar. When I say a consent calendar those
16 are items on the calendar that were approved
17 unanimously in committees. Give me a minute
18 or two.

19 MR. BECKER: May I address you
20 and the minority leader briefly about a
21 meeting I had with Ms. Mereday and
22 Commissioner Brazely in regard to some of the
23 things she discussed.

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You're
25 going to take the three minute limit?

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 MR. BECKER: Less than that.

3 Legislator Bynoe, we had lunch recently at
4 Jonathans with Ms. Mereday. I want to give a
5 quick report on our meeting with Commissioner
6 Brazely. We had a great meeting. Ms. Mereday
7 came to understand the depths and all the hard
8 work that's involved with the Office of
9 Minority Affairs. And they have only two
10 staff people working there at this particular
11 point in time. And one of the things I wanted
12 you to know that the commissioner is working
13 on, which is not presently in the Office of
14 Minority Affairs, a procedures manual that
15 will hopefully be helpful for many years to
16 come for that particular department.

17 Commissioner Brazely also had the
18 opportunity to learn about all the work and
19 knowledge that Ms. Mereday has, especially in
20 regards to her organization that's involved
21 with helping the service disabled. Veterans
22 that is.

23 Ms. Mereday wants the Department of
24 Minority Affairs to be more proactive in the
25 sense not only to try to get contracts to

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 minorities and service disabled but she would
3 also like to see the county go out and find
4 and help the service disabled veterans grow or
5 create their own businesses. She would like
6 to see the department be more proactive.

7 The purpose of the lunch and
8 meeting was basically for Ms. Mereday to have
9 a direct line to the commissioner and they got
10 to know each other. And especially
11 Ms. Mereday's tremendous knowledge in her
12 organization of helping the service disabled
13 veterans.

14 So, one thing that I did want the
15 legislators to know on a final note that
16 Mr. Cleary, our procurement officer, is
17 working closely now with Commissioner
18 Brazely. She had many things she had on board
19 she had to take care of that were critically
20 important. But she's now working closely with
21 Mr. Cleary and they are for the first time
22 within recent months they are posting now the
23 procurement information for the service
24 disabled veterans. That's a great step for
25 the county and for Mr. Cleary working with

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 Commissioner Brazely.

3 I'm hoping in the near future we
4 will meet again and continue to build better
5 communications between Ms. Mereday and
6 Commissioner Brazely to take advantage of any
7 situation especially that will help the
8 service disabled. I hope I adequately
9 reflected our meeting.

10 MS. MEREDAY: I do want to also
11 thank Mr. Becker for initiating that meeting
12 and it was very informative. But I want to
13 support Legislator Bynoe's request because her
14 legislation speaks to building a true
15 infrastructure.

16 And secondly, the legislation that
17 Legislator Laura Curran put on the table two
18 years ago outlines what is most important,
19 putting together a directory, doing the actual
20 outreach, as well as planning the training and
21 tracking the actual input for service disabled
22 and veteran-owned businesses. If you don't
23 have the metrics, if you don't have benchmarks
24 again you're just blowing smoke.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 Ms. Mereday.

3 MR. BECKER: Thank you for your
4 time Madam Chair and legislators.

5 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Guess
6 what? There seems to be a lot of unanimity on
7 most of this calendar with the exception of
8 one item which needs to be brought to the
9 floor. But I'm going to call all those
10 consent items. Before I told you that the
11 consent items are usually those items that
12 went through committee unanimously and so they
13 become unanimous here at the full leg. So I'm
14 going to call the items and I'm going to -- I
15 know that people here who thought they were
16 going to speak on the item as far as the
17 administration is concerned but guess what? I
18 don't think so.

19 I'm going to begin with item one
20 ordinance 115. Item two ordinance 116. Item
21 three ordinance 117. Item four ordinance
22 118. Item five ordinance 119. Item six
23 ordinance 120. Item seven ordinance 121.
24 Item eight ordinance 122. Item nine ordinance
25 123. Item ten ordinance 124. Item 11

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17
2 ordinance 125. Item 12 ordinance 126. Item
3 13 ordinance 127. Item 14 ordinance 128.
4 Item 15 resolution 172. Item 17 resolution
5 174. Item 18 resolution 175. Item 23
6 resolution -- I'm sorry. Hold on. I skipped
7 a page. Item 19 resolution 176. Item 20
8 resolution 177. Item 21 resolution 178. Item
9 22 resolution 179. Item 23 resolution 180.
10 Item 25 resolution 182. Item 26 resolution
11 183. Item 27 resolution 184. Item 28
12 resolution 185. Item 29 resolution 186.
13 Motion please.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Norma, I'm
15 sorry. Can you pull out 172?

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: What item
17 number?

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can you
19 pull out resolution 172 2017, 348-17?
20 Legislator Solages has a recusal.

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Are you
22 going to recuse yourself Legislator Solages?

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just on
24 that matter.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I going to

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 have to call that one separately. For the
3 others that were called, with the exception
4 now of item 15 resolution 172, a motion
5 please. Moved by Legislator Kopel. Second by
6 Legislator Nicoletto. Any questions? Any
7 comments? Any public comment? There being
8 none, all those in favor of the items that
9 were called signify by saying aye. Any
10 opposed? Okay. Ms. Mereday come on let's do
11 it. You're on one of these items I hope?
12 What are the items? I need the number please.

13 MS. MEREDAY: 17, 18, 19, 20, 23,
14 24.

15 17. Question with regard to the
16 amount as it pertains to this contract and
17 what it actually pertained to. What the
18 overall project was with regard to the
19 relationship district attorney Jack and Jill.

20 Number 18. Question again as it
21 was brought up earlier with regard to the lack
22 of attention to the Uniondale community. Just
23 again this intermunicipal agreement with the
24 village of Freeport because it's an
25 incorporated village of Freeport.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 And secondarily, I just want to
3 know who is the contractor involved? What was
4 the vetting process? And again, where is the
5 inclusion in terms of minority women, service
6 disabled veteran owned businesses. Again,
7 this should be a matter of public record and
8 this is information that residents and the
9 constituents, as I said earlier, are leaving
10 here in droves because they can't afford to
11 live here need to know. And I'm sure
12 residents in areas such as Westbury where they
13 have been trying to get additional community
14 policing and Uniondale where they're just
15 trying to get some sense of decency in their
16 neighborhood would have questions.

17 19. Authorizing the county
18 executive to execute the intermunicipal
19 agreement with the Town of Hempstead providing
20 a vehicle seized to the town. For what? For
21 what purpose? Again, as I mentioned earlier,
22 we have issues of lack of transportation and
23 support services for our veterans to get to
24 places such as the medical center to get this
25 assistance and the food and clothing.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 So again, where was the
3 decision-making process? Why was this town
4 specifically designated? Why weren't
5 community organizations possibly considered
6 for that who are actually doing work out of
7 their own pockets? The town gets enough money
8 as it pertains to their own budget. Maybe
9 they can dig into the \$4 million that they use
10 on fruitless advertising to better support the
11 needs of their residents, including myself.

12 20. Again, resolution authorizing
13 the county executive to execute an
14 intermunicipal agreement Hicksville Fire
15 Department in relation to obtaining a fire
16 prevention trailer. Why just Hicksville?
17 Again, we have a number of fire departments
18 that could possibly utilize this type of
19 trailer and just in terms of getting that out
20 there. So I ran out of time but that's pretty
21 much what I had as far as those issues.
22 Unless someone wants to answer the question.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If I can
24 respond to your questions. I think from our
25 standpoint, and I can only speak for the seven

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 folks on this side, we have submitted
3 countless, I would say if not two dozen, maybe
4 more, intermunicipal agreements, CRPs like
5 you're talking about today that have not been
6 calendared. The majority has said they will
7 not calendar them because of the position that
8 we have in regards to the independent
9 inspector general or whatever the issue may
10 be. I'm not sure that the issue may be. But
11 they have not calendared our items for quite
12 some time.

13 We understand that whether it's
14 Hicksville or Lynbrook or where ever that they
15 deserve their taxpayer dollars to work for
16 them. But for whatever reasons, projects that
17 are in districts solely in the seven members
18 on this side we have not seen our items. We
19 faced our constituents countless times over
20 and over again who are asking for their
21 projects to be calendared.

22 MS. MEREDAY: As you know, your
23 constituents are here.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. From
25 that standpoint we cannot understand why our

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 IMAs, our CRPs have not been calendared.
3 They're sitting in the clerk's office now for
4 months if not years.

5 MS. MEREDAY: This is the public
6 sector of this scenario. Folks don't have any
7 problems showing up at community events
8 particularly during an election season to talk
9 about all that you're doing to represent our
10 interests. But when the public is sitting
11 here expressing our concerns it is not only
12 disingenuous it's disrespectful to have to
13 keep coming here and just sitting here and
14 looking at blank faces with no
15 accountability. No answers to the questions.
16 Does our money not count? Does the value of
17 the money from the residents from this side of
18 the room -- does the Kool-Aid taste better on
19 this side of the room versus that side of the
20 room? We are all losing our homes together.

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You had
22 your three minutes. You did have your three
23 minutes plus.

24 MS. MEREDAY: The last two items
25 that I wanted to talk about --

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I'm

3 sorry. Thank you very much.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Hold on.

5 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You hold
6 on.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's just
8 be fair. Ms. Mereday asked me very pointed
9 questions which I provided information on
10 theses IMAs and CRPs.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: And why.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Because to
13 our constituents, Madam Presiding Officer, and
14 this is what Ms. Mereday is talking about, to
15 the constituents that sit on this side they
16 believe that their elected officials are not
17 getting these CRPs done and they are asking
18 why.

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: The answer
20 is not coming from you only. It's going to
21 come from my fellow legislator, Richard
22 Nicoletto. He would like to respond to what
23 your comment was. And that's it. It's only a
24 response.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You say

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 you understand but you don't want to hear.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Before
4 Legislator Nicolello responds, I want
5 confirmation that you have confirmation,
6 meaning you Madam Presiding Officer, because
7 you are the one that calls the calendar not
8 Deputy Presiding Officer Nicolello, you have
9 confirmation that we have CRP, IMA
10 applications that we have worked with liaison
11 from the county executive's office, Fran
12 Becker, sitting right there who we have
13 processed through them, who have been
14 calendared and they are at your discretion to
15 call them at this meeting.

16 So, I want to hear from you. Is
17 there something wrong with our information or
18 something wrong with the way we are submitting
19 them? Because for some reason for the last
20 year you have not called them. They have sat
21 in the clerk's office idle waiting for
22 consideration. That's what the bigger
23 question is. Is there something wrong with
24 our IMAs on why you're not calling them?

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This is

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 just a game that you're playing.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's not
4 a question for you.

5 MS. MEREDAY: This is not a game
6 because lives are being impacted here.

7 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: That's it
8 Ms. Mereday. You had your day in court.

9 MS. MEREDAY: I did not have my
10 day in court. You want to talk court that's a
11 whole different issue.

12 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: It's just
13 a phrase.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: In all
15 fairness to the Deputy Presiding Officer, that
16 is not a question for Mr. Nicolello.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It's a
18 game you are playing. You do this time and
19 time again. You know exactly what the issue
20 is. Why are you asking the presiding officer
21 when we have this debate over and over again?
22 You know exactly what we are doing.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: And it has
24 nothing do with the inspector general. It has
25 everything to do with the bond ordinances that

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 you refuse to give us the votes for. I'm
3 sorry. It's a quid quo pro.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You are
5 misinformed. I heard Ms. Harris talk about
6 how we look and I totally sympathize with the
7 way we look and I'm trying really hard not to
8 give that image again. But you are
9 misinformed if you are saying it's tied to
10 bond items. Because these CRPs are not coming
11 from current bond money. This money was
12 bonded years ago. These taxpayers paid for it
13 years ago. The bond item for the Uniondale
14 streetscape plan came from a bond in 2013.
15 You're misinformed.

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: At this
17 particular time there is no further public
18 comment. I may sound like a dictator.
19 Mr. Nicoletto has a response for Minority
20 Leader. Public comment is over.

21 MS. JACOBS: Because you deem
22 it's over?

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Yes.

24 MS. JACOBS: Because you don't
25 want to talk about the blatant racism that

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 goes on in Nassau County.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The
4 minority leader has raised some questions.

5 MS. JACOBS: You don't want to
6 speak about the blatant racism that goes on in
7 Nassau County.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You're not
9 going to shout us down. We are allowed to
10 respond.

11 MS. HARRIS: I went to East
12 Meadow on Front Street. They have a huge sign
13 that says welcome to East Meadow.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You're not
15 going to shout us down. It doesn't work that
16 way.

17 MS. HARRIS: You go to Uniondale
18 it has a small sign.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You're not
20 going to shout us down. We heard you before.

21 MS. HARRIS: They have two signs
22 on Front Street. That's ridiculous.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Public
24 comment is now over. It is over.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let me

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 respond to the minority leader because we have
3 gone through this over and over again.

4 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I would
5 ask that you take your seats. Public comment
6 is now over. You're not going to get anywhere
7 by being obstinate. Okay? Excuse me.
8 Legislator Nicoletto please.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have
10 gone through this over and over again. You
11 know exactly what the issue is. There's no
12 question not understanding. There's no
13 question needed to clarify. We are not going
14 to pass along your CRPs while you are holding
15 up \$90 million of public works. You cannot
16 expect us to approve projects specific to your
17 district when you are stopping projects
18 throughout this entire county. It's
19 irrational. You can make that argument all
20 you want. It makes no sense. Your projects
21 are not going to move until you allow the
22 business of this county to go forward. The
23 sewer projects, the road projects in every one
24 of our districts. We are not going to vote
25 for your projects. They're not going to move

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 forward.

3 You take your position and these
4 are the consequences that go with it. As soon
5 as we do the business of this county, as soon
6 as we pass this bonding which benefits every
7 part of the county, then the CRPs go back and
8 move forward as they have in the past. Until
9 that happens don't expect your projects to go
10 forward when you are holding up \$90 million
11 for projects for political reasons.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Explain to
13 me and the public -- I believe this money is
14 coming from previously bonded money, which is
15 where we are talking about. How are your
16 projects going forward if there is no bonding
17 in place? Explain that to me. You said that
18 we are not playing ball or whatever the
19 paraphrase you want to use. But I count here
20 hundreds of thousands of dollars of your
21 projects going through, over \$2 million.
22 You're telling the taxpayers there's no money
23 because we can't do the people's business but
24 there's money for us though if you sit on the
25 left side of the aisle.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's
3 called a deflection.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's not a
5 deflection. You are doing your projects.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You don't
7 want to hear the answer because you know what
8 the answer is. I'm not saying that all
9 borrowing in the county has been completely
10 stopped. I'm saying there's \$90 million of
11 public works projects going down, including
12 sewage treatment projects that are a vital
13 necessity that you have held up, projects in
14 every one of our districts. Now you're going
15 to say well, never mind that, move our
16 projects along. It doesn't work that way.
17 You hold up the people's business it's going
18 to affect your district.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Basically
20 this is pay back that's what it is.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It's what
22 you should expect when you hold up the
23 people's business of this county.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Tell me
25 Rich, maybe I'm not that smart, explain to me

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 you're saying there's no bonding, we have
3 haven't bonded, which is not true. The
4 legislature bonded in October to the tune of
5 \$60 million. But you're saying there's no
6 bonding and there's no bonding for Democratic
7 district projects. That's basically what
8 you're saying. There's four Republican
9 district projects that are on the calendar
10 today which are about to be approved. Where
11 is this magical money coming from?

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You're
13 smarter than that. You know what I'm saying.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Explain to
15 these folks where the money is coming from.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I never
17 said that every bit of borrowing in this
18 county didn't go forward. I said specifically
19 \$98 million of capital borrowing you've
20 stopped. Everyone of those projects. Is
21 there not \$90 million of borrowing that you
22 will not vote for?

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're
24 saying that we need to do all of it to make
25 sure we get a few \$100,000 for our respective

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 districts? Is that what you're implying?

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm saying
4 that you have let the business of this county
5 go forward. You stopped it for political
6 reasons and the political reasons are okay but
7 they're going to affect your own districts.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The
9 business in your respective districts has not
10 been stopped. It's still going forward.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: There's
12 roads in my district that haven't been done.
13 There's traffic lights I can't get in front of
14 schools because of you.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's go
16 through each of the IMAs and you tell me what
17 district they're in. You want to go through
18 that exercise? Because we don't have to. You
19 know what the truth is.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let's go
21 through the capital plan. There's roads in my
22 district that have not been paved.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I'm going
24 to call for a vote.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 Presiding Officer, give me one second. If you
3 are a taxpayer from where ever you are in this
4 county you have a right to see your tax
5 dollars work on behalf of your community. For
6 whatever reason, you guys keep hanging your
7 hat on the fact of the bonding. The reason
8 why you have no ground to stand on is because
9 this money was bonded in previous plans. It
10 was negotiated with the county executive and
11 Presiding Officer Gonsalves and it's already
12 been done. You're trying to use that to
13 formulate it to current bonding. You know and
14 I know your projects are not being paid for
15 out of current bonding. They're not paid for
16 out of the \$60 million that we did before.
17 It's being paid for, I think Ms. Jacobs said
18 it, it's being paid for out of 2012 bonded
19 money.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's a
21 distinction without a difference. The roads
22 are not being paved. The sewage treatment
23 projects are still on hold.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If we
25 bonded \$60 million in October tell me why the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 roads not being paved?

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Are you
4 not holding up \$90 million from the capital
5 plan? Are you not? Yes or no? Are you not
6 holding up the capital plan? No? All right.
7 Wait. Can we put those items on today, those
8 \$90 million of projects?

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You
10 haven't used the \$60 million.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You said
12 you're not holding them up. Let's stay here
13 all day. You said you will vote for them. We
14 will take your vote.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We are
16 trying to tell you this is not an endless
17 well. We gave you \$60 million.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Folks, we
19 are almost there. We get the capital plan
20 approved and your project goes too. Come on.
21 \$90 million. We will do it today. We will
22 stay here until we get it done.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's sit
24 here. Let's. At the same time can we talk
25 about the corruption in this county or is that

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 too sore of a topic? Can we talk about the
3 corruption in the county as well?

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You want
5 to start talking about corruption.

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Don't go
7 there.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's talk
9 about it. We can talk about that as well as
10 long as we're talking.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We're
12 going to start talking about personalities?

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So we don't
14 get crazy about this, have you spent the \$60
15 million that we bonded in October.

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I'm
17 calling for a recess. I'm calling for a
18 recess, but before I do I'm going to --
19 there's a motion on the floor for those items
20 and I think we should take that motion and
21 take a vote on those items. All those in
22 favor of the items that I called with the
23 exception of 15, all those in favor signify by
24 saying aye. Any opposed? Once again it's
25 unanimous.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Can't we
3 wait to vote on this after the recess?

4 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: We have a
5 motion on the floor. You all voted on these
6 items in committee. What else do you want to
7 do? Fine. Don't vote on anything else
8 today. All right. In the mean time, you all
9 voted on these items in committee. All those
10 in favor of the items that were called in the
11 consent calendar with the exception of 15
12 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? It's
13 unanimous.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam
15 Presiding Officer, let's just make it clear,
16 I'm going to call and ask for again that you
17 start to calendar the items sitting in the
18 clerk's office because they were bonded with
19 previously bonded money. Have nothing to do
20 with the stalemate in the county that's
21 currently existing and you put those items on
22 because the taxpayers deserve in the
23 respective districts.

24 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Are we in
25 recess?

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 (A recess was taken at 3:10 p.m.)

3 (Meeting was reconvened at 3:32
4 p.m.)

5 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: At this
6 time we will call item 15 and I believe that
7 Legislator Solages is recusing himself. Item
8 15 resolution 172. Is everybody here? Let's
9 go.

10 Mr. Pulitzer I'm going to ask you
11 to read item 15 resolution 172. How's that?
12 By that time maybe I will have Laura
13 Schaefer. Who else is missing?

14 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. A
15 resolution authorizing the county attorney to
16 compromise and settle the claims of
17 plaintiffs, as set forth in the action
18 entitled Georgette Sorrell et al. versus
19 Incorporated Village of Lynbrook et al. Docket
20 number 10-CV-49 pursuant to the county law,
21 the county government law of Nassau County and
22 the Nassau County administrative code.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Motion
24 please. Moved by Legislator Nicoletto.
25 Second by Legislator Walker. Any questions or

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 comments regarding this item? There being
3 none, all those in favor of item 15 signify by
4 saying aye.

5 On this item and only. Did you not
6 respond to this when you first came up? This
7 is a settlement Ms. Mereday.

8 MS. MEREDAY: I understand it has
9 to do with a settlement matter, which probably
10 has privacy issues, but there's an overall
11 consideration with regard to where are these
12 funds coming from when we continue to have to
13 settle different types of cases and we cannot
14 provide public services to residents of the
15 county. That does pertain to this item. If
16 it does not pertain to this item I have no
17 problem someone telling me that it does not
18 but I believe it does. No answer? No
19 response? I don't understand what the point
20 of public comment if the public cannot get
21 answers to questions that impact their taxes.

22 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Are you
23 saying your question pertains this item?

24 MS. MEREDAY: It says authorizing
25 the county attorney to compromise and settle

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 the claims of plaintiffs. If we are
3 compromising that means we are giving in to a
4 certain aspect, again, that we can't talk
5 about and settle. Unless we're shaking hands
6 and having a Kumbaya moment settlement usually
7 means --

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We believe
9 it's coming out of litigation funds.

10 MS. MEREDAY: It's coming from
11 the litigation fund?

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We
13 believe, yes.

14 MS. MEREDAY: Does the public have
15 any idea how much this litigation fund is?
16 Because we get sued every month. I wondering
17 if at some point if it's going to be depleted
18 and then where would those additional funds
19 come from?

20 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Right now
21 you asked a question, where is this money
22 coming from? And the answer was from the
23 litigation fund, period.

24 MS. MEREDAY: So I cannot get
25 additional information as to where the funds

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 are generated for the litigation fund? As a
3 taxpayer I do not have rights to that
4 information?

5 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I believe
6 that this would -- if you would like the
7 answer to that you probably have to refer to
8 our counsel and have him or her decide how
9 much we can give you and how much we can't.

10 MS. MEREDAY: I would appreciate
11 having that information. And as a sidebar,
12 when I've asked for other information post
13 putting questions to this body I have yet to
14 receive the actual information. So that's a
15 concern for those of us who come here, who
16 take the time out of our day, we don't get
17 paid and don't have the resources as you all
18 have to do this. So if you would
19 respectfully, whoever is providing the
20 information, could give me the information I
21 would appreciate it. Thank you so much.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: May I
23 suggest something? You come to our meetings
24 on a regular basis. You say various things,
25 almost all negative, which is fine. You are

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 entitled to do that. Let me finish. If
3 you're not getting what you think you are
4 entitled from us you have your legislator. Go
5 to that legislator. Contact the legislator.
6 If you had certain questions you posed to us
7 you didn't feel you got the answers to that
8 legislator should be able to assist you. Just
9 as if you were in my district, if you didn't
10 get an answer you call me I get you the
11 information. If you're not getting what you
12 think you are entitled to in a public forum
13 when you make you comments contact your
14 legislator they will be able to get it for
15 you.

16 MS. MEREDAY: Since you used my
17 30 seconds in that time period Deputy
18 Presiding Officer, with all due respect, and
19 you can check the record because there have
20 been numerous occasions where I have been very
21 positive, so I don't appreciate your one-sided
22 comment with respect to -- I also did not cut
23 you off when you spoke.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I thought
25 you were done.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 MS. MEREDAY: I will let you know
3 if you need clarity with regard to me being
4 done. I did not disrespect you. Again, you
5 are cutting me off. I have a problem with
6 that. So I will try to finish. If I can
7 finish my sentence, I will gladly take my seat
8 until the next issue comes up that I can speak
9 on, but I will not stand here as a taxpayer
10 representing the many who cannot be here
11 because they have to work two or three jobs to
12 pay these tax and increases that the body that
13 sits before me just gleefully puts into
14 practice to have someone insult me who does
15 not know me, does not know my intentions and
16 clearly does not read the record for their own
17 meeting. Now I will take my seat and I am
18 done. Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That
20 wasn't negative though.

21 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: All those
22 in favor of item -- I'm sorry.

23 MS. JACOBS: You're not allowing
24 me to speak even though I pay taxes you're not
25 allowing me to speak at this legislative

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 forum?

3 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Are you
4 speaking on this item?

5 MS. JACOBS: I'm speaking
6 specifically on this item.

7 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Then speak
8 on it.

9 MS. JACOBS: My question is
10 regarding the settlement. Is the settlement
11 being paid out of taxpayer's money?

12 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: It's a
13 litigation fund.

14 MS. JACOBS: And the litigation
15 fund is it being generated through taxpayer's
16 money?

17 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Correct.

18 MS. JACOBS: I'm standing here,
19 we are paying funds in litigation and
20 settlement through taxpayer money. I'm paying
21 for this. I pay taxes and I can't even get my
22 streetscaping done. I'm just asking. So I
23 can't get anything done in my community but I
24 can pay settlements. I'm going to close it up
25 by saying that pretty soon you will be paying

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 settlements for a civil rights lawsuit.

3 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You're
4 welcome. All those in favor of item 15
5 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? The item
6 passes I believe 17 to zero. Now we move on
7 to the next item. Legislator Solages recused
8 himself. Legislator Solages may join us
9 again. By the way, we do have a Rules
10 Committee meeting following this meeting and
11 right after this hopefully we won't break and
12 we can go quickly in the Rules Committee.

13 The next item is item 16 resolution
14 173. And again, I'm going to ask that the
15 clerk read the item. I'm talking about
16 resolution 173.

17 MR. PULITZER: Thank you madam.
18 A resolution to authorize the county executive
19 for the County of Nassau to execute a
20 memorandum of agreement with the Nassau County
21 Investigators Police Benevolent Association
22 with regard to submitting certain matters to
23 the jurisdiction of an interest arbitration
24 panel.

25 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Motion

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 please. Moved by Legislator Muscarella.

3 Seconded by Legislator Nicoletto. I believe
4 there were questions that this body has
5 regarding this.

6 MS. KRISSEL: This was discussed
7 in executive session Rules.

8 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I think
9 the issue here is financial. I think Roseanne
10 was going to be here to address it regarding
11 the money for this particular item.

12 MS. KRISSEL: It's my
13 recommendation that we proceed into executive
14 session for this. For the financial matters
15 as well, that's correct.

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
17 Nicoletto.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Before we
19 do that, without getting into any actual
20 numbers I have a very simple question. Which
21 is, is the result of this agreement covered
22 within our 2018 proposed budget?

23 MS. D'ALLEVA: What's before you
24 today is to allow the county to negotiate a
25 five year contract negotiation with the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 union. We did provide funding in the 2018
3 budget for a settlement depending on however
4 it proceeds. We put in an estimate. Best
5 estimate we could.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's
7 estimates based on the parameters of what
8 we're doing here in terms of agreeing to go to
9 arbitration on this? To the five year
10 potential?

11 MS. D'ALLEVA: Correct. It's
12 based on the parameters of the arbitration
13 award that was given.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you.

15 MS. KRISEL: Are there additional
16 questions?

17 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Are there
18 any other questions? Kevan? You want to go
19 into executive session? Let's go. A motion
20 to go into executive session. Moved by
21 Legislator Schaefer. Second by Legislator
22 Walker. All those in favor of going into
23 executive session on item 17 signify by saying
24 aye. Any opposed? We are going into
25 executive session.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 (A recess was taken at 3:32 p.m.)

3 (Meeting was reconvened at 3:57

4 p.m.)

5 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: We are
6 back to item 16 resolution 173. I believe
7 there was a motion taken, correct Frank? Now
8 for the vote. All those in favor of item 16
9 signify by saying aye. Any opposed? It's
10 unanimous.

11 Now I have to do something I don't
12 really like to do, but we are waiting for some
13 information for some other items that may be
14 presented to us. So I'm going to recess or
15 ask someone to make a motion to recess. I
16 don't need a motion. We are going to put this
17 meeting in recess and then we're going to have
18 to come back and guess what? I'm waiting for
19 some pending information. We can move forward
20 with the Rules Committee so that we cannot you
21 know. The meeting is now in recess until we
22 get additional information as requested.

23 (A recess was taken at 4:00 p.m.)

24 (Meeting was reconvened at 5:12

25 p.m.)

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: We are now
3 back in session. We have emergency six
4 items. I'm going to try to expedite as much
5 as I can. However, there are four
6 emergencies. Emergency 14 that has three
7 items. Then there's emergency 15. It has one
8 item. Emergency 16 has one item. And
9 emergency 17 that has one item. Right now the
10 first emergency is item 364, which is part of
11 emergency 14, 365 and 366. Emergency 15 is
12 371. The emergency 16 is 372. And the
13 emergency item 17 is item 373.

14 Motion to establish. Moved by
15 Legislator Rhoads. Second by Legislator
16 Nicoletto. All those in favor of establishing
17 the emergencies for these items signify by
18 saying aye.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: One thing,
20 then I'm going to pass the floor to
21 Legislators Solages, Birnbaum and Drucker.

22 MR. BECKER: Minority Leader, are
23 we questioning the reason for the emergency or
24 on the items themselves?

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Both. It's

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 related. But the first thing I was under the
3 impression we were going to call all three
4 emergencies at the same time. One emergency
5 for all the school districts.

6 MR. PODLESAC: If I may. The way
7 that we were informed to do this earlier in
8 the day is do it separately and that's the way
9 we filed it. There's no particular reason.
10 You can consider them all at once. It's just
11 the original way was to do it as separate
12 items. Now we have all it all together.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Norma, are
14 you okay with what Jerry said? Can we call
15 them all together?

16 MR. PODLESAC: I thought that was
17 the case too.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We did 371,
19 2 and 3?

20 MR. PODLESAC: There's four
21 separate documents that you can vote on, take
22 one vote on, which was my understanding.

23 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Emergency
24 14, 15, 16 and 17. That's four. That's what
25 we did.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 MR. PODLESAK: Right.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I'm
4 driving at is that we are going to take a vote
5 on all four at the same time? That's fine.

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: We have to
7 establish the emergency.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ask your
9 questions first.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
11 Birnbaum.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Could you
13 explain why we have these as emergencies? Why
14 do they come to us today as emergencies?

15 MR. PODLESAK: I think I can
16 handle that one. They're coming on today
17 because, by law, the school taxes have the
18 warrant issued by the fourth Monday in
19 September. My understanding from assessment
20 is that the information they need in order to
21 submit the ordinances to the legislature they
22 don't get until the very end of September. I
23 understand one school district did not come
24 through until last Wednesday, which is why it
25 all has to be brought on as emergency at this

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 point. To put it all in perspective, I don't
3 have the institutional knowledge but the
4 people I have spoken to about it say that
5 we've done it this way for the last 30 some
6 odd years.

7 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: And that's
8 why I'm questioning it because if we do it
9 each year like this why can't we make it so we
10 get the information in the proper timing.

11 MR. PODLESAK: We are at the
12 mercy of the school districts.

13 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: According
14 to the certificate filed by the assessor
15 certifying that these were received and filed
16 it bears a date of September 11th.

17 MR. PODLESAK: That's news to
18 me. I was told that last Wednesday was the
19 day and I don't think that was the 11th.

20 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: That's in
21 the ordinance that it has to be filed in the
22 Office of -- the assessor of the county of
23 Nassau bears the date September 11th.

24 MR. MARIN: Deputy county
25 attorney Robert Marin, Jr. That is the date

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 that the assessed value was filed. Again, the
3 school board or school districts provide their
4 budget as they pass them. There is no date
5 requirement to get them to us. The only
6 requirement quite frankly is on this body to
7 pass it by today. We are at the mercy of the
8 school districts.

9 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: The way
10 it's been pointed out to me that the adco
11 requires the assessor to extend it to the 10th
12 day preceding the fourth Monday.

13 MR. MARIN: I don't have the
14 institutional knowledge, but as Jerry said,
15 it's been done this way for 40 years and the
16 error, if you want to call it that, is
17 administerial at best. Additionally, quite
18 frankly, the rules that this body is beholding
19 to in this realm is antiquated and just not
20 functioning. Because of being at the mercy of
21 the school district, not through the fault of
22 anyone in the county. It's never go to
23 happen. You have to pass the tax levy by
24 today and one school board didn't give us the
25 information until Wednesday. So what do we

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 do? Again it's an administerial error. It
3 doesn't affect anyone. Quite frankly, with
4 all due respect, it's a pass through because
5 you have the ability to vote yes or vote no
6 but you don't have the ability to change it.
7 The school board has that ability.

8 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I
9 understand what you're saying, but according
10 to the administrative code it has dates set
11 out. We're not adhering to them. Nor are we
12 following the code of the county by having an
13 acting assessor doing this who's not an
14 assessor. Qualified by the code itself with
15 his qualifications to be the assessor. Is
16 there somebody from the assessment office
17 here?

18 MR. MARIN: Yes. I'm not from
19 the Department of Assessment. I'm counsel to
20 the Department of Assessment but there is
21 somebody from the Department of Assessment
22 standing behind me.

23 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Perhaps we
24 should amend the code if for every year for 40
25 years we're doing it the wrong way.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 MR. MARIN: I can't speak to
3 that. I'm not up there. I'm but the humble
4 civil servant.

5 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I think
6 maybe if we had an assessor who followed the
7 code we might be better off than by doing it
8 every year by emergency and not filing the
9 certificate by the proper date. I think I
10 have a copy of the certificate. No, we don't
11 have a copy of the certificate. I don't know
12 what the certificate looks like actually. But
13 it has the proper information in it.

14 The question is, are we doing it
15 properly? Are they accurate? Are we
16 following the code of our county by doing it
17 this way? I guess it's a rhetorical question
18 at this point. There's no answer.

19 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: If I
20 might, I'll try to answer a rhetorical
21 question as best I know and it's been done
22 this way under Republican assessors, under
23 Democratic assessors. That doesn't make it
24 right. But the fact that I understand is as
25 follows. We have to do it by a certain date

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 by law. The school districts don't
3 necessarily have to give us the information
4 far enough in advance to meet that deadline
5 but for meeting the deadline with an
6 emergency. If there was a way that we could
7 force the school districts to give us that
8 information early I think we would.

9 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: How many
10 school districts were we waiting for?

11 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Just a
12 couple because as I understand it they
13 straddle the Nassau-Suffolk line.

14 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Legislator
15 Muscarella just one quick comment on that. As
16 an attorney we're being asked to approve an
17 ordinance that says we are doing it in
18 accordance with provision Section 6.21 and
19 6.22 of the code which we're not. We have an
20 ethical obligation to pass things that are
21 truthful. So saying that we're passing this
22 ordinance which is in accordance with the
23 provisions of the code is inaccurate and not
24 true.

25 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: I don't

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 necessarily disagree with you. However, vote
3 against it. If we all vote against it our
4 school districts can't get funded.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Just
6 understand there's a dichotomy here. As an
7 attorney I have a problem when I'm being asked
8 to sign off on things that are not truthful.

9 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: The best
10 way that we address it is by doing it by an
11 emergency.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That doesn't
13 legitimize it.

14 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: I'm not
15 justifying it. I'm just trying to explain it.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Can I ask a
17 question Madam Presiding Officer? There's a
18 distinction between the warrant for the school
19 taxes obviously and the consolidated taxes;
20 isn't that correct?

21 MR. CESTRA: My name is Jeff
22 Cestra from the assessment unit. Could you
23 repeat the question again?

24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Would you
25 agree that there is a distinction between

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17
2 warrants that are issued for the school taxes
3 and warrants that are issued for the
4 consolidated taxes, which is the resolution
5 364? Would you agree that there is a
6 distinction between those two types of
7 warrants?

8 MR. CESTRA: What is your point?

9 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just asked
10 you the question. Is there a distinction
11 between those two types of warrants?

12 MR. CESTRA: In other words, the
13 schools have the warrants. We file warrants,
14 which you have the numbers in front of you. I
15 don't know what the significance of the
16 question is.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: The purpose
18 of the question is --

19 MR. CESTRA: The school numbers
20 should be right in front of you.

21 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: The purpose
22 of the question then is to elucidate the fact
23 that the consolidated taxes, you have the
24 county, you have the cities and you have the
25 towns that haven't fixed their budgets yet.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 We don't know what those numbers are yet.
3 Like we do have most of the school tax
4 information. We certainly don't have the
5 consolidated tax information from the various
6 municipalities.

7 My point is, isn't it putting the
8 cart before the horse though to issue warrants
9 before you have any numbers? At least with
10 the school districts you have most of the
11 numbers taxes.

12 MR. CESTRA: The schools we have
13 the numbers. At the end of the year you don't
14 have the warrants naturally for the county,
15 town, special districts. That's the way it's
16 always worked each year.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That seems
18 to be the common refrain though, the way it's
19 done every year. But we are being asked to
20 issue warrants on numbers we don't have yet.

21 MR. CESTRA: Again, you have to
22 remember you have to assess the taxes with
23 general taxes now. In other words, the
24 general tax, the assessed values can't be
25 different for the school and for the general

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 taxes.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But there
4 are other types of taxes. The consolidated
5 taxes is a distinction under the code.

6 MR. CESTRA: As I said, the
7 general warrants are going to be issued at the
8 end of the year. They always have been,
9 always will be.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: It's going
11 out tomorrow afternoon though.

12 MR. CESTRA: We're talking fiscal
13 year school now.

14 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I'm talking
15 about consolidated taxes.

16 MR. CESTRA: As I said, general
17 warrants are going to be issued at the end of
18 the year. That's my answer. That's the way
19 it's always been.

20 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: The item
21 says it's going out tomorrow. Consolidated
22 warrants said it's going out tomorrow.

23 MR. CESTRA: I don't see where it
24 says consolidated anywhere anyway.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: 364-17 the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 first one.

3 MR. CESTRA: We're here to talk
4 about the school taxes, the warrants.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: The first
6 item is a resolution to talk about the
7 consolidated taxes. That's a different item.

8 MR. CESTRA: As I told you, the
9 general warrants are going to be issued at the
10 end of the year.

11 MR. BECKER: Legislator Drucker,
12 I'm told that part of the reason that the
13 consolidated warrants go out is because the
14 school and the consolidate have to match. The
15 assessed value. The assessed valuation has to
16 match for the schools and for the
17 consolidated. They have to match.

18 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I understood
19 that Fran but the warrants and assessments are
20 two different things.

21 MR. BECKER: The warrants are
22 based on the assessed valuation. Once again,
23 the problem here right now is that we don't
24 get the information early enough from the
25 school districts. As a legislator that's the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 way it was when I was on there and we were
3 stuck doing emergencies every year because the
4 assessor can't control what the school
5 districts do. They can't.

6 You know what's funny, when I was a
7 legislator even though it's absolutely
8 imperative that they have this data in they
9 are so lackadaisical about it. It gets to you
10 way too late. I understand your point.
11 Legislator Drucker, I understand your point
12 that you're signing something that says this
13 is the way it's supposed to be done and it's
14 not actually being done that way. Maybe this
15 body has to fix it. That's for another time I
16 think.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I understood
18 that Fran. The dichotomy that I'm trying to
19 point out is we are being asked to do the
20 school tax late but were being asked to do the
21 consolidated tax too early. The warrants.

22 MR. BECKER: Basically I'm told
23 the reason for that is that it has something
24 to do with the assessed valuation because it
25 has to be identical, it has to match, when the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 consolidated is actually done.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: If we don't
4 issue the consolidated tax warrant tomorrow
5 will it have any effect on the assessments
6 going forward?

7 MR. CESTRA: You have to
8 remember, the assessed values are very
9 important for us. They have to match. If
10 they're not approved today, if you want
11 different values then don't approve it
12 tonight. But if you want the same amounts I
13 would approve it tonight.

14 MR. BECKER: Also, I understand
15 that is required by our county charter that
16 they go out together. Are with correct in
17 that? Counsel is telling us that that's the
18 case.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
20 Schaefer then Legislator Bynoe and Legislator
21 Solages.

22 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: This is
23 something that are all going to agree with
24 this. If this is something that we can change
25 in the administrative code for next year, if

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 there's somehow we can remedy this I think
3 that we should absolutely do that so we are
4 avoiding things like this. To the extent that
5 we can make the difference let's do what we
6 can do.

7 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Now
8 Legislator Bynoe.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: To Legislator
10 Schaefer's point, the administrative code
11 already speaks to that. The administrative
12 code states that the school districts are
13 required to give us that information by the
14 15th day of August. So what we're failing to
15 do is require that they be in compliance with
16 our administrative code. And I would state
17 that that is the requirement of the Department
18 of Assessment. That someone there needs to
19 make sure that they are in compliance with our
20 administrative code. And this is a state
21 requirement. Therefore, it doesn't matter who
22 is straddling Nassau and Suffolk County
23 border. They have a requirement to adhere to
24 state law and our administrative code and give
25 us the information by August 15th.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 MR. BECKER: Legislator, you are
3 absolutely right but what happens is there's
4 probably no fines and no penalties involved in
5 this that I know of. Unless the county wants
6 to impose fines and penalties then let's go to
7 our school districts, who we all represent,
8 and tell them that we're going to fine them if
9 they don't get this data in. That's why we're
10 in the predicament we're in because school
11 districts do things the way they want to do it
12 and we let them do it. That's the problem.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Let me ask the
14 question then. What are currently doing to
15 behoove them to be in compliance with our
16 administrative code? Explain to me what we
17 are currently doing.

18 MR. BECKER: We are in the
19 predicament we're in because we've done the
20 same thing.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Because we are
22 not doing anything.

23 MR. BECKER: I bet if this body
24 passes fines against the school districts
25 you'll have them in by August 15th. They also

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 have their own problems in putting this data
3 together. That's why I'm sure some of them
4 are late.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I don't know
6 that we always have to go to a point where
7 we're fining people. Sometimes it's just a
8 function of educating them. I'm sorry, I need
9 you to hear me. Sometimes it's a function of
10 educating people to say this is the outcome.
11 The outcome is that you've put this
12 legislative body in a compromising predicament
13 and this body has stated moving forward we
14 will not do that. If they will then those one
15 or two school districts who fail to come along
16 and get it right they're going to be left out
17 in the cold. I think sometimes they need to
18 understand.

19 Simply photocopy this part of the
20 administrative code or embed it into a letter
21 and tell them that this is what is required to
22 them and failure to comply is this act or that
23 act. I think you will get some people to
24 respond to that.

25 MR. BECKER: As director of

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 legislative affairs I'm going to speak to the
3 counsel of the majority and minority after
4 this session and see if we can come up with a
5 plan. I'm going to take it under my wing to
6 address this issue and I will get back to
7 everybody. But I will speak to both counsel
8 on both sides and address this issue and see
9 if we can come up with some kind of reasonable
10 resolution. I did this for 20 years when I
11 was in the legislature and you have a good
12 point. Maybe it's not necessary if we get the
13 school districts to comply. I will take this
14 under my wing and get back to you.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I appreciate
16 that.

17 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
18 Solages.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
20 Presiding Officer. Good afternoon Jeff. How
21 are you doing tonight?

22 MR. CESTRA: Good.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Do these
24 valuations reflect the property commonly known
25 as Green Acres Mall on the tax roll or off the

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 tax roll?

3 MR. MARIN: Green Acres is under
4 a PILOT agreement. It is off the tax roll as
5 is legally required.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: According to
7 an agreement between the Industrial
8 Development Agency of the town of Hempstead
9 and the Macich Corporation; is that correct?

10 MR. MARIN: No. According to
11 General Municipal Law section 18A-874.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Which only
13 applies if there is an agreement. Is there an
14 agreement in place?

15 MR. MARIN: I believe that's in
16 litigation right now.

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Speaking of
18 that litigation, can you provide us an update
19 of that litigation?

20 MR. MARIN: Nassau County is not
21 a party to that litigation.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But if
23 affects our tax rolls. You must of course
24 have an update.

25 MR. MARIN: No, it doesn't. It

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 affected the tax rolls last year and then
3 again under 18A you can't have more than a one
4 percent difference between classes. It
5 affected the tax rolls partially last year.
6 It will not affect them again this year more
7 than one percent.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I think
9 undoubtedly it will affect the tax roll this
10 year. Especially if the judge, Judge Driscoll
11 in that matter, rules in favor of the
12 corporation or in favor of the industrial
13 development agency. I ask again, do you have
14 any update as it relates to that litigation
15 before Judge Driscoll?

16 MR. MARIN: Taxes in Valley
17 Stream have been reduced on average \$600. We
18 are not a party to the litigation. Therefore,
19 I will not speak on hypotheticals on how a
20 judge will rule. Because I think, as a
21 lawyer, a lot of times a judge is going to
22 rule one way and I usually get slammed.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood.
24 I can respect that.

25 MR. MARIN: Just being honest.

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But as it
3 relates to approving these tax rolls it's
4 important to note that there is litigation
5 that if it goes one way could have a
6 disproportionate impact upon the residents of
7 Valley Stream.

8 And with respect to your last
9 statement that it went down by \$600, I talk
10 every day to senior citizens and other people
11 who live on fixed incomes and they received
12 \$1,000 tax increase and they believe that if
13 these tax rolls are not corrected then they
14 can receive another tax hit.

15 MR. MARIN: The bills haven't
16 gone out yet, so I don't know what they're
17 referencing. Perhaps they're referencing
18 prior years. But the data that I'm being told
19 is that on average they're being reduced
20 \$600. Green Acres is not going to affect the
21 tax rolls this year.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Based on
23 what authority?

24 MR. MARIN: Based on the fact
25 that it's a PILOT and it's still a PILOT and

1 Full Leg - 9-25-17

2 it's currently a PILOT and they're making
3 PILOT payments and the school districts are
4 utilizing the PILOT payments.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What if the
6 exemption is struck down in the court?

7 MR. MARIN: That's a
8 hypothetical. I can't speak to that. I don't
9 know what the judge will say in his decision.
10 How he will implement it. If it will be
11 retroactive. If it will be two years going
12 forward. If a new agreement will be reached.
13 There's too many variables. It's impossible
14 to speculate. I can give you a thousand
15 different answers. None of which can happen.

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So it could
17 affect the roll?

18 MR. MARIN: It could. It could
19 not. We may never hear about it again. There
20 could be any number of a hundred answers.

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So your
22 statement that it wouldn't affect the roll
23 isn't correct?

24 MR. MARIN: I don't have a
25 statement. Green Acres? What do you mean?

1
2 Green Acres is not going to affect the roll as
3 it is right now. Green Acres, the PILOT has
4 not affected the roll. Nothing about the
5 litigation. Green Acres right now is not on
6 the tax roll because there is a PILOT right
7 now. It will not affect the rolls right now
8 as a PILOT. If the judge rules a certain
9 way -- I don't know what the judge is going to
10 do.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: A PILOT
12 that's in litigation.

13 MR. MARIN: Correct. If I knew
14 what a judge would do and I can bet on that I
15 wouldn't be standing here. I would be a
16 wealthy man.

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Tell us how
18 would this ordinance affect the tax rolls
19 considering that the case is still in
20 litigation.

21 MR. MARIN: It doesn't. It
22 affects it in the sense that if you don't pass
23 it today you don't pass the school budget.
24 That's how it affects it. Listen, Friday is
25 my last day. I love coming before you people

1
2 but you got to pass it today. You are a pass
3 through with all due respect. You don't have
4 the authority to -- unless you want to vote
5 down a school budget, we're talking about much
6 adieu about nothing. This is how it's been
7 done for 40 years. Why is it an issue today?
8 Because school districts are late and it's the
9 school districts.

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It was an
11 issue last year as well when residents in
12 Valley Stream received \$1,000 increase in
13 taxes on average.

14 But I'm in possession of a letter
15 that I distributed to my colleagues and I can
16 have a copy of it sent down to you right now.
17 It's a letter in which the superintendent of
18 the Valley Stream School District Number 30
19 addresses a member of this body in which he
20 says specifically, I quote, Valley Stream
21 School District 30 Board of Education has
22 fulfilled its promise in returning any excess
23 PILOT funds to the residents of Valley Stream
24 School District 30. We ask that you and the
25 rest of the Nassau County Legislature do the

1
2 same. When voting on the adjusted base
3 proportions for Valley Stream Districts 13, 24
4 and 30 in the fall, return the adjusted base
5 proportion percentages to the 2015-2016
6 percentages.

7 For the individual from the
8 assessment department, Jeff, would you state
9 that's an appropriate solution, to return this
10 back to the adjusted base proportions to the
11 2015-2016 year, that is the year before the
12 PILOT was granted for Green Acres Mall? The
13 \$80 million PILOT.

14 MR. PODLESACK: That is not a
15 question for the assessment bureau. That's a
16 legal question. And I believe the answer has
17 already been furnished to the legislature that
18 the suggestion by the Valley Stream School
19 District is incorrect and contrary to law.

20 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: If I may
21 chime in here?

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm not done
23 with my questioning. Thank you.

24 Just to be clear, I appreciate your
25 quick reference to a prior answer, but if you

1
2 could state that for the record now. Would
3 returning the adjusted base proportion to the
4 previous year 2015-2016 be a solution? That
5 is the year before the \$80 million tax break
6 to the third most profitable mall corporation
7 in this country was given. Is that a
8 solution?

9 MR. PODLESACK: That is the
10 answer. There is no authority to do it. And
11 frankly, it's irrelevant to this particular
12 matter that's before the legislature, which is
13 the issuing of the ordinance that would allow
14 the collection of school taxes for the coming
15 year. Which will in fact benefit the
16 residents of Valley Stream by reducing on
17 average their tax bill by \$600.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But if they
19 overpaid before then they deserve that
20 benefit. If you're saying that would give
21 them that benefit when they already overpaid
22 last year by virtue of paying for a tax break
23 for a mall in an agreement that still hasn't
24 yet been decided by a court wouldn't that be
25 the appropriate solution?

1

2 MR. PODLESAK: That's not what's
3 before you Legislator. What's before you is
4 the taxes for the upcoming school year and
5 they need to be passed today. What you are
6 asking is a rhetorical question that really
7 does not have anything to do with this
8 legislation.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I disagree
10 respectfully. Continuing in the letter. The
11 letter reads also, This would be the
12 percentages before the Green Acres Mall PILOT
13 was implemented. Along with this bad deal,
14 the shift in the burden of taxes from Class 4
15 commercial to Class 1 homeowners in 2016-2017
16 was a major contributor to the increase in
17 taxes for homeowners in each district.

18 Can you at least chime in on
19 whether there was a shift in the burden of
20 taxes from Class 4 to Class 1?

21 MR. PODLESAK: That's irrelevant
22 at this point. The matter before the
23 legislature is passing the taxes for the
24 coming school year.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It's also

1

2 the adjusted base proportions for this year.

3 Do the adjusted base proportions for this year

4 as in last year shift the burden from Class 4

5 to Class 1?

6

MR. MARIN: With respect, before

7 this went on for emergency we were questioned

8 as to the validity in the charter and legality

9 of putting on an emergency based on the ten

10 days. Now we're not so concerned about the

11 law when I'm telling you that you cannot put

12 this back on the roll and you cannot change

13 the valuation because it's contrary to the

14 law. But now you're looking for solutions

15 that are contrary to the law. I'm here to

16 tell you again --

17

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking

18 you for the details of these rolls and that

19 will determine to me at least whether this is

20 satisfactory to pass the emergency.

21

MR. MARIN: It's irrelevant to

22 the analysis of whether this should be passed.

23

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I have a

24 right as a duly elected legislator to ask you

25 how these valuations came to be and what

1
2 figures were used in coming to these numbers.

3 MR. MARIN: A PILOT agreement.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: A PILOT
5 agreement that shifted the burden of taxes
6 from Class 4 to Class 1 and I'm asking you
7 simply --

8 MR. MARIN: You're speaking
9 hypotheticals. That analysis is in
10 litigation.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Whether
12 these tax rolls for this year duplicates the
13 same affect as we saw last year?

14 MR. MARIN: The answer is no.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I continue
16 in the letter. The Nassau County Legislature
17 is responsible for voting and approving the
18 Nassau County's adjusted base proportions
19 every year. We ask that you and your
20 colleagues take responsibility in determining
21 the adjusted base proportions.

22 MR. MARIN: Let me ask you a
23 question. Any time someone goes before this
24 body you ask for documentation, backup.
25 Rightfully so. Do you have any documentation

1
2 or backup or just a letter from them waxing
3 poetically as to results? What did they base
4 their analysis on? What are their numbers?
5 What are their figures? What documentation
6 did they provide that says that what they said
7 in the letter is accurate and not, quite
8 frankly, just a shell game to hide their poor
9 accounting processes?

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking
11 you the same questions. Whether the
12 assessment department and whether those same
13 practices are adopted by your agency. These
14 are the same questions I'm asking of you. Can
15 the individual from the assessment department
16 at least chime in here because he's counsel
17 but you're in the assessment department. Can
18 you at least explain what happened in the
19 previous year with respect to the shift in the
20 burden between Class 4 and Class 1 and whether
21 these tax rolls are the same.

22 MR. CESTRA: The shift is because
23 of the PILOT, period.

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is it
25 because of the PILOT or the school district?

1
2 He and other people are placing blame on
3 School District 30 but now you're saying it's
4 because of the PILOT. Who is responsible
5 Mr. Jeff? What happened? Please give me the
6 assurance that that is not going to happen
7 this year.

8 MR. CESTRA: I will say one thing
9 at this point. It's in litigation. Let the
10 courts fight it out then.

11 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Madam
12 Presiding Officer.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm not done
14 with my questioning.

15 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I think you
16 are. You're just trying to badger him.

17 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Hold on.
18 Stay on the issue. It's not the PILOT
19 program. Let's go. I will give you one
20 minute more.

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: In reviewing
22 371-17, can you please show me the
23 classification on Class 4 please, the
24 valuation in Class 4? Jeff, can you please
25 point to that? On what page?

1

2 MR. PODLESAK: I don't think we
3 understand what your question is.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: The
5 valuation for Class 4 last year compared to
6 this year. I want to make sure that the
7 numbers are different.

8 MR. CESTRA: What do you want,
9 the adjusted base proportion?

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes. Your
11 counsel stated that there will be no effect.
12 I want to see at least that the numbers --

13 MR. MARIN: No effect on the
14 Green Acres' PILOT.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I want to
16 see at least the valuation for the Class 4 is
17 different from last year and this year.

18 MR. MARIN: Last year Green Acres
19 or the school board made an overadjustment,
20 underadjustment on the levy for the PILOT.
21 This year they know what the number is.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: A
23 representative from the assessment department,
24 your colleague, just stated that it was the
25 PILOT. But now you're saying it was the

1
2 school district I just want to learn from the
3 assessment department what valuation and what
4 number the Class 4 compared to last year and
5 this year.

6 MR. MARIN: It's numbers. It's
7 math.

8 MR. CESTRA: The adjusted base
9 proportions from 2016 to 2017 increase
10 significantly in Class 1. That's why the tax
11 rates went up. 2017 to 2018 did not go up
12 much.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Did not go
14 up. By how much did it go up by?

15 MR. CESTRA: For example '17-'18
16 it went up about one percent.

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Can you
18 please point to what page you're looking at
19 please.

20 MR. CESTRA: Page seven of the
21 adjusted base proportion.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Compared to
23 the previous year where the PILOT did not
24 exist, what difference do we have?

25 MR. CESTRA: From '16 to '17 I

1
2 don't have the figures in front of me. We're
3 talking really for the '17-'18 year. We're
4 not or I didn't think that questions would
5 relate to a previous year. Therefore, I
6 didn't bring figures with me.

7 MR. MARIN: Because that issue is
8 not before the leg today.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
10 very much.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Legislator
12 Gaylor.

13 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: What my
14 colleague was referring to was a letter that
15 Dr. Stirling from School District 30 had
16 written me back on August 21st. And for the
17 most part Legislator Solages read most of the
18 letter into the record. What the legislator
19 fails to recognize, maybe because he's not
20 aware or just purposefully didn't, is that
21 there has been an exchange of letters since
22 then regarding this same subject matter
23 between School District 30 and myself.

24 In fact, on September 11th, after
25 being informed by the county attorney's

1
2 office, I informed the school district that
3 Nassau County does not have the legal
4 authority to remedy the issue as he suggested
5 in his letter without the help of New York
6 State. PILOT agreements are constructs of New
7 York State law, as are the standards by which
8 Nassau County must determine adjusted base
9 proportions. While the county legislature
10 does indeed levy taxes on behalf of the school
11 district, it has no discretion in the
12 application of Section 1803 of Article 18 of
13 the Real Property Tax Law.

14 In other words, none of the
15 standards that Dr. Stirling had suggested in
16 the August 21st letter would allow Nassau
17 County to do as he suggested. The RPTL does
18 not give the county legislature discretion to
19 unilaterally shift allocations to account for
20 assessed value lost to IDA exemptions in
21 connection with PILOT programs and PILOT
22 agreements. As such, we are confined as the
23 legislature to the formula as provided by
24 state law.

25 If there is a solution to be had it

1
2 requires the intervention of New York State.
3 One possible solution is for the state to
4 grant Nassau County the authority to adjust
5 the proportions as Dr. Stirling had proposed.
6 Another would be to allow Nassau County the
7 ability to treat PILOTS as taxes. But neither
8 option can be accomplished by Nassau County
9 under existing New York State law. Those laws
10 can and should be changed for the benefit of
11 our residents.

12 I have proposed legislation. We
13 have had a home rule request that went up to
14 the state. In fact, it lies with Legislator
15 Solages' sister, the assemblywoman from this
16 district, to push this forward. Until she
17 takes the next step nothing is going to
18 happen. Nothing that is proposed by Dr.
19 Stirling in his previous letters is going to
20 happen.

21 Now, in response to my September
22 11th Dr. Stirling was kind enough to write
23 back just recently on September 15th. He
24 acknowledges that state legislative changes
25 are required and urges elected officials at

1
2 the state level to pursue the legislative
3 priorities which would give greater
4 transparency from IDAs and require full
5 disclosure of impact of PILOT agreements on
6 the public.

7 In addition, in an August 21st
8 letter Dr. Stirling informs me that the Valley
9 Stream School District 30 Board of Education
10 adopted its tax levy. The total amount was 19
11 million and change. This total includes a
12 reduction of \$1,858,000 of Valley Stream
13 District 30's allowable tax levy within the
14 parameters of New York State law. It includes
15 the PILOT estimate based on receiving all
16 PILOT payments from the Green Acres Mall. The
17 reduction of the 1.8 million includes all
18 excess PILOT funds received by Valley Stream
19 District 30 in June of 2017. This method is
20 the current and only legal method in returning
21 money to the taxpayers.

22 So it's quite clear that this body
23 does not have the authority, unless the state
24 gives us this authority either in the form of
25 new legislation or changes that they could

1
2 enact even on another bill that Assemblyman
3 Kern has introduced to include PILOTs as
4 though they were taxes because that wording is
5 not in the existing state legislation.

6 But again, both Assemblyman Kern's
7 legislation that he introduced can't move
8 until a majority member, which is
9 assemblywoman Solages from the Valley Stream
10 area, makes this a priority. Once she makes
11 it a priority, then the minority assemblyman
12 can sign onto the bill and this can pass over
13 to the senate where Senator Kaminsky, who
14 represents this area, can take a more active
15 role than he has to get this problem
16 resolved.

17 So we are kind of hamstrung here at
18 Nassau County until our state officials take
19 the proper and necessary steps. That's all I
20 really have to say. Thank you Madam Presiding
21 Officer.

22 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Now for
23 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
25 Thank you Norma.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I actually appreciate what

Legislator Gaylor just said because that was

sort of my question. We're dealing with

something in the north shore area regarding

this. The class shares are established in

this ordinance are calculated in accordance

with state law. Which is basically what

Legislator Gaylor said. Is that correct?

MR. CESTRA: Yes.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So

the county cannot mandate the allocation of

pretax burden to like target utility companies

for instance, correct?

MR. CESTRA: Right. Because

LIPA, in other words, is billed separately.

You're talking LIPA, correct?

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No.

What I'm saying is the county can't mandate

the allocation of the pretax burden to the

utilities. The state has to do that.

MR. CESTRA: No. It comes from

the state.

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And

the towns and the schools also cannot target

1
2 utilities; is that correct?

3 MR. CESTRA: Correct.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The
5 only entity that can do this is the state?

6 MR. CESTRA: Correct.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Did
8 you hear that Don? Because that was one of
9 the reasons for the PSC saying that that was a
10 decision they made. So thank you for putting
11 that on the record and thank you Legislator
12 Gaylor.

13 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Minority
14 Leader.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just to
16 wrap up, I don't have anymore questions for
17 today. I think the questions have been very
18 extensive already. I want to say for the
19 record, obviously no one here wants to see the
20 school districts be hurt in this process.
21 Obviously, based off the debate and discussion
22 for the last half hour, 45 minutes, even
23 longer, it seems that this process and this
24 system is flawed and we are encouraging all
25 parties involved to take a very aggressive

1
2 approach to ensure that we are not at this
3 spot next year.

4 But we are prepared to vote for
5 these emergencies as well as for this item
6 because we do not want to see have any of the
7 school districts not have what they need,
8 therefore jeopardizing and hurting taxpayers
9 even to a greater deal in the future years.

10 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank you
11 so much Minority Leader. By the way, we did
12 not establish the emergency. We have to vote
13 on establishing the emergency. All those in
14 favor of establishing the emergencies for the
15 items that I did call signify by saying aye.

16 Carrie, you'll ask it after the
17 emergencies. We want to establish the
18 emergencies. We're talking about items that
19 we didn't even establish the emergency for.
20 All those in favor of establishing the
21 emergencies signify by saying aye. Any
22 opposed? Carrie voted no. We have 15 and
23 one. The emergency is established by a vote
24 of 15 to one.

25 Minority Leader, I'm going to ask

1

2 if we can waive the reading of the items.

3

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't see
any problem.

5

6 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank
you. So we're not going to read the items.
7 We are going to call --

8

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just want
to ask, Legislator Gaylor can you provide your
10 letter as part of the record? Thank you.

11

12 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: For each
of these items if there are any further
13 questions we can go real quick.

14

Ask the question.

15

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
Madam Presiding Officer. Just to Jeff again,
17 compared to last year are the adjusted base
proportions more or less for the Valley Stream
18 School District 30?
19

20

21 MR. CESTRA: The adjusted base
proportions is about one percent higher this
22 year. From '17 to '18 it's about one percent
23 higher.

24

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: That's all.

25

MR. CESTRA: Which is normal by

1

2 state law.

3

LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: I'm now
4 going to call all of the items, and if you
5 have further questions after I call all of
6 those items feel free to do so.

7

Now for item 364, 365, 366, 371,
8 372 and I believe it's 373. Moved by
9 Legislator Kopel. Second by Legislator
10 Walker. Any questions on those items that I
11 just called? Are we okay? I think we are.
12 At this point I think we beat the items to
13 whatever. I don't know if there is anybody
14 here who wants to talk about them at this
15 point. You have a question Ms. Mereday?
16 Please join us. I know you like it here. I
17 have to tell you I like your dress.

18

MS. MEREDAY: Thank you. I
19 appreciate that.

20

I do have some questions and some
21 concerns because we, not we, all of you seem
22 to select that PILOT process quite a bit to
23 the detriment of taxpayers. I'm concerned
24 about the lack of adjustments to these PILOTS
25 but when it comes down to the budget season

1
2 that we are currently in you don't have a
3 problem raising fees and surcharges. I also
4 find it interesting that this was the
5 administration of not raising property taxes
6 but I guess since it's kind of a lame duck
7 season it doesn't matter that there is that
8 hint of property taxes being raised in this
9 last budget.

10 So, when you're talking about these
11 school budgets and my question has to do with
12 the fact that getting information in September
13 when most of the school budgets are passed in
14 May, I'm just concerned as to why we are
15 continuing to operate this way as Legislator
16 Drucker and Legislator Birnbaum brought up
17 earlier with regard to the fact that in
18 essence you are voting to violate certain laws
19 that you have been obligated to support.

20 So, if you could possibly, unless I
21 will have to enlighten myself, I find it
22 interesting that you make statements, people
23 stand here and make statements that we are at
24 the mercy of the school districts. You all
25 are not at the mercy of the school districts.

1

2 The taxpayers, who don't have any voice in the
3 decisions that are being made here, are at the
4 mercy of the school districts.

5 And when you have questions that
6 need to be answered why isn't the assessor
7 here? Why don't you have the people or the
8 individuals here who have the institutional
9 knowledge, who can give you the best answers
10 to address the questions that you all need to
11 be asking and the majority of you do not, but
12 you say when you are on the campaign trail you
13 are representing our interests.

14 Last question. I don't have the
15 facts in front of me but looking at Newsday
16 from I believe the 15th about this
17 consolidation plan that's set, does that have
18 any connection to this consolidation tax?
19 Because I found it interesting that the whole
20 idea behind Governor Cuomo's initiative was to
21 devise plans to eliminate duplicative
22 services, coordinate purchases, reduce back
23 office costs to reduce property taxes.

24 How is Nassau's plan going to
25 reduce property taxes? I mean actual

1
2 reduction of property taxes that the taxpayer
3 will actually see on their tax roll. Not
4 somebody standing in front of Newsday, News 12
5 and Fios claiming that you're reducing taxes.
6 Because this proposed \$130 million savings,
7 even in this article, will not be realized
8 until possibly 2019. And we know how Nassau
9 County doesn't realize any cost savings. Look
10 at your history. Thank you.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: You're
12 welcome.

13 Now for the items. All those in
14 favor of the items that were called signify by
15 saying aye. Any opposed? What do I have? 15
16 to one.

17 Now a motion to adjourn. Moved by
18 Legislator Rhoads. Second by Legislator
19 MacKenzie. All those in favor signify by
20 saying aye. Any opposed? The meeting is
21 adjourned.

22 (TIME NOTED: 6:07 P.M.)
23
24
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 27th day of
September 2017

FRANK GRAY