

1. Public Notice 6-29-26

Documents:

[PUBLIC NOTICE FOR 6-15-26 AND 6-29-26.PDF](#)

2. 6-29-26 Calendar

Documents:

[6-29-26 CALENDAR.PDF](#)

3. 6-29-26 Local Law

Documents:

[PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 6-29-26.PDF](#)

4. Meeting Minutes

Documents:

[06.29.26 FULL MEETING NCL RULES.PDF](#)

[06.29.26 FULL MEETING NCL.PDF](#)

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE WILL HOLD MEETINGS OF THE **COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE** ON MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026 STARTING AT 1:00 PM AND WILL HOLD A **FULL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE** ON MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026 AT 1:00 PM, FOR PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC COMMENT AND FOR THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR AT THE CONCLUSION OF PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE IN THE **PETER J. SCHMITT MEMORIAL LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER, 1st FLOOR, THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501.**

COMMITTEE MEETING	TIME
RULES	1:00PM
PUBLIC SAFETY	1:00PM
PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & THE ENVIRONMENT	1:00PM
TOWNS, VILLAGES AND CITIES	1:00PM
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LABOR AND TRANSPORTATION	1:00PM
PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS	1:00PM
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	1:00PM
GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND OPERATIONS	1:00PM
MINORITY AFFAIRS	1:00PM
VETERANS & SENIOR AFFAIRS	1:00PM
FINANCE	1:00PM

FULL LEGISLATIVE SESSION	1:00PM
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Dated: June 8th , 2026
Mineola, NY

MICHAEL C. PULITZER
Clerk of the Legislature

The Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office orders a maximum occupancy of 251 people for the Peter J. Schmitt Memorial Legislative Chamber and an additional 71 people for the legislative antechamber. Attendees who will address the Legislature must submit a written slip to the Clerk's office staff. The Rules of the Legislature limit public comment to three minutes per person. At meetings of the full Legislature, members of the public may speak during the pre-calendar public comment period and during public hearings that are on the calendar. At meetings of the Legislature's committees and prior to the call of the first committee of the day, members of the public may speak and on agenda items only. Individuals may scan the below QR code or email the Clerk of the Legislature at LegPublicComment@nassaucountyny.gov to have comment included in the record of the Legislative meeting. The Nassau County Legislature provides accessibility and reasonable accommodation to its public meetings for the attendance and participation of individuals with disabilities. Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature at 516.571.4252, the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged at 516.227.7101 or TDD Telephone 516.227.8989. The Legislature streams every meeting live at <http://www.NassauCountyNY.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html>.



LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

SIXTH MEETING

SIXTH MEETING OF 2026

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR 2:00 PM

MINEOLA, NEW YORK

JUNE 29TH, 2026 1:00 PM

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT 1:00 PM

The Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office orders a maximum occupancy of 251 people for the Peter J. Schmitt Memorial Legislative Chamber and an additional 71 people for the legislative antechamber. Attendees who will address the Legislature must submit a written slip to the Clerk's office staff. The Rules of the Legislature limit public comment to three minutes per person.

At meetings of the full Legislature, members of the public may speak during the pre-calendar public comment period and during public hearings that are on the calendar. At meetings of the Legislature's committees and prior to the call of the first committee of the day, members of the public may speak and on agenda items only. Individuals may scan the below QR code or email the Clerk of the Legislature at LegPublicComment@nassaucountyny.gov to have comment included in the record of the Legislative meeting. The Nassau County Legislature provides accessibility and reasonable accommodation to its public meetings for the attendance and participation of individuals with disabilities. Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature at 516.571.4252, the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged at 516.227.7101 or TDD Telephone 516.227.8989. The Legislature streams every meeting live at <http://www.NassauCountyNY.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html>.

**Scan the QR code to submit written public comment,
which will be incorporated into the record of this meeting.**



EVERY LEGISLATIVE MEETING IS STREAMED LIVE ON

<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html>

1.

HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. – 2026

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IN
RELATION TO GRANTING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO VETERANS
RATED ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DISABLED BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS. 31-26 (LE)

2.

VOTE ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. – 2026

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IN
RELATION TO GRANTING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO VETERANS
RATED ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DISABLED BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS. 31-26 (LE)

3.

ORDINANCE NO. 31 – 2026

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE NASSAU COUNTY BUDGET FOR NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 AND ENDING AUGUST 31, 2027, AND TO APPROPRIATE REVENUES AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONIES TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION WITHIN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU FOR THE PURPOSES OF NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR, PURSUANT OT THE PROVISIONS OF THE EDUCATION LAW, THE COUNTY LAW, THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. 139-26 (NCC)

4.

ORDINANCE NO. 32 – 2026

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES. 132-26 (OMB)

5.

ORDINANCE NO. 33 – 2026

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MUSEUMS. 133-26 (OMB)

6.

ORDINANCE NO. 34 – 2026

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. 134-26 (OMB)

7.

ORDINANCE NO. 35 – 2026

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. 147-26 (OMB)

8.

ORDINANCE NO. 36 – 2026

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. 148-26 (OMB)

9.

ORDINANCE NO. 37 – 2026

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. 149-26 (OMB)

10.

ORDINANCE NO. 38 – 2026

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. 150-26 (OMB)

11.

ORDINANCE NO. 39 – 2026

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AND TO TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE MADE TO MODIFY CERTAIN DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS. 157-26 (OMB)

12.

RESOLUTION NO. 77 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF PLAINTIFF, AS SET FORTH IN THE ACTION ENTITLED *CIANCIULLI V. COUNTY OF NASSAU, ET AL.* INDEX NO. 603846/2022, PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. 127-26 (AT)

13.

RESOLUTION NO. 78 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF PLAINTIFF, AS SET FORTH IN THE ACTION ENTITLED *CHANDLER V. NASSAU COUNTY, ET AL.* INDEX NO. 614954/2019, PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 159-26 (AT)

14.

RESOLUTION NO. 79 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF PLAINTIFF, AS SET FORTH IN THE ACTION ENTITLED *MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NATHAN B. O'CONNELL V. COUNTY OF NASSAU*, INDEX NO. 608229/2024 AND *COUNTY OF NASSAU V. THE POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NY INC.*, INDEX NO. 613372/2023, PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 160-26 (AT)

15.

RESOLUTION NO. 80 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COMPROMISE AND SETTLE THE CLAIMS OF CLAIMANT AS SET FORTH IN *WORKER'S COMPENSATION CLAIMS D/A 03/07/2021* AND CLAIM NUMBER NCTA2108 PURSUANT TO THE

COUNTY LAW, THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. 164-26 (AT)

16.

RESOLUTION NO. 81 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MUSEUMS AND THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF QUEENS, NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES, INC. 136-26 (PK)

17.

RESOLUTION NO. 82 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MUSEUMS AND THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF QUEENS, NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES, INC. 137-26 (PK)

18.

RESOLUTION NO. 83 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MUSEUMS AND GOLD COAST FORUM, INC. 151-26 (PK)

19.

RESOLUTION NO. 84 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO PARTICIPATE IN A FEDERAL AID TRANSPORTATION PROJECT PROVIDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MERRICK ROAD OVER WHALE NECK CREEK BRIDGE, PIN 0762.28, BIN 3360510 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY WITH THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SAID AID FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK. 153-26 (PW)

20.

RESOLUTION NO. 85 – 2026

AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO PARTICIPATE IN A FEDERAL AID TRANSPORTATION PROJECT PROVIDING FOR THE REHABILITATION OF MIDDLE NECK ROAD OVER THE LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD BRIDGE, PIN 0761.64, BIN 3364570 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY WITH THE

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF SAID AID FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK.
154-26 (PW)

21.

RESOLUTION NO. 86 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN
INTERMUNICIPAL FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU,
ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
AND THE SOUTH NASSAU WATER AUTHORITY 161-26 (OMB)

22.

RESOLUTION NO. 87 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE’S APPOINTMENT OF THE
VERY REV. CANON MICHAEL T. SNIFFEN, PH.D. TO THE NASSAU COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS 162-26 (CE)

23.

RESOLUTION NO. 88 – 2026

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE’S APPOINTMENT OF
SAMANTHA E. SETER TO THE NASSAU COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
163-26 (CE)

24.

RESOLUTION NO. 89 – 2026

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE’S APPOINTMENT OF
ABRAHAM HAMRA TO THE NASSAU COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
165-26 (CE)

25.

RESOLUTION NO. 90 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE
MADE WITHIN THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026. 129-26 (OMB)

26.

RESOLUTION NO. 91 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE
MADE WITHIN THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026. 130-26 (OMB)

27.

RESOLUTION NO. 92 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE MADE WITHIN THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026. 131-26 (OMB)

28.

RESOLUTION NO. 93 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE MADE WITHIN THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026. 143-26 (OMB)

29.

RESOLUTION NO. 94 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE MADE WITHIN THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026. 144-26 (OMB)

30.

RESOLUTION NO. 95 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE MADE WITHIN THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026. 145-26 (OMB)

31.

RESOLUTION NO. 96 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS HERETOFORE MADE WITHIN THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2026. 146-26 (OMB)

32.

RESOLUTION NO. 97 – 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. 152-26 (OCD)

33.

RESOLUTION NO. 98 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GIFT OFFERED BY THE NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOUNDATION TO THE NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT. 135-26 (PD)

34.

RESOLUTION NO. 99 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GIFT OFFERED BY THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) POST 325 GARDEN CITY TO THE NASSAU COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY. 155-26 (VS)

35.

RESOLUTION NO. 100 – 2026

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GIFT OFFERED BY THE NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOUNDATION TO THE NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT. 156-26 (PD)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Nassau County Executive has executed the following personal service contracts, copies of which are on file with the Office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature. These contracts are listed for informational purposes only.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and The Disability Fund, Inc. / Disability Opportunity Fund. RE: HOME – ARP- 07 \$ 1,336,500.00
ID# CQHI26000043.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and the Disability Fund, Inc. / Disability Opportunity Fund. RE: HOME – ARP – 04 \$ 880,500.00
ID# CQHI26000042.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and The Disability Fund, Inc. / Disability Opportunity Fund. RE: HOME – ARP – 06 \$ 1,755,000.00
ID# CQHI26000041.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Community Mainstreaming Associates. / DBA: Community Mainstreaming Associates, Inc.
RE: CDBG 51st Year. \$50,000.00 ID# CQHI26000017.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and Long Island Cares, Inc. / DBA: The Harry Chapin Food Bank. RE: CDBG 51st Year. \$ 30,000.00
ID# CQHI26000031.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and All Things Home Care, Inc. RE: CDBG 51st Year Contract. \$ 10,000.00 ID# CQHI26000036.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and North Shore Child and Family Guidance Association/ Center. RE: CDBG 51st Year. \$ 75,000.00
ID# CQHI26000032

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Housing and Homeless Services and ATC Group Services LLC. / DBA: Atlas Technical. RE: CDBG – 51st. \$ 200,000.00 ID# CQHI26000046.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of County Executive and Inc. Village of Sands Point. RE: PD Phone System. \$ 70,000.00 ID# CFCE25000041.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and Hicksville Teenage Council Inc./ DBA: Hicksville Boys and Girls Club. RE: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT. \$ 160,000.00 ID# CQHS26000001.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of County Executive and Village of Valley Stream. RE: Quick Response Rescue Truck. \$ 228,980.00 ID# CFCE26000019.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and Long Beach Reach, Inc. / DBA: Long Island Reach. RE: Clinic. \$ 234,088.00 ID# CQHS26000017.

County of Nassau acting on behalf of Human Services and Spectrum Psychology Services PLLC. RE: Forensic Psychology. \$ 127,500.00 ID# CLHS25000043.

THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
WILL CONVENE NEXT
COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON
MONDAY, JULY 13TH, 2026 at 1:00 PM
AND
FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING ON
MONDAY, JULY 27TH, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Introduced by: Presiding Officer Howard J. Kopel, Deputy Presiding Officer Thomas McKevitt, Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer Michael Giangregorio, and Legislators Patrick Mullaney, John J. Giuffrè, Scott Strauss, Mazi Melesa Pilip, Kayla Knight, Rose Marie Walker, Samantha Goetz and James Kennedy

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. - 2026

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
IN RELATION TO GRANTING A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO
VETERANS RATED ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DISABLED BY THE UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Majority Counsel

2026 FEB 11 P 1:51

RECEIVED
NASSAU COUNTY
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature has amended the Real Property Tax Law §458-a to provide for a real property tax exemption in relation to the primary residence of veterans who have a one hundred percent service-connected disability; now, therefore

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau as follows:

Section 1. Title A of Chapter VI of the Nassau County Administrative Code is amended by adding a new section 6-2.11 to read as follows:

§ 6-2.11. Property Tax Exemption for Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans Rated One Hundred Percent Disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The primary residence of any seriously disabled veteran shall be eligible for a tax exemption pursuant to §458(a)(11) of the New York State Real Property Tax Law.

Section 2. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 3. It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 8 N.Y.E.C.L. section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that the adoption of this local law is a "Type II" Action within the meaning of Section 617.5(c)(27) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and, accordingly, is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment; and no further review is required.

Section 4. This local law shall take effect immediately.

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEES MEETING

HOWARD KOPEL
PRESIDING OFFICER

RULES COMMITTEE

HOWARD KOPEL

CHAIRMAN

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

Monday, June 29, 2026

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

A P P E A R A N C E S

CHAIRMAN HOWARD KOPEL

VICE CHAIRMAN THOMAS MCKEVITT

LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY (absent)

LEGISLATOR

LEGISLATOR JOHN GIUFFRE

MINORITY LEADER DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON RANKING MEM.

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD DRUCKER

LEGISLATOR SCOTT DAVIS

MICHAEL PULITZER Clerk of the Legislature

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CHAIRMAN KOPEL:

Mr. Pulitzer, please call the Rules Committee
and note that Legislator Mullaney is
substituting today for Legislator Kennedy.

CLERK PULITZER: Yes. Thank you. Roll call.
Chairman Howard Kopel.
Chairman Howard Kopel?

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairman
Thomas McKevitt?

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
Giuffre?

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Substituting for
James Kennedy, Legislator Mullaney.

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Ranking member
Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Arnold W. Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Scott Davis?

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LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
sir.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Thank
you. So we have one item, as I said, and
that would be Clerk Item 31 of 26 a Local
Law to Amend the Administrative Code
Granting Real Property Tax Exemption to
Veterans Rated 100% Disabled By the
United States Department of Veterans
Affairs.

And there's a motion on that by
Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt,
seconded by Minority Leader
DeRiggi-Whitton.

Any debate or discussion on this?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Hearing none. All
those in favor of this item on Rules,
please say aye.

(Whereupon, all in favor.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Okay, that item

passes unanimously.

We are now going to adjourn Rules.

Motion to adjourn by Deputy
Presiding Officer McKevitt, seconded by
Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

All in favor of adjourning Rules.

(Whereupon, all members
respond in favor.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

CHAIRMAN KOPEL: Rules is adjourned.

(Whereupon, meeting is
adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: SS.:

COUNTY OF NASSAU)

I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public
for and within the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

That the above is a correct
transcription of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 29th day of June, 2026.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

1	1:13, 2:4, 2:5, 3:3, 3:10, 4:19, 4:23, 4:25, 5:10, 5:12 chairman [1] - 3:9 Clerk [2] - 2:13, 4:7 CLERK [8] - 3:7, 3:11, 3:14, 3:17, 3:20, 3:23, 3:25, 4:3 Code [1] - 4:8 COMMITTEE [1] - 1:11 Committee [1] - 3:4 COMMITTEES [1] - 1:3 correct [1] - 6:11 COUNTY [2] - 1:2, 6:6 County [1] - 1:17 COURT [1] - 1:24	[3] - 3:21, 4:16, 5:6 Disabled [1] - 4:10 discussion [1] - 4:17 DRUCKER [2] - 2:10, 3:24 Drucker [1] - 3:23	J JAMES [1] - 2:6 James [1] - 3:18 JOHN [1] - 2:8 John [1] - 3:14 June [2] - 1:21, 6:14
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3	31 [1] - 4:7	F favor [4] - 4:20, 4:22, 5:7, 5:9 Franklin [1] - 1:18	L Law [1] - 4:8 LEADER [1] - 2:9 Leader [2] - 4:15, 5:6 Legislative [1] - 1:17 LEGISLATOR [11] - 2:6, 2:7, 2:8, 2:10, 2:11, 3:13, 3:16, 3:19, 3:22, 3:24, 4:2 Legislator [4] - 3:5, 3:6, 3:14, 3:18 LEGISLATURE [1] - 1:2 Legislature [1] - 2:13
A	absent [1] - 2:6 adjourn [2] - 5:3, 5:4 adjourned [2] - 5:12, 5:15 adjourning [1] - 5:7 Administrative [1] - 4:8 Affairs [1] - 4:12 Amend [1] - 4:8 ARNOLD [1] - 2:10 Arnold [1] - 3:23 Avenue [1] - 1:18 aye [1] - 4:21	G Giuffre [1] - 3:15 GIUFFRE [2] - 2:8, 3:16 Granting [1] - 4:9	
B	Building [1] - 1:17 BY [1] - 1:24	H hand [1] - 6:14 Hearing [1] - 4:19 hereby [1] - 6:10 hereunto [1] - 6:13 HOWARD [3] - 1:7, 1:12, 2:4 Howard [2] - 3:8, 3:9	
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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATURE MEETING

HOWARD J. KOPEL, PRESIDING OFFICER

County Executive and Legislative Building

1550 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, New York

June 29, 2026

1:28 p.m.

TAKEN BY: KAREN LORENZO, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

Presiding Officer

7th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

Alternate Presiding Officer

13th Legislative District

MINORITY LEADER DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

11th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SCOTT DAVIS

1st Legislative District

LEGISLATOR VIVIANA RUSSELL

2nd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR CARRIE A. SOLAGES

3rd Legislative District

LEGISLATOR PATRICK MULLANEY

4th Legislative District

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LEGISLATOR OLENA NICKS

5th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

6th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOHN J. GIUFFRE

8th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SCOTT STRAUSS

9th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

10th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR MICHAEL GIANREGORIO

12th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR CYNTHIA NUNEZ

14th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR KAYLA KNIGHT

15th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR ARNOLD W. DRUCKER

16th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

17th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR SAMANTHA GOETZ

18th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY (ABS)

19th Legislative District

MICHAEL PULITZER

Clerk of the Legislature

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rev. Tatro

Lauren Fromberg

Mete Mereday

Chris Jacobs

James Jacobs

Pearl Jacobs

David Tellerman

Lynn Krug

Jodi Hawkins

Kimberly Lorusso

Eileen Young

David Stern

Jennifer Gillen-Goldstein

Patty Harris

Richard Clolery

Susan Gottehrer

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We're
3 going to start out with the Pledge of
4 Allegiance. Legislator Strauss, would you
5 be so kind.

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

8 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you,
9 Legislator Strauss.

10 We have a one of our monthly Top Cop
11 honors and that is presented by all of
12 the PBA, DAI and so, guys, come on up.

13 SUPERIOR OFFICER: Thank you. On
14 January 29th, 2026, Nassau County Police
15 Supervisors Narcotics Detectives working
16 in conjunction with the officers assigned
17 to the Criminal Intelligence Rapid
18 Response Team, conducted a targeted
19 investigation in the vicinity of Holiday
20 Inn parking lot on Sunnyside Boulevard in
21 Plainview. During the course of that
22 investigation, officers observed activity
23 consistent with large scale narcotics
24 transaction. Acting swiftly and
25 decisively, detectives and officers

1
2 initiated enforcement actions that
3 resulted in the recovery of an
4 astonishing 312kg of cocaine from a
5 pickup truck occupied by two suspects who
6 had just completed the transaction, with
7 an estimated street value exceeding \$20
8 million. This seizure ranks among the
9 most significant narcotics captures in
10 Nassau County history. The successful
11 arrest of the individuals involved not
12 only dismantled a major drug trafficking
13 operation, but also prevented a massive
14 quantity of dangerous narcotics from
15 reaching our neighborhoods, schools and
16 communities.

17 This extraordinary case highlights
18 the skill, determination and
19 professionalism of the members of the
20 Narcotics Bureau and the Criminal
21 Intelligence Rapid Response Team. Their
22 collaborative efforts, investigative
23 expertise, unwavering commitment to
24 public safety continue to protect the
25 residents of Nassau County from the

1
2 devastating impact of illegal drugs in
3 recognition of their outstanding work,
4 exceptional service.

5 The Nassau County Police Benevolent
6 Association, the Detectives Association
7 and the Superior Officers Association are
8 proud to honor these detectives and the
9 police officers as Legislative Top Cops,
10 Supervisors and Detectives for June 2026.

11 SERGEANT PHILBIN: Joseph Philbin,
12 the Sergeant at Arms for the Detectives
13 Association.

14 We just want to thank you guys for
15 once again honoring our hard working
16 detectives and police officers.
17 Obviously, it can't be understated that
18 at over 300 kilos, the amount of lives
19 that were probably saved by this, the
20 amount of families that weren't
21 destroyed, the amount of addictions that
22 were stopped by this. And it's only able
23 to happen because you guys continue to
24 resource us so that we can have the
25 interoperability.

1
2 As a former cert guy myself, even
3 though I'm much older than some of these
4 guys, it's just a highlight to the great
5 work we're able to do because you guys
6 continue to support us and we hope you
7 will continue to do so. Thank you.

8 OFFICER: Good afternoon. Thank you
9 for having us today. On behalf of myself
10 and the other officers being recognized
11 here today, I'd like to thank the Nassau
12 County Legislature, all the unions for
13 this incredible honor. The recognition is
14 more than just the five of us standing
15 here today. It represents the entire CERT
16 unit as a whole. Cert is a team of
17 dedicated police officers who come to
18 work every day with one common goal to
19 keep the residents of Nassau County safe.
20 We're extremely proud of the work that we
21 do and proud of the unit that we all
22 represent together. Thank you very much
23 for this recognition and we really
24 appreciate it. Thank you.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay.

1
2 Legislator Drucker.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
4 Presiding Officer.

5 Gentlemen, as the as a legislator
6 for this district and a lifelong resident
7 of Plainview and Sunnyside Boulevard is
8 right down the block from me, I owe you
9 guys. And we all owe you a debt of
10 gratitude. This is an amazing, amazing
11 takedown that you guys accomplished. You
12 literally -- if you extrapolate it on,
13 you probably saved thousands of lives
14 from this takedown alone. I mean, not
15 just mentioned taking down the enterprise
16 and preventing more drugs from entering
17 our communities, but this particular
18 takedown and the drugs that you
19 confiscated will save thousands of lives.
20 And we all owe you a debt of gratitude.
21 Your dedication, your training, your
22 experience, your instincts all took place
23 on that day and that those months that
24 you were investigating this, and it shows
25 through your determination. This really

1
2 epitomizes what the training of all of
3 the police officers and detectives have
4 every single day. And that's why this
5 county is so blessed to have you. And I
6 want to give you my personal thanks for
7 keeping my neighborhood safe and my
8 community safe. And I'm thanking you on
9 behalf of all of us here on this
10 legislature and all of us in Nassau
11 County. So thank you, thank you, thank
12 you.

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: And to add what
14 Legislator Drucker said, certainly, I am
15 proud of you every day, and thank you
16 every single day for all that you do. But
17 this was absolutely amazing. And we were
18 over at the press conference. And to see
19 the amount of drugs that was laid out on
20 tables, the cases that they were in; just
21 unbelievable. And as he said, the number
22 of lives that you saved, the number of
23 families that you saved going through
24 horrific situations because those drugs
25 are out there.

1
2 So again, I thank you for all you do
3 day in and day out, and God bless you all
4 and to all that aren't here today for
5 reasons that they shouldn't be here.
6 Please thank them too and let them know
7 we couldn't be prouder of each and every
8 one of you. God bless you all and to your
9 families, thank you so much for sharing
10 your loved ones with all of us. God bless
11 you all.

12 MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:

13 Thank you, Presiding Officer. I just want
14 to mention, I was married to a police
15 officer for 20 years, and he's the father
16 of my children. Signing up for a
17 department like this really goes above
18 and beyond. And we're very fortunate that
19 all of you do that. And I think also your
20 relationships with the community. I'm not
21 sure how you found out about this, but
22 having the patience and having the
23 connections and having the trust of some
24 people, I think it really helps to find
25 this type of situation. So I appreciate

1
2 your, your professionalism. You make us
3 proud and we worry about you, but we are
4 very lucky to have you and we don't take
5 that for granted at all.

6 So congratulations on just our
7 recognition, which is more than well
8 deserved.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Did
10 you did you want to do a picture? Come
11 on up, please.

12 (Whereupon, photos taken.)
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2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.

3 We have a point of personal privilege.

4 And that would be for Legislator Drucker.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
6 Presiding Officer.

7 More than 40 years ago, a famous and
8 successful songwriter and musician from
9 Huntington embarked on a mission to raise
10 awareness about a humanitarian crisis on
11 Long Island and throughout our nation
12 that people far too often turned a blind
13 eye blind eye toward. And that crisis was
14 hunger and food insecurity. Harry Chapin
15 founded Long Island's first food bank and
16 devoted his time, energy and personal
17 resources to growing that food bank until
18 his untimely death in 1981. Almost 20
19 years ago, Long Island Cares brought in
20 someone who took on Harry Chapin's
21 mission to bring that food bank that
22 bears his name nationwide recognition.
23 Paule Pachter, you transformed a
24 traditional warehouse operation into a
25 staple humanitarian organization that

1
2 drives home the ideal that access to food
3 is a basic human right. And under your
4 stewardship, Long Island Cares grew from
5 a single headquarters to a massive
6 regional network, bringing essential
7 services directly into high need
8 communities.

9 Paule, you have been rightfully
10 recognized by your peers as one of Long
11 Island's top CEOs, and you were inducted
12 into the Long Island Business Hall of
13 Fame in 2019. Harry Chapin used to say,
14 to know is to care, to care is to act,
15 and to act is to make a difference.
16 Paule, you haven't just acted, you have
17 fundamentally changed the landscape of
18 compassion and awareness of food
19 insecurity here on Long Island.

20 On behalf of the residents of Nassau
21 County, we thank you for your years of
22 brilliance, dedication, and empathy, and
23 your relentless drive to end hunger here
24 on Long Island and everywhere else.
25 Congratulations, Paule.

1
2 MR. PACHTER: Legislator Drucker, you
3 never cease to amaze me. I am so grateful
4 for the last 18 years of my career,
5 having taken a lead role on Long Island
6 in feeding more than 315,000 of our
7 neighbors in need, including 75,000
8 children together. The support that we
9 receive from this Legislature over my
10 tenure, when we had a deal with Covid,
11 when we had to deal with government
12 shutdown, when we had a deal with cuts
13 and SNAP, when we had a deal with cuts in
14 Medicaid, leaving people to fend for
15 themselves. That wasn't Harry Chapin;
16 never has been, never will be. Harry
17 believed that it was important that
18 government and business play an active
19 role in feeding the hungry, and we did it
20 by providing more than 16 million pounds
21 of food every year to the people of
22 Nassau and Suffolk County. And we're able
23 to do it, as Arnie said, by opening up
24 three individual centers in Nassau
25 County, Bethpage, Freeport and Valley

1
2 Stream. And all three of those satellites
3 were made possible by elected officials
4 from Nassau County because they had the
5 vision of what we were doing was right.

6 Today, as I left Long Island Cares
7 six months ago, I'm very proud that I've
8 joined the Board of the Harry Chapin
9 Foundation and that together, the
10 Foundation will continue to provide
11 important funding for hunger relief
12 organizations across the United States.
13 That's what Harry wanted us to do, and
14 that's what we're still doing.

15 But again, the important thing is
16 the partnership; the partnership, all of
17 you with the nonprofit sector here on
18 Long Island.

19 I don't want to leave without saying
20 something that's been on my mind for
21 nearly 47 years of my career, and I want
22 to address it to my friend Tom McKeivitt.
23 I don't know how many of you know that
24 I've known Tom for my entire career. And
25 in the early '80s, when I was the deputy

1
2 commissioner of the mental health
3 department here in Nassau County, he was
4 the first legislator in the entire state
5 that said, enough already with your site
6 selection laws and stop protesting when
7 we need people with mental illness or
8 developmental disabilities. Tom, you were
9 the town attorney when you turned around
10 and said, no, there's going to be no
11 hearing. No, there's not going to be a
12 mass mob here telling us how you don't
13 want them. That was groundbreaking. That
14 was groundbreaking. And I just wanted to
15 thank you for doing that because it was
16 important.

17 Arnie, you've been a friend for a
18 long time. I am so proud of my
19 association with you and with other
20 people on this Legislature, like Carrie
21 and Debra and, you know, Rosemarie and
22 all the people I worked with during my
23 career. So thank you so much for this
24 recognition. I'm truly honored. Thank
25 you.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

3 All right. Now we have a period of public
4 comment. Just to refresh the memory of
5 those who have been here before and for
6 those who haven't. Public comment is
7 where members of the public get get to
8 express their opinion on various matters
9 that they want us here on the dais to
10 hear. Each person gets to speak for three
11 minutes. Those three minutes are timed.
12 You'll see a clock right up here. We
13 don't go beyond the three minutes. Please
14 don't ask for that. We go up to one hour.
15 If we go beyond an hour, it looks like
16 we're going to go beyond an hour, we will
17 recess public comment and pick it up
18 again after we finish with the regular
19 business of the Legislature.

20 With that, let's start now. It is
21 about 10 to 2:00. Okay, we'll start with
22 the Reverend Canon Marie Tatro.

23 REVERAND TATRO: Good afternoon. I'm
24 the Reverend Canon Marie Tatro with the
25 Episcopal Diocese of Long Island. My

1
2 colleagues and I are here to shine a
3 light into the dark places, which is an
4 action at the very core of my own
5 Christian tradition, in particular the
6 dark and shadowy corners where our
7 friends and loved ones are being held
8 captive. There is a thread that stretches
9 from Delaney Hall in New Jersey to the
10 Nassau County Jail, just six miles down
11 the road from here. And in that thread is
12 a mark of shame on our democracy. The
13 conditions inside of these institutions
14 are a reflection of the vestiges of
15 slavery, at worst the brutality and
16 terror, and at best the utter neglect and
17 deprivation. These are horrendous
18 environments, and we already know how
19 deadly the consequences can be.

20 You remember that three months ago
21 we held a memorial service here for
22 Santos Venegas Reyes, right here in this
23 chamber. As you know, Santos died while
24 in custody in the Nassau County Jail last
25 year. People of faith from all traditions

1
2 and people of good conscience everywhere,
3 have a sworn duty to shine a light into
4 the dark places. And yes, of course, we
5 pray. We pray from our souls and with our
6 hearts. But we also pray with our feet
7 and our hands as we strive to build a
8 better world.

9 What happened to Santos should never
10 have happened, and we're here to do
11 everything in our power to see that it
12 doesn't happen again. When someone's
13 immigration status is in need of
14 adjustment, that is a civil matter. It is
15 not a criminal matter. As has been said
16 and proven many, many times. The vast
17 majority of immigrants who have been
18 abducted off the streets by ICE thugs
19 have committed no crime. However, it goes
20 against everything I believe in and
21 everything that my tradition stands for.
22 To make that distinction or to buy into
23 the narrative that some people are worthy
24 of fair treatment while others are
25 unworthy.

1
2 Jesus spent the vast majority of his
3 ministry with sinners and outcasts, and a
4 whole host of other people who his
5 society deemed disposable. The government
6 has never been and never will be my true
7 North in determining what is right and
8 what is wrong. No matter what someone may
9 or may not have allegedly done, no one
10 should have to endure the humane
11 condition, inhumane conditions in these
12 jails, treating other human beings like
13 this is just wrong and we all know it.
14 Thank you.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Laura
16 Fromberg.

17 MS. FROMBERG: Good afternoon. I'm
18 speaking today not only as an advocate
19 but as the mother of a child with special
20 needs. When my son was one year old, I
21 began noticing things that concerned me.
22 He didn't respond to his name, wasn't
23 pointing or making eye contact, and
24 seemed disconnected from the world around
25 him. I shared my concerns with our

1
2 pediatrician, but I was told to give him
3 time. I sought a second opinion and heard
4 the same thing. I knew in my heart
5 something wasn't right. I got my son
6 evaluated and eventually he was diagnosed
7 with autism. It wasn't the doctors who
8 taught me how to help my son, it was the
9 providers, therapists, and educators.
10 They gave me hope. They taught me how to
11 communicate with him, how to support his
12 development, and how to celebrate every
13 milestone because of them.

14 My son's life has changed. Today,
15 he's thriving with a job, and he's
16 learning to live independently because he
17 received the support he needed during the
18 most critical years of his development.
19 Every child deserves the same
20 opportunity. Those professionals inspired
21 me to become certified to work with
22 preschool children with special needs.

23 For years, I had the privilege of
24 serving as a preschool related service
25 provider, helping children learn and

1
2 supporting families through one of the
3 most difficult times in their lives. It
4 was incredibly rewarding work. How?
5 Unfortunately, I eventually had to leave
6 the field not because I wanted to, but
7 because I could no longer afford to live
8 and work on Long Island with the low
9 reimbursement rates being offered.

10 My story is not unique. Every time
11 another dedicated preschool related
12 service provider leaves because
13 reimbursement rates cannot support
14 competitive wages, children lose access
15 to the services they desperately need.
16 Today, too many families are told their
17 child qualifies for services only to
18 learn there are no providers available.
19 They have all left waiting there, waiting
20 during the most important years of their
21 child's development.

22 I want to thank Nassau County for
23 taking the first step after 27 years
24 without a rate increase. That action is
25 the first step in bringing providers back

1
2 into the system. But Nassau County's
3 reimbursement rates remain among the
4 lowest in New York state, and agencies
5 continue to lose qualified therapists
6 like myself because the rates are simply
7 not sustainable. I respectfully ask you
8 to support another increase in preschool
9 related services reimbursement rates.
10 This investment is essential to stabilize
11 the workforce, preserve access to care,
12 and ensure that children with
13 disabilities receive the services they
14 are legally entitled to and deserve as a
15 mother, a former preschool related
16 service provider, and now an advocate, I
17 know firsthand that early intervention
18 changes lives, but it only works if
19 they're professionals available to
20 provide it. Thank you.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: James
22 Jacobs.

23 MR. J. JACOBS: Good afternoon. Thank
24 you for letting me speak to the people.
25 My name is James Jacob, resident

1
2 Uniondale. I just want to quote
3 something. I have a copy of the
4 Constitution and the reason I'm speaking
5 today, because on the First Amendment,
6 let me make sure I'm reading it
7 correctly. Oh, it states: "The freedom
8 of religion, speech and press and right
9 to assemble and petition. Congress shall
10 make no law respecting the establishment
11 of religion, or prohibiting the free
12 exercise thereof, and abridge the freedom
13 of speech and of the press, and of the
14 right of people peaceably to assemble and
15 to petition the government to redress of
16 grievances".

17 And the reason I am speaking of this
18 today, because the last couple of
19 meetings, I was told that they changed
20 the public comment rules, that when it
21 goes to committee or other forums, that
22 we cannot speak. And as a taxpayer and
23 living in Nassau County, I feel that the
24 federal government respects the right of
25 dissension and the state. We respect the

1
2 right of dissension. Why don't the county
3 government allow people to speak on
4 different topics of different matters? So
5 that's my comment. So thank you for
6 letting me speak.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Kimberly
8 LoRusso.

9 MS. LORUSSO: Good afternoon. My name
10 is Kimberly LoRusso. I have been a speech
11 therapist providing services for
12 preschoolers for the past 20 years. The
13 cost of living on Long Island continues
14 to place significant financial pressure
15 on providers. While the demand for speech
16 therapy services remains high, current
17 reimbursement rates make it increasingly
18 difficult to sustain a long term career
19 in this field. I have observed many of my
20 colleagues leave this field as a result.

21 I've also sadly seen new speech
22 therapists that I've personally trained
23 and supervised also leave for higher
24 paying job, as they cannot afford to move
25 out of their parents houses due to the

1
2 low reimbursement rates. Could you
3 imagine obtaining a bachelor's as well as
4 a master's degree and not being able to
5 afford your own place?

6 Many preschool therapists travel to
7 cover multiple locations incurring
8 substantial out-of-pocket expenses
9 related to fuel, car maintenance and
10 travel. Preschool providers are mandated
11 to attend initial eligibility annual
12 review, as well as program review
13 meetings in order to comply with these
14 requirements. Therapists often must
15 cancel multiple sessions that are paid,
16 further impacting their income.

17 Additionally, time therapists spent
18 on documentation and other administrative
19 responsibilities are unpaid. As a result,
20 we routinely work far beyond our direct
21 service hours without fair compensation.

22 Unfortunately, reimbursement rates
23 have not kept pace with inflation,
24 inflation or rising costs associated with
25 delivering these services. Providing

1
2 services at the preschool level not only
3 improves outcomes for children, but also
4 significantly reduces long term financial
5 responsibility for school districts at
6 the elementary and secondary levels.

7 Research consistently demonstrates
8 that addressing developmental challenges
9 early in the child's life can prevent the
10 need for more intense and costly services
11 later. I hope that raising awareness of
12 these challenges will help foster
13 meaningful changes to reimbursement
14 structures that better support therapists
15 on Long Island addressing these issues is
16 essential to ensuring the children
17 continue to receive timely and high
18 quality services during these very
19 critical years. Thank you for your time.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Jodi
21 Hawkins.

22 MS. HAWKINS: Good afternoon. On
23 behalf of Kids Therapy and the children
24 and families we serve throughout Nassau
25 County, we would like to express our

1
2 sincerest appreciation for your support
3 of the funding increase approved last
4 year for preschool special education
5 services. Your commitment to children
6 with disabilities demonstrates a clear
7 understanding of both the critical
8 importance of these services and the
9 challenges facing providers
10 responsibilities for delivering these
11 essential services. The investment was
12 meaningful, necessary and deeply
13 appreciated by our organization and the
14 families who depend upon us. While last
15 year's increase provided important
16 relief, significant challenges continue
17 to threaten the stability and
18 sustainability of the CPS special
19 education service system. For many years,
20 reimbursement rates failed to keep pace
21 with inflation and the rising costs of
22 providing services. As a result, agency
23 like ours have struggled, struggled to
24 offer competitive salaries and benefits
25 to highly qualified professionals who

1
2 serve young children with special needs.
3 Speech language pathologist, occupational
4 therapist, physical therapist,
5 psychologist, special education teachers
6 and other licensed professionals are
7 increasingly leaving community based CPS
8 programs for positions in hospitals,
9 rehabilitation centers, school districts,
10 and private health organizations that
11 offer substantially higher compensation
12 excuse me, higher compensation and more
13 robust benefit packages. These impacts of
14 these workforce challenges is being felt
15 throughout the county and across New York
16 state. Provider agencies are
17 experiencing persistent vacancies and
18 difficult recruiting qualified personnel,
19 high turnover due to non noncompetitive
20 wages, growing waitlists for evaluations
21 and services, delay in children receiving
22 highly receiving legally mandated
23 services that they need during the
24 critical stages of their lives. As a
25 provider, we witness firsthand the

1
2 consequences of these delays. Preschool
3 special education services are most
4 effective when delivered promptly. Every
5 delay represents a missed opportunity to
6 support children's development,
7 educational and social growth. These
8 service gaps also place consistent stress
9 on families who rely on timely access to
10 evaluation and therapy services. Without
11 continued investment, many provider
12 agencies will face difficult decisions
13 regarding service capacity, enrollment
14 and program sustainability. These current
15 reimbursement structures do not
16 adequately support the recruitment and
17 retainment of the workforce necessary to
18 meet the growing needs of the children
19 required requiring special education
20 services.

21 We respectfully ask you for
22 continued support in advocating for
23 additional reimbursement to increase the
24 CPS providers. We thank you for your
25 continued dedication to the children with

1
2 disabilities and their families. We value
3 your partnership and respectfully ask you
4 for ongoing support to ensure that every
5 eligible child has timely access to the
6 services they need and deserve. Thank
7 you.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: David
9 Tellerman.

10 MR. TELLERMAN: Hello, my name is
11 David Tellerman from New York Therapy,
12 and I'm here today to speak about the
13 ongoing crisis facing preschool special
14 education related services.

15 First, I'd like to thank many of
16 you, as well as the County Executive's
17 Office, for your support. Over the past
18 couple of years, your efforts have helped
19 bring much needed attention to a program
20 that serves some of the Nassau County's
21 most vulnerable children. Thousands of
22 preschool children with disabilities rely
23 on occupational therapy, physical
24 therapy, speech therapy, and more to
25 receive the services that they are

1
2 legally entitled to. These therapies help
3 children develop the communication,
4 motor, social and learning skills that
5 are critical for the earliest years of
6 life.

7 For 27 years, reimbursement rates
8 remained unchanged. To put this into
9 perspective, I had a full head of hair
10 back then. The results was predictable.
11 Therapists left the field, provider
12 shortages grew, and many children
13 experienced delays in receiving their
14 mandated services. Some have gone without
15 services altogether. We were grateful
16 when Nassau County increased the
17 reimbursement rate to \$55 per session
18 last year. That was an important first
19 step and we sincerely appreciate it.
20 However, one increase cannot make up for
21 nearly three decades of stagnant funding.

22 Nassau County still has one of the
23 lowest reimbursement rates in New York
24 State. Suffolk County faced the same
25 challenge after 27 years without an

1
2 increase, and recognized that one
3 adjustment alone would not solve the
4 problem. They developed a predictable
5 multi year plan for future rate
6 increases. We respectfully ask Nassau
7 County to make the same commitment. We
8 remain well behind many counties across
9 New York. Westchester County, for
10 example, reimburses \$67 per therapy
11 session, while many counties pay more
12 than \$70 and, say some pay as much as
13 \$80. Without a competitive reimbursement
14 rate, agencies simply cannot recruit and
15 retain enough qualified therapists to
16 meet the children's needs.

17 This is more than a budget issue
18 issue. This is an investment in children
19 and families. The state reimburses Nassau
20 County for 59% of these costs, making
21 future increases both reasonable and
22 attainable. On behalf of the children,
23 families, school districts, providers and
24 agencies affected by this crisis, I
25 respectfully ask for your support in

1
2 establishing a predictable, multi-year
3 plan for reimbursement rate increases.
4 Together, we can ensure that every child
5 receives the services they need when they
6 need them. Thank you so much.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Eileen
8 Young.

9 MS. YOUNG: Hi, my name is Eileen
10 Young. I'm here from All About Kids, and
11 I'm here to speak today about preschool
12 related service rates. As a speech
13 therapist for over 20 years, my passion
14 has always been working with the
15 preschool children between the ages of 3
16 to 5. This period of development where
17 speech and language skills peak sentences
18 get longer, thoughts become more clear.
19 As an evaluator, I've helped many
20 families identify and understand their
21 child's developmental needs. One of the
22 biggest challenges I face is telling
23 parents their child is severely delayed
24 and that they are in need of services,
25 but then facing the reality that they may

1
2 not actually get those services due to
3 the current shortage of preschool
4 providers.

5 As my current role as director, I'm
6 lucky enough to help share my passion, my
7 passion with young professionals by
8 offering them a position to work with
9 children in preschool. The interviews go
10 well. They seem excited to accept the
11 position, but then unfortunately, they
12 choose to go work in another program due
13 to the difference in rates. I've also
14 seen many seasoned therapists having to
15 make that same choice with the recent
16 increase from Nassau County. We were
17 starting to have some hope. So I'm here
18 today to ask you to please consider
19 increasing preschool rates. Not for
20 myself, not for the providers, but for
21 every child and family in Nassau County.
22 After all, it really is all about the
23 kids. Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: David
25 Stern.

1
2 MR. STERN: Thank you, members of the
3 Legislature, for the opportunity to speak
4 today. I'm Dave Stern, president of the
5 NCC Federation of Teachers.

6 The proposed '26-'27 Nassau
7 Community College budget represents
8 another year of missed opportunities for
9 Nassau County students. We respectfully,
10 respectfully ask both the county and the
11 college to reconsider the current
12 strategy of austerity for academics while
13 expanding administration. This approach
14 has not eliminated the College's
15 structural budget deficit, but it has
16 significantly reduced educational
17 opportunities to our students. The long
18 term solution is not to continue cutting
19 academic programs and full time faculty
20 and staff. The solution is growth built
21 upon Nassau Community College's historic
22 strength, which is providing high
23 quality, high quality, affordable
24 education.

25 For nearly two decades, Nassau

1
2 County has provided essentially the same
3 annual operating contribution to the
4 college. During the same period, Suffolk
5 County has increased its support by
6 approximately 2% per year, resulting in
7 more than a 34% increase since 2007. Next
8 year, Suffolk County is projected to
9 provide more operating support for its
10 community college than Nassau County,
11 despite Nassau's historically being the
12 better funded institution. If Nassau
13 County simply restored the 2007 tax levy
14 rate to today's larger tax base, the
15 college would receive roughly \$3 million
16 in additional annual support. At the
17 same time, the budget continues, reducing
18 investment in full time faculty while
19 administrative costs, outside contracts,
20 legal expenses continue to grow.

21 Last year's budget projected the
22 college needed nearly 400 full time
23 faculty instead. Today we have about 335.
24 The result has been loss of academic
25 programs, reduced student services, no

1
2 honors opportunity, declining support
3 centers, and lost opportunities in
4 programs such as nursing, biology,
5 theater, paralegal, creative writing, and
6 physical education.

7 We respectfully ask this Legislature
8 to hold a public hearing focused on
9 rebuilding Nassau community college
10 through strategic investments and in
11 academics. Let's work together to
12 identify investments needed to restore
13 and introduce new programs and restore
14 Nassau Community College as New York's
15 premier community college. Investing in
16 students is not an expense. It's an
17 investment in Nassau County's workforce,
18 economy and future. Thank you for your
19 time and consideration.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Jennifer
21 Gillan-Goldstein.

22 MS. GILLAN-GOLDSTEIN: Our history
23 shows that at the founding of this
24 country, we were promised liberty and
25 justice for all. Unfortunately, at first,

1
2 the reality was that it applied only to
3 white men. Since that time, bit by bit,
4 new categories of human beings were
5 allowed to be included. New ethnicities
6 began to be given the civil rights that
7 all people deserve. Today we are seeing
8 that there are still categories of people
9 that our government allows to be treated
10 as less than human in the singing
11 resistance. We remind you that being on
12 the right side of history means
13 recognizing the humanity of all human
14 beings, regardless of race, ethnicity,
15 immigration status, poverty, and yes,
16 even incarcerated status.

17 Every incarcerated and detained
18 person must be ensured the basics
19 adequate food, water, hygiene products,
20 clean clothing, showers, access to phone
21 calls and visitors, and sufficient time
22 out of their cells. They must not be kept
23 in freezing conditions or treated
24 violently and kept shackled. These
25 conditions must be immediately

1
2 investigated.

3 We ask you to end all formal and
4 informal collusion. Nassau County must
5 stop aiding and abetting ISIS cruel
6 campaign of anti-immigrant terror and
7 family separation. This instills
8 widespread fear, destabilizes our
9 neighborhoods, and undermines trust in
10 the police, in probation, and in all who
11 are supposed to protect and serve our
12 communities. The singing resistance. We
13 sing a particular song that I've asked my
14 friend Lina to sing with me right now,
15 and all of you who are here can join in
16 as well.

17 (Whereupon, Ms. Goldstein
18 sings.)

19 MS. GILLAN-GOLDSTEIN: Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Patty
21 Harris.

22 MS. HARRIS: Good afternoon. I wasn't
23 going to speak. I was the last one to
24 come in, and I got called before them.
25 That's a miracle. Wow. But when I did

1
2 come in, I noticed that you was talking
3 about the minutes. We have three minutes
4 to speak, and it's before you even do
5 start doing your work. Start showing us
6 that you are what you decided on,
7 resolutions and everything.

8 So my late husband, Melvin Harris
9 Jr., who used to be a part of the
10 Legislature around here. And this is him
11 (referring). He has a bench that's that's
12 outside, that's dedicated to him. He used
13 to say, do not take the crumbs from the
14 so-called, who ever think they a king
15 table. And that's what you're trying to
16 do to the public. Who pays taxes. And you
17 telling us how long we have to speak and
18 how and when, instead of letting us hear
19 what your job -- that you're taking care
20 of the County so as to have a dialog
21 about it. You may not like what everybody
22 say, but you represent everybody, no
23 matter what party they are from. So we
24 should hear it before you and give our
25 opinions on it.

1
2 So don't think you know people that
3 was in slavery, they used to tell them
4 they couldn't do something and they found
5 another way of doing it. That's why the
6 the world is just the way it is now. We
7 are fighters. We may not use our fists,
8 we use our words.

9 You know, we pay every last one of
10 y'all to sit up there. You know that. So
11 you need to think about us as a whole.
12 Not by what color, what race we are, and
13 not by what party we are. You need to
14 think about us because we give you the
15 green, so you can live in your houses and
16 do your vacation, and take off whenever
17 you want to, and take your pictures and
18 everything.

19 This building, this is by the
20 People, just like the white House is for
21 the People. This building is for the
22 County, the people of Nassau County. So
23 you need to start thinking about that
24 because people are not taking your crap
25 anymore. People are tired of it. And I'm

1
2 getting off the subject on that.

3 Nassau Community College, my
4 daughter, she graduated from there. Or
5 should I say me and Mr. Harris' daughter
6 graduated from there. You could turn your
7 head. You can look up. I see how red
8 you're getting, so you must be annoyed
9 what I'm saying to you. And that's a good
10 thing. But I will tell you this, Nassau
11 Community College is a good school. They
12 need all the help they can get. It helps
13 a lot of people. Some of y'all probably
14 went to Nassau Community College your
15 darn god self, so I don't understand why
16 such a community school that has so much
17 potential that you want to hold them
18 back.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.
20 Thank you, Richard Clolery.

21 MR. CLOLERY: Greetings and
22 salutations. My name is Richard. As a
23 member of the PTAC, I attended a meeting
24 about a couple of days ago. I received
25 this. I also help with the budget, you

1
2 know advising with it. I believe they
3 also talked about at the meeting, I guess
4 about how they're doing, but also
5 possibility -- and I emphasize the word
6 "possibility", about bringing a mini NICE
7 to East meadow. I hope it does happen
8 because right now we as a community are
9 in desperate need to find a way to
10 increase busses here in the island, even
11 if it isn't exactly dedicated bus lines
12 or something like that.

13 I'm also very worried. As you can
14 see, I'm wearing this shirt saying, oh,
15 you can prevent fascism. I'm scared right
16 now. What's going on in our country with
17 our parties. And I will say this to
18 religious people, I'm probably going to
19 go to hell because I believe in not being
20 homophobic, not being misogynistic. I
21 believe in love for everyone, even if I
22 don't support their views. Thank you.

23 Look, I know you guys don't seem to
24 think public transportation isn't
25 important. You've been hearing stories

1
2 from these people about increasing costs
3 and everything. I work as a cashier. I
4 have to listen to that, too. I mean,
5 people are very worried about how much
6 everything is costing; food, haircuts
7 essentials and non-essentials. Everything
8 is going through the roof. This cannot
9 continue. Oh, and I got a compliment.
10 Suggestions from people who put it in at
11 the website here. I'll give you a copy.
12 You can look it over. Thank you. And have
13 a good day.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Susan
15 Gottehrer.

16 MS. GOTTEHRER: Good afternoon. My
17 name is Susan Gottehrer. I'm the director
18 of the Nassau County New York Civil
19 Liberties Union.

20 I've been coming to this body for
21 over ten years now to talk about the
22 inhumane conditions at the Nassau County
23 Jail, and nothing seems to have changed.
24 And things have gotten even worse. And
25 I'm not going to talk only about the ICE

1
2 units, I'm going to also talk about
3 general population.

4 From November through April, I got
5 calls at least twice a week on my intake
6 line from inside the jail saying that the
7 air conditioning was on in subzero
8 weather. Calls that the people inside
9 the jail were being taken out for
10 recreation, wearing slippers during
11 subzero weather. And after I received
12 calls from inside the jail and complained
13 repeatedly. In retaliation, the heat was
14 turned up to 100 degrees repeatedly.

15 Every time I routinely get calls
16 saying people can't get grievance forms
17 or are given grievance forms and have
18 them ripped up in front of their faces.
19 Calls that they can't get access to the
20 law library, that they can't get food
21 without having mold in it, and that they
22 can't get showers.

23 Should I appeal to your religious
24 values? Maybe your family values, or
25 maybe just to the fact that you're human

1
2 beings?

3 And what can be said about the
4 Commissioner of Corrections, Michael
5 Sposato? That this is happening under his
6 watch. Or even Bruce Blakeman, I can
7 only assume that this is at his
8 direction, because I'm sure the
9 correctional staff would never take it
10 upon themselves to treat people this way.

11 Congratulations. Mission
12 accomplished. The ruthless and
13 manipulative law and order messaging has
14 worked. Whole populations have been
15 reduced to less than human. With the
16 preemptive assumption of guilt precisely
17 so they can be dehumanized, making it
18 easier to treat them that way and make it
19 easier for the rest of us to stomach that
20 treatment. Whole populations of black and
21 brown people have been routinely and
22 historically warehoused or removed. And
23 to secure this status quo, they get
24 tracked and surveilled. Yes, it's still a
25 fact that in Nassau County, 2 to 5 times

1
2 more often than white people or black and
3 brown people stopped; all of these
4 immigrants.

5 Let's talk about the immigrants.
6 Well, at least they can be removed,
7 right? That's a relief because people
8 have been convinced that they are to all
9 very inhuman. And that way we get to keep
10 them away from you and yours.

11 Next time you're in church or
12 synagogue, think about months of freezing
13 cold and what that might feel like with
14 no reprieve. Think about watching your
15 children being ripped from their mother's
16 arms as she is carried away, and think
17 about what would happen if a new majority
18 population convinced everyone that you
19 and your people were all inherently
20 dangerous and subhuman. Some of us have
21 experienced this dynamic already, and we
22 should know better.

23 You can talk all you want to your
24 children about values, but modeling is
25 more powerful. This level of depravity is

1
2 stunning, and until something is done
3 about the jail conditions, you're all
4 cruel and depraved. Regardless of the
5 stories you tell yourself about yourself
6 at your houses of worship. Thank you.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Lynn Krug.

8 MS. KRUG: Okay. I'd like to draw
9 your attention to a *Newsday* editorial
10 that appeared recently entitled 'Don't
11 Let Long Island Giant Hubs Stagnate'. A
12 few excerpts directly address the Nassau
13 Coliseum site and bear repeating here.

14 The Hub is a story is decades long
15 and full of political games and misplayed
16 hands by developers, potential tenants,
17 and elected officials alike. Those
18 failures resulted in the loss of
19 potential jobs, housing and economic
20 activity. The departure of the Islanders
21 and the severe under-utilization of the
22 Nassau Coliseum, once the island's sports
23 and entertainment entertainment
24 centerpiece no longer exists.

25 The editorial notes what could have

1
2 been reflecting on the news that NYU
3 Langone unveiled plans for a
4 multi-million dollar medical center to be
5 located in Melville, and over the years,
6 both Northwell Health and NYU Langone
7 proposed projects for the Hub and nearby
8 property. Neither saw a shovel in the
9 ground. Those opportunities were lost. We
10 still have an empty so-called Hub, while
11 the town of Huntington gets a new, huge
12 medical campus.

13 What does Nassau County get? NYU
14 Hospital in Mineola will be downsizing,
15 and its medical school will be relocated
16 east. And we get the same, mostly empty
17 Coliseum. But now with a gambling zone
18 that residents oppose.

19 Newsday also reported that ten years
20 ago, we missed out on \$85 million in
21 state funds for Nassau Hub infrastructure
22 because County and Town couldn't get
23 their act together, and the State took
24 the money back. Shameful. Apparently, the
25 leadership of the Town of Huntington felt

1
2 differently about the role of County
3 government, because the County and Town
4 couldn't get their act together, so the
5 Town of Hempstead played the main role.

6 County residents were told that if
7 Las Vegas Sands did not get a casino
8 license from the state, that their plan B
9 was a four star hotel. What happened to
10 that promise? Why did we need a gambling
11 zone at the Hub if Las Vegas Sands
12 scuttled their casino plans?

13 Newsday reported that Joe Cairo's
14 looking to relocate slot machines from
15 aqueduct to someplace in Nassau. I'm here
16 to tell you that County residents do not
17 want a casino at the Hub, and they
18 certainly don't want or need a Jake's 58
19 slot parlor because local government got
20 proactively involved.

21 Melville is getting a \$2 billion
22 medical campus, and there won't be a slot
23 machine in sight. Now that it's your turn
24 to show some vision and take the
25 initiative, hold Las Vegas Sands

1
2 accountable for not executing their
3 promised Plan B, you have the opportunity
4 to create a legacy at the Hub that you
5 can be proud of. Nassau residents have
6 been waiting way too long, and that clock
7 to an older person is very disturbing
8 when you do the millisecond.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Chris
10 Jacobs.

11 MR. C. JACOBS: Yes. Good afternoon,
12 Chris Jacobs, Uniondale.

13 I have come before the body today to
14 bring attention to the fact that my
15 family, as well as myself, were mailed
16 defective voter mail cards by Nassau
17 County Board of Elections this past
18 primary election on June 23rd. My family
19 and I went to a polling location to vote
20 in the primary. We each took our
21 individual Nassau County voter mail cards
22 with us so we can expedite the process of
23 signing in and receiving our primary
24 ballots. To our surprise, not a single
25 one of our recently sent voter cards

1
2 worked as the barcode was unreadable by
3 any other the scanners at our polling
4 site, resulting in the poll workers
5 utilizing the standard, more time
6 consuming method where each person had to
7 be looked up in a database of registered
8 voters. They tried scanning it right side
9 up, upside down, sideways, you name it.
10 They tried. It didn't work. I was not
11 surprised due to the fact that only since
12 early 2025, my family and I have
13 consistently been mailed voter mail in
14 cost for upcoming elections. Before that
15 time period, voter mailing cards were
16 mailed extremely inconsistently.

17 I think back to a few years ago when
18 I did early voting in the last
19 presidential election. The lines were
20 extremely long, and the vast majority of
21 residents waiting on line all had
22 individualized Nassau County Board of
23 election voter cards. When it was finally
24 my turn to sign in to vote, the poll
25 worker asked me for my voter mail card so

1
2 they can scan me in more quickly, which I
3 explained neither myself nor my family
4 were mailed any. I will never forget the
5 perplexed look on his face.

6 Elections are critical in every
7 aspect of the process should be overseen
8 meticulously. I look forward and hope
9 that my family and I will be receiving
10 new, usable voter mailing cards in time
11 for the upcoming general election and
12 well before early voting. Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Monica
14 Keilly? (No response). Pearl Jacobs.

15 MS. JACOBS: I come before this
16 legislative body today with great concern
17 that tax paying residents voices are
18 being stifled. If you are a lobbyist
19 supporting any new endeavor that the
20 County has taken on the lobbyists, they
21 can stand here and they can bloviate as
22 long as they wish. If you are a taxpaying
23 resident of Nassau County, speaking
24 before this legislative body regarding
25 serious issues that are adversely

1
2 affecting the quality of life for Nassau
3 County residents, you get three minutes
4 max to bring forth these issues and the
5 divided attention of this legislative
6 body.

7 Also, it's extremely disingenuous
8 that many of the members of this
9 legislative body do not engage with the
10 constituents who pay Nassau County's
11 exorbitantly high taxes. Who pays your
12 salaries? Concerns are ignored.

13 I have come before this legislative
14 body many times to express my concerns
15 pertaining to serious quality of life
16 issues and requesting action to be taken
17 regarding the County's dangerous
18 roadways, exorbitant number of vape
19 stores that students pass by every day to
20 and from school, the increasing numbers
21 of the homeless population, and many of
22 who are veterans. Even the visual look of
23 our county has deteriorated, with
24 overgrown grass and weeds on the mediums
25 of our roadways, littered streets and

1
2 littered on and off exit ramps on our
3 parkways. Where is our tax money going?
4 The downtrodden look for most of our
5 county. Much of our county strongly
6 suggests that there is minimal oversight
7 by our elected representatives and a tax,
8 and that taxpayers taxpayers monies are
9 being misdirected.

10 The attempt to stifle residents
11 voices will not work as frustration is
12 growing and our voices will only become
13 louder. Legislator Russell, this doesn't
14 pertain to you because I would like to
15 acknowledge that you do take the time and
16 to meet and speak with your constituents.
17 Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Meta
19 Meraday.

20 MS. MEREDAY: (Inaudible) Everybody
21 else in the room, no matter what time
22 they showed up. But that's a whole nother
23 issue.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm just
25 going to take this opportunity to point

1
2 out that what I will do is give the first
3 opportunity to people who don't come
4 every time or almost every time. Go
5 ahead, please.

6 MS. MEREDAY: So what is that? What
7 does that mean, that I -- do you think I
8 don't do anything besides show up for
9 this hearing? Is that not being
10 disingenuous and a slap in my face,
11 considering you called me a disruptor at
12 the last meeting, which I'll continue to
13 do. And you all sit silent, speaks
14 volumes. So the fact that I show up and
15 that I'm here and that I speak up, I'm
16 being discriminated against, that I just
17 want to be clear.

18 And maybe someday, someday, *Newsday*
19 might pick up on some of the storylines
20 and the narratives that are happening
21 right here in Nassau County. When you
22 have your County Executive, not mine,
23 trying to run for the leading position in
24 the state, as I'm looking at this
25 committee listing in the years that I

1
2 have come, as I've looked at that wall,
3 I've been coming to this meeting for the
4 most part since Peter Schmidt sat where
5 you're sitting now. And during that time,
6 for those of you who are new, there was
7 an opportunity, whether he agreed with
8 you or not, the public was allowed to
9 speak for various issues that were
10 presented before them. Not to give a
11 little three minute dissertation ahead of
12 the meeting, when you're clueless as to
13 how much of this now, what \$4.4 billion
14 budget is not going to veterans, is not
15 going to seniors. Clearly, it's not going
16 to caregivers, it's not going to special
17 ed professionals. It's not going to the
18 residents that are in the minority
19 communities. Where is it going? Where is
20 it going? Where it's going is completely
21 evident by the numbers of the elected
22 officials who at one point set before me,
23 who are either in or trying to get out of
24 jail. That's where it's going. The money
25 that could go to reimbursement could

1
2 possibly come from the law firms that you
3 have hired at a rate of what was that
4 number, \$2,000 an hour for a First
5 Amendment case against a media giant?
6 That's where money is going. It is not
7 going for this paper that you have these
8 committee assignments where there's never
9 been a report from the majority of these
10 committees, but you slap your names on
11 these committees when you run for
12 election to make it seem like you're
13 doing something in the community. Where
14 is health and Social Services report?
15 Where's the Minority Affairs report? What
16 are you doing about the disparity study
17 that continues to prove that people of
18 color are getting less than their
19 percentages of the contracts? As I'm
20 standing on this property that my family
21 laid the concrete for. Where is that?

22 You're now going to vote for an
23 exemption for veterans, for disabled
24 veterans when New York State has passed
25 exemptions over decades for all the

1
2 veterans, not just the 100%. What are we
3 doing about our police officers who are
4 committing suicide at a growing rate? You
5 said a one little room with a couch and
6 maybe some counseling services. That's
7 what you're not doing with our money.

8 But you can call me a disruptor all
9 you want to as I have a back brace on
10 with my five herniated discs and spinal
11 stenosis, COPD and two cancer sites, I
12 will damn well show up here as best I
13 can, even if in a wheelchair or a
14 scooter, to continue to disrupt this
15 atrocity. Now I'm going to take my seat.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. We
17 have a a short Rules Committee before we
18 do the Full Legislature, because we've
19 got one item which will require going
20 through a committee, and that item
21 relates to certain veterans exemption for
22 taxes. Now once we're done with that,
23 we're going to go to the Full
24 Legislature. There will be an opportunity
25 at that point for people to express

1
2 opinions on that Bill, because we'll have
3 a hearing. So we'll just do a quick Rules
4 Committee, we'll move into the Full
5 Legislature. And at that point, as I say,
6 there will be a short hearing on that
7 bill and people can speak at that point
8 if they choose.

9
10 (Whereupon, recess.)

11
12 *****

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Mr.
3 Pulitzer? We're going to call the Full
4 Legislature in a moment. First,
5 Legislator Nunez?

6 LEGISLATOR NUNEZ: Thank you,
7 Presiding Officer.

8 I would like to ask yourself and
9 this legislative body to please consider
10 and place the gas holiday tax cap bill
11 that we filed. We amended that filing. As
12 this legislature knows, we originally
13 filed with the hopes of getting it to
14 committees to have a debate and
15 discussion to tax the cap or to cap the
16 tax over \$3 in gas in Nassau County. We
17 anticipated it for a June 1st hearing or
18 implementation date, and that
19 unfortunately did not happen. We have
20 subsequently refiled and we have
21 requested a September 1st date. I
22 respectfully request that the item be
23 placed on the July 13th agenda to be
24 debated and voted upon by the committees
25 to move the legislation forward for a

1
2 public hearing and vote at the next Full
3 Legislature on July 27th, seeing as that
4 we do not have any sessions in August,
5 and we are requesting at this point a
6 September 1st start date. I'd like to
7 just let this body and the public know
8 that our surrounding sister counties like
9 Rockland County, Dutchess County, Ulster
10 County and Syracuse, they've all passed
11 this with an effective date of June 1st.
12 So I really implore on this body to
13 please calendar it during committee so
14 that we can have a meaningful debate and
15 conversation around it and help save
16 Nassau County taxpayers money in their
17 pockets. Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We'll
19 start with the roll call. Mr. Pulitzer,
20 would you please call the roll?

21 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Presiding
22 Officer.

23 Roll call. Presiding Officer Howard
24 Kopel?

25 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Here.

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CLERK PULITZER: Deputy Presiding
Officer Thomas McKevitt?

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer
Michael Giangregorio?

LEGISLATOR GIANGREGORIO: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
Minority Leader Legislator Delia
DeRiggi-Whitton?

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:
Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Deputy Minority
Leader, Legislator Arnold Drucker?

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
Minority Legislator Debbie Mule?

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, ma'am.
Legislator Scott Davis?

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Viviana
Russell?

LEGISLATOR RUSSELL: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Carrie

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A. Solages?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.

Legislator Patrick Mullaney?

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Olena
Nicks?

LEGISLATOR NICKS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, ma'am.

Legislator John Giuffre?

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Scott
Strauss?

LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Mazi
Pilip?

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Thank you ma'am.
Legislator Cynthia Nunez?

LEGISLATOR NUNEZ: Here.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Kayla
Knight?

LEGISLATOR KNIGHT: Present.

CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Rose

1
2 Marie Walker?

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, ma'am.

5 Legislator Samantha Goetz?

6 LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Here.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
8 Kennedy, absent.

9 CLERK PULITZER: We have a quorum,
10 sir.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. Thank
12 you.

13 MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:
14 Thank you. I just would like to take a
15 minute just to acknowledge our interns
16 that are here. If you guys could stand
17 up. And I also have another new intern
18 who I'm going to embarrass. This is
19 Kennedy. If you guys recognize her, you
20 probably remember her as a little baby
21 when she came here with her dad, Kevan.
22 So I appreciate having all of you. And
23 welcome Kennedy. Today's her first day.
24 So thank you so much for this
25 opportunity.

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PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: And
Kennedy, I sat next to your dad for quite
a few years. A good friend, good man. Say
hello for me, will you?

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:
Sorry. As a mom, I love to embarrass you
guys.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. All
right. We'll start out with a motion to
suspend Rules. And that's by Deputy
Presiding Officer McKevitt, seconded by
Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

All in favor of suspending the
rules?

(Whereupon, all in favor.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: The Rules
are suspended. Now, we're just going to
do a few appointments first before we get
to the rest of the calendar.

First is Calendar 22. Confirming the
appointment of the Reverend Canon Michael
Sniffen to the Nassau County Commission

on Human Rights. Motion by Deputy
Presiding Officer McKevitt, seconded by
Seconded by Minority Leader
DeRigg-Whitton.

Any debate or discussion on this?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. All
those in favor of this appointment, say
aye.

(Whereupon, all in favor.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: That is
unanimous.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Number 23
3 confirms the appointment of Samantha
4 Seter to the Nassau County Planning
5 Commission. And once again, motion by
6 Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt,
7 seconded by Minority Leader
8 DeRiggi-Whitton.

9 Any debate or discussion on this
10 appointment?

11 (Whereupon, no response.)

12 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All those
13 in favor, say aye.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.

15 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.

16 LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Aye.

17 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.

18 LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Aye.

19 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.

20 LEGISLATOR GIANREGORIO: Aye.

21 LEGISLATOR KNIGHT: Aye.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.

23 LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Aye.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

25 MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:

Nay.

LEGISLATOR RUSSELL: Nay.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Nay.

LEGISLATOR NICKS: Nay.

LEGISLATOR MULE: Nay.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Nay.

LEGISLATOR NUNEZ: Nay.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Nay.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So that is
10 to 8.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Number 24
3 confirms the appointment of Abraham
4 Hamra, Nassau County Planning Commission.

5 Motion by Legislator Pilip, seconded
6 by Deputy Presiding Officer Mckevitt.

7 Legislator Pilip?

8 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Thank you,
9 Presiding Officer.

10 I'm very proud to support the
11 nomination of my friend Abraham Hamra to
12 serve in the Nassau County Planning
13 Commission. Abraham is a very highly
14 regarded attorney whose expertise and
15 knowledge of the law is well documented.
16 He's an advocate whose moral compass is
17 second to none when it comes to equality
18 and fighting for minorities and people
19 who have been underserved by the
20 government and local communities. He's an
21 outspoken and strong leader on civil
22 rights, fighting hatred and standing up
23 for people who have been subjected to
24 injustice. He has shown his skills at
25 listening to arguments and standing up on

1
2 issues that may not always be the popular
3 ones.

4 On the personal note, Abraham, you
5 and I are both immigrants and we have
6 learned multiple languages and are proud
7 Americans. Your life story as a child in
8 Syria and learning to fight for what's
9 right is an inspiration to so many.
10 That's why you called on to travel on the
11 world to those issues. I can't think of
12 anyone more suited for this position more
13 than you. I know you care about our
14 community. I know you care about our
15 county, and I'm very proud of you. You
16 and I have fought side by side on many
17 issues, and thank you for stepping up and
18 really willing to serve our country.
19 Thank you. I know you're going to do a
20 great job.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone
22 else?

23 (Whereupon, no response.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. All
25 those in favor of the appointment of Mr.

Hamre, say aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Aye.

LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Aye.

LEGISLATOR MULLANEY: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Aye.

LEGISLATOR STRAUSS: Aye.

LEGISLATOR PILIP: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GIANREGORIO: Aye.

LEGISLATOR KNIGHT: Aye.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Aye.

LEGISLATOR GOETZ: Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

MINORITY LEADER DERIGGI-WHITTON:

Nay.

LEGISLATOR RUSSELL: Nay.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Nay.

LEGISLATOR NICKS: Nay.

LEGISLATOR MULE: Nay.

LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Nay.

LEGISLATOR NUNEZ: Nay.

LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Nay.

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: So that is

10 to 8.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Calendar
3 14 is a resolution authorizing County
4 Attorney to compromise and settle claims
5 of plaintiff. In in the action known as
6 Nathan O'Connell versus Nassau County,
7 pursuant to the County Law, Government
8 Law of Nassau, Nassau County
9 Administrative Code.

10 Motion by Deputy Presiding Officer
11 McKevitt, seconded by Minority Leader
12 DeRiggi-Whitton.

13 Now we have an amendment filed which
14 adjusts the settlement amount from 150 to
15 170,000. Any questions or debate on the
16 amendment? First of all. Motion to amend
17 it by Deputy Presiding Officer seconded
18 by Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

19 All those in favor of the amendment
20 say aye.

21 (Whereupon, all in favor.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

23 (Whereupon, no response.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Unanimous.

25 All those in favor of the item as amended

say aye.

(Whereupon, all in favor.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

Okay. That is unanimous once again. All
right.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We now
3 have a consent calendar consisting of
4 items that have previously gone through
5 committees and concerning which the
6 Majority and Minority have agreed that no
7 further debate or discussion is required.
8 And those are, in order:

9 Calendar 3, Ordinance 31.

10 Calendar 4, Ordinance 32.

11 Calendar 5, Ordinance 33.

12 Calendar 6, Ordinance 34.

13 Calendar 7, Ordinance 35.

14 Calendar 8, Ordinance 36.

15 Calendar 9, Ordinance 37.

16 Calendar 10, Ordinance 38.

17 Calendar 11, Ordinance 39.

18 Calendar 12, Resolution 77.

19 Calendar 13, Resolution 78.

20 Calendar 15, Resolution 80.

21 Calendar 16, Resolution 81.

22 Calendar 17, Resolution 82.

23 Calendar 18, Resolution 83.

24 Calendar 19, Resolution 84.

25 Calendar 20, Resolution 85.

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Calendar 21, Resolution 86.
Calendar 25, Resolution 90.
Calendar 26, Resolution 91.
Calendar 27, Resolution 92.
Calendar 28, Resolution 93.
Calendar 29, Resolution 94.
Calendar 30, Resolution 95.
Calendar 31, Resolution 96.
Calendar 32, Resolution 97.
Calendar 33, Resolution 98.
Calendar 34, Resolution 99.
Calendar 35, Resolution 100.

That motion on all these items by
Deputy Presiding Officer McKevitt,
seconded by Minority Leader
DeRiggi-Whitton.

All those in favor of these items,
say aye.

(Whereupon, all in favor.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed?

(Whereupon, no response.)

PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Those
items are all unanimous.

1
2 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We now
3 have a hearing on the exemption item for
4 veterans hearing, Calendar Item 1,. Clerk
5 Item 31 which is a Local Law to Amend the
6 County Administrative Code Relation to
7 Granting a Real Property Tax Exemption to
8 Veterans Rated 100% Disabled By the
9 United States Department of Veterans
10 Affairs. The hearing is now open.

11 Do we have a representative from the
12 Department of Assessment here? Mr. Ross.

13 MR. ROSS: Good afternoon, everybody.
14 Daniel Ross, Department of Assessment.

15 I'm here today to discuss any issues
16 that we have on the item before us for
17 the Veterans Exemption For 100% Disabled
18 Exemption Veterans. And I'll be happy to
19 answer any questions that anybody has.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator
21 Davis?

22 LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Good afternoon,
23 Mr. Ross. Do you have an idea what the
24 universe of potential recipients of this
25 could be?

1
2 MR. ROSS: A preliminary research
3 shows about a population of about 1250.

4 LEGISLATOR DAVIS: County wide?

5 MR. ROSS: Correct.

6 LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Was there any
7 consideration of perhaps at a lesser
8 degree of disability? Was there any like,
9 say 75% or 50% or anything like that?

10 MR. ROSS: Not to my knowledge. This
11 is just what state law provides.

12 LEGISLATOR DAVIS: Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Anyone
14 else? Yes, Legislator Mule.

15 LEGISLATOR MULE: Yeah. This is not
16 really a question, Danny. I just want to
17 say that I attended the last veterans
18 meeting, and they were very much in favor
19 of this legislation. It went through
20 several rounds of iterations in the
21 state, and this final iteration is the
22 one that they fought for. So I'm
23 certainly going to be voting in favor of
24 it.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I suspect

1
2 that we all are up here. It sounds like a
3 really good idea, Mr. Ross.

4 Anyone else up here?

5 (Whereupon, no response.)

6 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.
7 Public comment. Any public comment? Ms.
8 Mereday.

9 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday. I just
10 find it interesting, Legislator Mulé,
11 when you talk about a veterans community
12 committee meeting, I'm glad that they are
13 committee meetings, because the public
14 hears nothing about half the stuff going
15 on, Public Safety, Public Works.

16 But as it pertains to this issue New
17 York state law, well, New York State is
18 one of the states that provides a number
19 of exemptions for our veterans, the 100%
20 disability to Legislator Davis' point,
21 there are a number of other exemptions
22 that can allow for veterans that don't
23 necessarily meet the 100% disability
24 criteria. So of the three for New York
25 State, you have the Alternative Veterans

1
2 Exemption; you have the Cold War Veterans
3 Exemption; and you have the Eligible
4 Funds Exemption that provides a little
5 more wiggle room, which I for the most
6 part, I'm in support of anything that is
7 going to help our veterans. But I don't
8 think a veteran who is living on the
9 street is going to get any exemption on
10 that street corner or that curb that
11 they're living on, the basement that they
12 have to sleep in on a couch. We have a
13 prevailing issue here. We have housing
14 that landlords can't afford to upgrade
15 for anyone to live in. We have resources.
16 But then again, Nassau County wants to
17 spend its money for its friends,
18 relatives and other, you know, well
19 endowed associates as opposed to taking
20 care of the most critical, the most
21 crucial and the most vital among us, our
22 veterans notwithstanding.

23 It is my hope that you definitely
24 pass this exemption, but at some point
25 the Veteran Committee, Economic

1
2 Development Committee or whomever can
3 work together to address, again, some of
4 the significant issues that were impacted
5 with our veterans, not to mention
6 expanding the space for our Veteran
7 Services agency. Why don't most of you
8 who haven't already, take a tour just to
9 see the equivalent to a double wide
10 trailer that are very hard working,
11 veteran services organization is in, and
12 the empty space that's at the medical
13 center that again, this body, most of you
14 weren't here at the time. Not only the
15 \$85 million that years ago was turned
16 down by the state, but over the course of
17 years, money from the state that those of
18 us who pay our taxes, not considering,
19 those in the white House who do not those
20 resources were not allocated to the most
21 vulnerable of us, including our veterans,
22 that we could build out the empty spaces
23 at the medical center or the empty
24 buildings to provide housing. We could
25 have our own Long Island veterans home

1
2 for our aging veterans who have already
3 been evicted from their homes, who did
4 not get resources post Hurricane
5 Superstorm Sandy and had to move. Or,
6 like I said, live with other relatives.
7 But if you all want to salute and wear
8 the flag pin, that's all right. I'm going
9 to be out there on the streets helping
10 our veterans and their families.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Thank you.

12 Let's see any any other public
13 comment?

14 (Whereupon, no response.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.
16 All those in favor of this item say aye.

17 (Whereupon, all in favor.)

18 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed.

19 (Whereupon, no response.)

20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. That
21 item is, of course, unanimous.

22 (Whereupon, off the record
23 discussion.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We didn't
25 close the hearing. The hearing is closed.

1
2 We'll vote again. All those in favor, say
3 aye.

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5 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.
6 All those in favor of this item say aye.

7 (Whereupon, all in favor.)

8 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed.

9 (Whereupon, no response.)

10 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. That
11 item is unanimous.

12
13 (Whereupon, off the record
14 discussion.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Motion by
16 Deputy Presiding Officer McKeVitt to
17 reconsider Item 3. Seconded by Minority
18 Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

19 All in favor of reconsidering item
20 three?

21 (Whereupon, all in favor.)

22 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed.

23 (Whereupon, no response.)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Item
25 three, motion by Deputy Presiding Officer

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2 McKevitt, seconded by Minority Leader
3 DeRiggi-Whitton. Yes, Dr. Conzatti.

4 dR. CONZATTI: Bless you for
5 reconsidering. Thank you so much.

6 Good afternoon to you all.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: I'm sorry
8 about that.

9 DR. CONZATTI: No worries.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: It didn't
11 find its way on to the Calendar.

12 DR. CANZATTI: It's okay. It's okay
13 as long as it is now. I'm sitting there
14 having a heart attack for 18,000
15 students.

16 Thank you all for entertaining the
17 College's budget today. As you all know,
18 because you play a role in supporting the
19 college each and every day, the College
20 has been very fortunate in having
21 increasing enrollments for the past three
22 years, we have done a lot of soul
23 searching, a lot of looking at degrees, a
24 lot of going through the institution to
25 make sure that we are offering a variety

1
2 of programs for our students and for our
3 community.

4 The College's budget, realizing that
5 the cost of fuel, the cost of food is
6 taxing to many of our residents is not
7 raising tuition this year, there are two
8 adjustments that are included in the
9 budget, one of which is we are battling
10 against what we call ghost applications.
11 That is a national phenomenon that's
12 happening across the country as we have
13 foreign entities trying to steal
14 financial aid. So in order to wade that
15 off, we instituted a registration fee
16 which is reimbursed to the student upon
17 registration. So it is a wash. That is
18 not something that is making the College
19 money. That is our attempt to offset the
20 bots that are sending in false
21 applications. We received several
22 thousand of those last year and had to
23 wade through those, so that is a wash.

24 The only other change to the College
25 budget is for our technology fee. As we

1
2 all know, AI is coming on board the
3 capabilities of our infrastructure,
4 although we do have some capital money to
5 put towards that, certainly not enough to
6 redo the number of lines and the volume
7 of what's needed technologically for the
8 campus. So we reevaluated that. We have
9 now stratified that fee so that if you
10 are only taking up to six credits, you
11 pay one amount and then six credits and
12 above and of course, full time is a
13 different amount. So that is the only
14 change to the budget for this year.

15 Economically the college is doing
16 well. We are up again this summer. We had
17 a successful spring as well. We are
18 looking forward to hopefully the
19 enrollments being up for the fall. It's a
20 little early for our students. The month
21 of August seems to be a banner month when
22 students come to us to complete their
23 registration process. So we're looking
24 forward to a very good year, and I'm
25 happy to answer any questions any of you

1
2 might have.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator
4 Drucker.

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Maria, we're
6 very pleased. You know, under your
7 leadership NCC is experiencing some real
8 positive trends from what we see
9 evaluating your budget. But those trends
10 are reflective on the confidence that
11 Nassau County residents have and the
12 superb economic and educational value
13 that the college presents every day to,
14 to our residents. We've -- you have
15 amazingly learned to adapt and grow in a
16 very challenging environment, and that's
17 a credit to you and your administration.

18 I will tell you that all of us wish
19 we could provide greater help than what
20 we do to the College. But we are
21 continuing -- at least our caucus is --
22 continuing to explore ways that we can
23 find ways to provide you with more
24 revenue, more income, but keep up the
25 good work, Maria. We're very proud of

1
2 you.

3 DR. CONZATTI: Thank you, Legislator
4 Drucker, and you are all very helpful. We
5 have students from all of your districts,
6 and you are always there to promote and
7 make sure that your constituents are in
8 touch with the college when there is a
9 need. And we are grateful for that
10 because we do hear it from your
11 constituents. So thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Legislator
13 Mule.

14 LEGISLATOR MULE: Yes. Thank you.

15 So very pleased that you're not
16 raising tuition for the students in these
17 very challenging times. But I am
18 concerned about the use of the fund
19 balance you're using. What is it, over 4
20 million this year and by the records that
21 you provided, by 2028, you will have run
22 out of your fund balance. What is being
23 done to address that?

24 DR. CANZATTI: When we present the
25 budget to the Legislature, we present it

1
2 in worst case scenario, meaning that's if
3 the College took no action whatsoever in
4 recruiting new students. You know,
5 putting out any type of cost containment
6 efforts that really is presented as a
7 worst case scenario so that the
8 legislature understands where we would be
9 if we did nothing; of course, we never do
10 nothing. So when we do five year
11 projections, it's based on no increases
12 in enrollments, no increases in state
13 aid, no increases in grant monies, no
14 changes or additions to curricula. It
15 really is presented as a very flat
16 budget. So again, every year we do that.
17 And every year if you look at the
18 projections going back, we have met and
19 produced a balanced budget.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: All right.
21 All those in favor of this item say aye.

22 (Whereupon, all in favor.)

23 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed.

24 (Whereupon, no response.)

25 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Okay. That

1
2 is unanimous. Thank you, Doctor.

3 And motion to adjourn by Deputy
4 Presiding Officer McKevitt, seconded by
5 Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton.

6 All those in favor of this item say
7 aye.

8 (Whereupon, all in favor.)

9 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: Opposed.

10 (Whereupon, no response.)

11 PRESIDING OFFICER KOPEL: We are
12 adjourned. Thank you, everyone.

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16 (Whereupon, the meeting is
17 adjourned.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: SS.:

COUNTY OF NASSAU)

I, KAREN LORENZO, a Notary Public
for and within the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

That the above is a correct
transcription of my stenographic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 29th day of June, 2026.

Karen Lorenzo

Karen Lorenzo

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