

Legislative Calendar
Nassau County Legislature
MINEOLA, NEW YORK
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
January 6, 2014 2:00 P.M.

1.

Meeting Minutes

Documents:

SUPERSTORM SANDY REVIEW COMMITTEE, 11-28-18.pdf

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014 STARTING AT 2:00 PM AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER, 1st FLOOR, THE PETER J. SCHMITT MEMORIAL LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501.

THE SESSION WILL INCLUDE THE FULL LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION.....2:00 PM

COMMITTEE	TIME
RULES	2:00PM
PUBLIC SAFETY	2:00PM
PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & THE ENVIRONMENT	2:00PM
TOWNS, VILLAGES AND CITIES	2:00PM
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & LABOR	2:00PM
PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS	2:00PM
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	2:00PM
GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND OPERATIONS	2:00PM
MINORITY AFFAIRS	2:00PM
VETERANS AND SENIOR AFFAIRS	2:00PM
FINANCE	2:00PM

William J. Muller III
Clerk of the Legislature
Nassau County, New York

DATED: December 30, 2013
Mineola, NY

As per the Nassau County Fire Marshall's Office, the Legislative Chamber has a maximum occupancy of 251 people and the outer chamber which will stream the meeting live, has a maximum occupancy of 72. The Nassau County Legislature is committed to making its public meetings accessible to individuals with disabilities and every reasonable accommodation will be made so that they can participate. Please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature at 571-4252, or the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged at 227-7101 or TDD Telephone No. 227-8989 if any assistance is needed.

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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO,
Presiding Officer

SUPERSTORM SANDY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DENISE FORD, Chairwoman

L

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, November 28, 2018
3:18 P.M

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

3

4 DENISE FORD,
 Chairwoman5 STEVE RHOADS,
 Vice Chairman

6

7 HOWARD KOPEL (Not Present)

8

9 JAMES KENNEDY

10

11 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON,
 Ranking

12 JOSHUA LAFAZAN

13 DEBRA MULE

14 MICHAEL PULITZER
 Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

STEVEN MORELLI,
NASSAU COUNTY COMMISSIONER
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.....6

1 Superstorm Sandy/11-28-18

2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I'd ask the
3 clerk to call the roll.

4 CLERK PULITZER: I'm going to
5 call the roll, please. Legislator Debra
6 Mule?

7 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here. Joshua
8 Lafazan?

9 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
11 Delia DeRiggi-Whitton?

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
13 Here.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
15 Kennedy?

16 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
18 Howard Kopel? Absent. Vice Chairman Steven
19 Rhoads?

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

21 CLERK PULITZER: Chairwoman
22 Denise Ford?

23 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Here.

24 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. We
25 have a quorum.

1 Superstorm Sandy/11-28-18

2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you and
3 thank you everyone for being here for our
4 follow-up meeting of the Nassau County
5 Superstorm Sandy Review Committee. This
6 meeting is a continuation of our August
7 meeting where we received testimony from the
8 Department of Health and the beginning of
9 the Office of Emergency Management.

10 Due to time constraints, that
11 meeting was cut short and many of us had
12 additional areas of inquiries that they were
13 unable to cover.

14 The testimony we did receive did
15 highlight the extraordinary readiness
16 posture of both the Department of Health and
17 Office of Emergency Management and the hard
18 working professionals and volunteers in
19 those departments.

20 We were able to cover important
21 topics including access to shelters,
22 medications and how we might inform our
23 constituents through the use of technology.

24 It's my hope that we can expound
25 on those new topics and cover new ground

1 Superstorm Sandy/11-28-18

2 today.

3 Once again, we are pleased to
4 have with us the Office of Emergency
5 Management Commissioner Mr. Steve Morelli.
6 Mr. Morelli, we ask you to come up.

7 Do you want to give us a
8 statement or go with questions?

9 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: We can
10 just go with the questions, that's fine.
11 Not that I have anything prepared.

12 You and I had recently had spent
13 a morning in Long Beach. I apologize, I'm a
14 little bit horse, came out of nowhere, so I
15 will do the best I can.

16 That was pretty extraordinary
17 when you think about it. When you saw the
18 resilience of the city of Long Beach, what
19 they have come back from over the last six
20 years. It's pretty remarkable considering
21 the amount of damage and amount of
22 destruction that occurred, but it's obvious
23 there is still more work to be done, so
24 whatever we can do to prevent something like
25 that from happening again or at least be

1 Superstorm Sandy/11-28-18
2 better prepared for it, that's what we are
3 all here for.

4 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Thank you. I
5 remember when I was first selected, somehow
6 or another I got an invitation to the
7 hurricane preparedness I think at the
8 Marriott or the Hilton or something like
9 that with all the fire departments.

10 I guess by mistake I got it and
11 it was more technical but I remember they
12 did give. I remember sitting and watching
13 the movie about the 1938 hurricane and the
14 impact and storm surges and what can happen,
15 that was all way back in 2004.

16 I was so frightened. I remember
17 Richie Rochans was head of OEM at that time,
18 and I asked him, what are we doing, and
19 that's how we started having the hurricane
20 preparedness meetings to start educating not
21 only the legislators but the residents as
22 well.

23 With Sandy and even with some of
24 the other storms, whether or not it's ice,
25 wind, or whatever, and we've had tornados

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2 that touched down in our communities that we
3 realize the importance of OEM; whether or
4 not for preparing, during, and the aftermath
5 of whatever has happened.

6 I know that a lot of the
7 communities now through funding from FEMA
8 have started their own OEMs, they have set
9 up their little offices I know in the city
10 of Long Beach, we're building something on
11 the sixth floor, we're they're going to sort
12 of like in a way mimic on a very, very small
13 scale what we have in the county.

14 So you see more and more where
15 we're all becoming aware of the need to have
16 you prepared and to have all of us prepared.
17 I am impressed with the OEM center. We've
18 all taken tours.

19 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I agree.
20 It's nice that they're able to do that, be
21 able to develop their own offices of
22 emergency management. I mean, you cannot be
23 too prepared.

24 The only issue that we're running
25 into though is the understanding that the

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2 Nassau County Office of Emergency Management
3 is pretty much the end all. Requests and
4 everything that goes from each particular
5 community has to come through the Nassau
6 County Office of Emergency Management.

7 With the exception of Freeport
8 and not to denigrate Freeport, but they are
9 very strong in what they want to do.
10 Everybody else has been receptive to that
11 and understanding that fact. It's great
12 that we have these additional people to work
13 with. I want to stress that to work with.
14 So it's not as though we are an iron hand
15 over them, but we want to make sure that
16 they understand we are more than just a
17 resource for them.

18 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: You know what,
19 I have lived through this -- and I am going
20 to allow the other legislators and I will
21 follow-up because I know in my head. But,
22 go ahead, Legislator Mule.

23 LEGISLATOR MULE: Hi,
24 Commissioner. Yes, Freeport. My question,
25 I was a village trustee before that and I

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2 know that we have our own Office of
3 Emergency Management and our own fantastic
4 police and fire department. I know that
5 storm preparedness is something that is very
6 important.

7 Of course I want to make sure
8 everybody is coordinating so if you can
9 please let me know what is going on.

10 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Well, to
11 expand on Freeport, they are very gung ho in
12 what they want to do. I appreciate the fact
13 that they want to make sure their residents
14 are protected.

15 But a couple of turns here and
16 there they -- I don't want to say around us,
17 but decided they would develop their own
18 mitigation plan which, in the end, doesn't
19 really doesn't mean anything because it has
20 to coincide with what we do and their
21 requests have to again go through us.

22 There's always been a little bit
23 of a communications issue, but I will
24 caution this, we have a meeting with the
25 mayor and with the president of emergency

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2 management on December 11 and I'm hoping
3 that we will be able to put everything aside
4 and be able to absolutely work together.

5 Now, ironically, I have been with
6 the office about seven months, we have had
7 one activation to this point and that was
8 for the nor'easter about three weeks ago.

9 The only person that arrived from
10 any of the villages was from Freeport and
11 that was great. Again, it's their
12 dedication to the village.

13 So, while they want to make sure
14 the people in the village are protected, the
15 people are getting the resources and
16 everything they want, it was great to see
17 Rick Holdner there. He is the resource and
18 he's the person we go through.

19 In the seven months I've been
20 there, developed a pretty good relationship
21 with Rick so I have no doubt that we are
22 going to be able to move forward with this.

23 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: So you are
24 going to have your meeting on December 11th.
25 Please let me know if there are any

1 Superstorm Sandy/11-28-18

2 continuing, or anything --

3 COMMISSIONER MORELLI:

4 Absolutely. I will send an email to you
5 with what we were able to accomplish at that
6 meeting.

7 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: That would be
8 helpful. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Again, I
10 hesitate to say it's not animosity or it's
11 not that we're adversarial at this point,
12 they are very community oriented and they
13 want to make sure they're taking care of
14 their own but, by the same token, I don't
15 want them to decide that they're going to be
16 the ones taking care of their own, going
17 around the office of emergency management
18 here in Nassau County to ask for resources
19 from the state or anywhere else because,
20 again, those have to go through us.

21 The reason that they really have
22 to go through us because an accurate
23 accounting of everything that's expended
24 through the office of Emergency Management,
25 any requests that go out has to be kept, and

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2 we are talking about federal funding.

3 So if we are going to receive any
4 funding from FEMA later on, we have to be
5 able to establish the fact that Nassau
6 County had made up to \$5 million in requests
7 and then after that happens we have to
8 determine that New York State has made I
9 believe the number is \$29 million in
10 requests to be able to get federal funding.

11 If we're not hearing what some of
12 the other communities are getting, it kind
13 of trips us up because we end up shorting
14 what we should be getting.

15 As I said, once we do have that
16 meeting I will be more than happy to forward
17 the results of that meeting to you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I agree with
19 you because I know, in the past, any type of
20 equipment or anything that any of our fire
21 departments or anybody wanted, we had to go
22 through OEM and that was a requirement
23 through Homeland Security that you couldn't
24 request anything unless you went through
25 OEM.

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2 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: It's kind
3 of funny we are talking about that now.

4 There's a bit of that thing going
5 on in the Five Towns. There was an auto
6 accident a couple of days ago that took down
7 just a light pole, but it was one that
8 contained a very big switch. It was also a
9 50 year old switch that now they are unable
10 to function with. Some of the lights are
11 out. Street lights are out. Especially
12 during the rain it makes it difficult to see
13 over there.

14 It's a very ultra orthodox
15 community so the point there is, that this
16 coming weekend, when the folks are walking
17 to their places of worship, we didn't want
18 it to be a problem.

19 We received a request yesterday
20 for some light towers. We sent the light
21 towers right over and did what we could as
22 far as lighting.

23 That intersection Broadway and
24 878, which is the Nassau expressway, we set
25 the light towers over there.

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2 Then, as the night wore on, they
3 wanted more. Then they wanted to know whose
4 roadway it was. Actually it belongs to the
5 state, 878, Broadway is the town of
6 Hempstead. And, also, the Incorporated
7 Village of Lawrence I believe is also
8 supposed to manage some of that.

9 So now everyone wants to know
10 where the lights come from. Believe it or
11 not, our office had to put in a request to
12 New York State for the lighting.

13 I'm not saying we should or
14 shouldn't; our objective was to get the
15 lighting there. But it's incumbent upon the
16 Town of Hempstead or the state to be the
17 ones to manage that.

18 We were able to do it. The
19 lights are now in place. Our lights are
20 back in the garage, but the idea is, the
21 request process needs to be streamlined.

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: That's the
23 government for you. Does anyone else have
24 any right now? Okay.

25 For me, I know that when we look

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2 at this, and I know lately it doesn't seem
3 we have been having too many hurricane
4 preparedness meetings. I'm wondering if
5 that's something that we should start up
6 again.

7 I know a lot of times we do send
8 out flyers and there's information sheets,
9 but I always question -- and I know not
10 everybody went to these meetings, but we
11 would have enough people that would go that
12 would generate interest and they could speak
13 about it with their fellow residents and
14 neighbors. I don't know if every one always
15 reads what is sent to them.

16 What do you think would be a good
17 approach to try to make sure we have the
18 public pay attention to what needs to be
19 done?

20 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: In my
21 opinion, we can never have too many
22 meetings. I know that can be a double edged
23 sword there. When I say we can never have
24 too many meetings, it's specifically that
25 we're able to reach out to constituents and

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2 say, these are the hazards, and these are
3 the things you need to worry about.

4 November 1st of this year we held
5 an all hazards preparedness meeting with the
6 department heads. Objectives there were
7 letting them know what the hazards are to
8 making sure that they know and their
9 families were prepared for anything that
10 could happen. The objective there was to be
11 able to continue government.

12 Along with that, all hazard
13 preparedness, we had someone from New York
14 State come to provide COP training to give
15 the folks some advice on COOP, continuity of
16 operations planning, which is something that
17 is very important and I made the point to
18 other people.

19 Assuming you couldn't get into
20 this building, what do you do next? So we
21 have to figure out a way to continue
22 government. Why? Our constituents are
23 going to be saying, is somebody going to
24 answer that phone when I call? So that was
25 one of our objectives and it was actually

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2 very well received.

3 Also, someone from the Red Cross
4 was there to provide information on
5 sheltering because it's going to be the
6 department heads and all the ordinance
7 personnel that are going to be the liaisons
8 between the Red Cross and the shelters and
9 the Office of Emergency Management.

10 So we have actually done two of
11 those meetings with the ordinance staff.

12 And, on November 16th, we did the
13 same presentation for the towns and villages
14 but we did the first one for the town of
15 Hempstead because it's considerably larger;
16 and December 17th we are meeting with the
17 Town of Oyster Bay and the Town of North
18 Hempstead and the villages. So it's a lot
19 of the village mayors, deputy mayors, and
20 emergency managers will attend that meeting
21 and they'll get the same information as
22 everybody else along with the COP training.

23 The COP we think is most
24 important at this point because, like I
25 said, at the end of the day when the

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2 constituents are starting to call, the last
3 thing we ever want is for them to lose
4 confidence in the government.

5 So, while, that used to be the
6 joke, I'm here from the government, I'm here
7 to help. They have to understand that, and
8 we also have to recognize that.

9 What do we do as far as the
10 communities go? DCE Fox had mentioned that
11 part of the presentation that we did for the
12 department heads would be great in each one
13 of the Legislative districts.

14 I can do as many as I can. I can
15 send some of my staff there. I have no
16 problem with it if anybody wants to
17 establish or set up something within your
18 own communities.

19 I'm actually doing an event
20 tonight at the Oceanside Public Library.
21 It's called officially speaking. I didn't
22 realize the magnitude of it. It's a
23 question and answer between myself and the
24 residents of Oceanside. I'm actually
25 looking forward to it.

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2 But that's going to be one of the
3 areas. They sent me a list of pre-wrote
4 questions you would ask anybody but one of
5 the objective is, I'm going to address storm
6 preparedness.

7 Even the last couple of storms we
8 seen, no one was prepared for the snowstorm.
9 It was ridiculous that it was only a handful
10 of inches. We've seen blizzards that didn't
11 cripple us the way that this past storm did.
12 Everybody needs to be prepared and everybody
13 needs to understand exactly what was going
14 on.

15 It was funny, I put something on
16 the Office of Emergency Management's
17 Facebook page just asking residents to keep
18 the storm drains clear.

19 For two days, I was lampooned by
20 everybody reading that. It's the county's
21 responsibility where my taxes go; somebody
22 always throws in Trump, and I don't know
23 what the president has to do with storm
24 drains. I made the point that I have one in
25 my home. If I don't clear it the water goes

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2 over the curb.

3 That is my objective. Plus
4 leaves in the street are slippery so I asked
5 the residents not to put the leaves in the
6 street. Bag them like you're supposed to or
7 compost them. Again, people were not happy
8 with my response. I'm not going to sit here
9 and defend that in as much as to say there's
10 a little bit of common sense there.

11 I have no problem going out and
12 addressing every one in the legislative
13 districts in any way shape or form. That's
14 probably the best way to get the message out
15 because it then allows a dialogue. It
16 shouldn't just be a monologue where I'm
17 going to sit there and show you some slides.
18 It should be enough of a question and answer
19 period that everybody gets their answers.

20 I have plenty of staff that's
21 also willing to do it.

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I appreciate
23 though, even with the storm drains, because
24 I know that we had a storm a couple of years
25 ago and my neighbor and I were looking at

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2 the water because there was ice and it was
3 not going down the storm drain, we were at
4 risk of our houses getting flooded. So we
5 got ice choppers, the two of us, Carol and
6 I, and we literally chopped the ice all the
7 way down to the storm drain and got it
8 cleared so we could save our homes.

9 So, yes, I agree that sometimes
10 you have to take matters into your own
11 hands.

12 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: That's one
13 of the points that I make to everybody is,
14 the government is there to help you, of
15 course, and provide whatever you need, as
16 best we can, understand that they can't be
17 there every minute, and we do have to help
18 take care of ourselves if it's a matter of
19 clearing that storm drain to where it's
20 cleaned completely, then do us that favor
21 and help us out. I moved the leaves away
22 from there, and before I know it that lake
23 disappears on my street.

24 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I'm going to
25 take you up on having these meetings in the

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2 district. If we start enlightening people,
3 we can let them know that sometimes you do
4 have to take matters into your own hands and
5 do it safely, make it safer for you.

6 There are some things that have
7 to be left to the professionals, but there's
8 a lot of stuff that we can do to remind
9 people even during winter storms you still
10 have to make sure that you have water in the
11 house, you have your batteries, you have
12 everything.

13 I know I'm sitting next to
14 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton and her big
15 thing, which I agree, and I know this is
16 more the Department of Health, but I think
17 that even going into the winter, you know,
18 we look at the hurricane season, we think
19 about shelters. Where are people going to
20 go if, all of a sudden, their homes are
21 flooded, they have to go someplace and have
22 to evacuate.

23 It seems that we don't have any
24 permanently designated shelters, that it
25 seems that they work on this, and, correct

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2 me if I'm wrong, they work on whether or not
3 where they can shelter.

4 Is there any way we can have
5 designated shelters via the OEM so that --
6 because it can turn out that like maybe
7 January we can have like maybe a snowstorm
8 coming through and the people lost the gas,
9 the heat, and we have to move them to
10 someplace. I think it would be better if
11 they knew --

12 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Where the
13 shelters are, I agree with you. We do have
14 the two known larger shelters which are
15 Nassau Community and SUNY Farmingdale.

16 Those are, I don't want to say
17 extreme, but some of the instances you are
18 talking about are low volume. Those can pop
19 up anywhere. I've heard some people from
20 other communities that are just looking for
21 enough to house a dozen people.

22 We can do whatever we can. It's
23 not just what the Office of Emergency
24 Management has or what we are able to do,
25 it's a matter of what the actual community

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2 is able to do.

3 I received a phone call recently
4 from someone who wanted to start their own
5 shelter, can they get a generator.

6 I have plenty of generators.
7 It's not just a matter of I'll drop off a
8 generator and you plug into it. There's a
9 process that goes around it.

10 Plus it's the Red Cross that
11 pretty much handles the sheltering. It's
12 got to be something that we work out with
13 them. They did one here already, I believe,
14 a sheltering presentation.

15 If you want I can see if they
16 would be more than happy to come in and
17 address the entire Legislature with respect
18 to sheltering.

19 We also have a sheltering plan
20 which I would be happy to email to every one
21 of you when I get back to my office so this
22 way you can all see that.

23 Again, I don't want to say that
24 nobody goes to the shelters but I spoke with
25 some folks from the Five Towns, they have 14

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2 or 15 shelters.

3 I didn't realize the five towns
4 were that big, to the point that they
5 actually asked for OEM representation at
6 every one of them. Can't do that. We don't
7 have the staff and there's really no need
8 for that. But a lot of communities want to
9 set up their own shelters. What they are
10 looking for is a little bit of advice or
11 guidance for things that they may need.

12 I met with some of the village
13 mayors and emergency managers two nights ago
14 in Laurel Hollow and that was one of the
15 biggest issues that they had. Is there a
16 laundry list of something that says what
17 they can use?

18 You can use anywhere. There are
19 schools everywhere. As much as some people
20 do object to it, there are plenty of
21 firehouses. I know, as Commissioner in
22 South Hempstead, we opened up the firehouse
23 for whomever wanted to come, we left the
24 doors open with charging stations for people
25 to come and charge their phones, just made

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2 it accessible for them.

3 Even beyond the sheltering,
4 there's the other concerns you have to have.
5 They can go to a shelter and still need
6 somebody there that's going to be able to
7 attend to their medical needs. People do
8 arrive with pets.

9 The sheltering thing, it gets to
10 be a pretty big animal and, to be perfectly
11 honest with you, I would like to forward the
12 plan to you. They're a tier one to tier
13 seven, I believe, levels of shelters.

14 As the shelters fill up and as
15 the shelters, not so much when we are able
16 to determine what the populations of the
17 census are, determine the next level of
18 sheltering that we do.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Hi,
20 Commissioner. I happen to think that we
21 should really just have maybe six or eight,
22 I don't know, you should know how many we
23 need, maybe to coincide with the police
24 precincts, something, shelters that are
25 designated. I think if people knew that

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2 this is their shelter and this is where they
3 go, they wouldn't be asking you for these
4 pop-up shelters.

5 As you know, what happened during
6 Sandy with Glen Cove and Locust Valley, it
7 was a big mess, and the van came and nobody
8 had the key for the van. It was already an
9 unsettling time, but it made it much worse
10 because we weren't familiar. I opened the
11 cots with the mayor. So we had a decent
12 amount of people, especially the first night
13 there was a decent amount.

14 So I think if Glen Cove people
15 knew, they went to Locust Valley High School
16 or wherever, and if Bethpage knew where
17 they went, it would eliminate municipalities
18 wanting to open their own shelters because
19 they would know where it was, and they could
20 always be stocked with water at all times in
21 the basement or whatever school or whatever
22 building you have which would eliminate some
23 of the issues.

24 It would be much more organized
25 and people are much more familiar with the

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2 plan, and I think that's half of it, trying
3 to get the information to people as to where
4 to go when they have no power.

5 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I agree.
6 I agree with you 100 percent.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Why
8 don't we come up with a list of six or eight
9 of --

10 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Some of my
11 concerns are transportation, that's a big
12 one. When people know that it's time to
13 evacuate, how are they getting there? A lot
14 of people do in the end wait for a ride.
15 That's something we've actually been batting
16 around the last week or so. Should there be
17 issues as far as sheltering folks? How are
18 we getting them there?

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Let
20 me tell you, it's easier if they know where
21 they're going.

22 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: You're
23 right.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
25 mean, if you don't know where you're going,

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2 what are you going to do? And dealing with
3 a lot of elderly people and it's a scary
4 time.

5 So I think the more knowledge
6 they have, if everyone has a flyer of
7 exactly where their shelter is and if there
8 is a contact number to call if the shelter
9 is open. It's real basic I think as far as
10 organizing this process.

11 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Do you
12 think it would be, and this is just my
13 thinking here, each Legislative district
14 should have their own?

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
16 think it's too many for you to manage.

17 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Well,
18 we're not really doing the managing when you
19 think about it. Then, again, are every one
20 of them going to be open?

21 See, I live in south Hempstead, I
22 live in the Fifth. It's not really that big
23 of a problem for the folks in south
24 Hempstead as opposed to the people in
25 Baldwin and Freeport. So they're going to

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2 need it.

3 People that are a little further
4 inland may not need it as much. The
5 sheltering issue with them, maybe heat and
6 power.

7 Ironically we ran into a little
8 bit of a quagmire on Thanksgiving day,
9 everybody was calling where are the heating
10 centers. There are none.

11 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Why not?

12 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Don't
13 know. The county had three locations but
14 everywhere else we called within the town of
15 Hempstead and within some of the other
16 towns, it was Thanksgiving Day, nobody was
17 going to be open. And there were more
18 problems over the summer with the cooling
19 centers.

20 Some of the most easiest places
21 to do it are within the parks because most
22 of the parks have community rooms and it
23 becomes an issue of who is going to be
24 watching these rooms, who is watching going
25 in and out of them.

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2 The senior centers, all of the
3 seniors in senior housing generally they all
4 have a senior center. I was met with a
5 little bit of resistance there because the
6 point is, then the building super has to
7 stay there and we have to pay him overtime.
8 So we have a lot that we are actually
9 thinking about and it really had to be
10 bothered as I sat around on Thanksgiving
11 because I was not able to offer that much.
12 Even some of the soup kitchens that we count
13 on.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
15 Really? Because they are usually pretty
16 busy on Thanksgiving.

17 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: And the
18 irony of it is, there was one soup kitchen
19 that said they were open for two hours.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Glen
21 Cove is open too if you ever need it.

22 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: We put
23 out the feelers for everybody. Again, it's
24 the soup kitchens, they're not living rooms
25 either. It's not that they want to turn the

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2 folks, their objective is to get these folks
3 fed.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
5 Maybe not for every cold spring or whatever
6 but I think for the major storms we need the
7 eight designated and maybe the Red Cross.

8 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: So is
9 eight a good number?

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
11 think. I don't know. I'm thinking eight.

12 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I don't
13 want to leave anybody else.

14 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Well, if we
15 have eight precincts --

16 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: 19
17 trailers with supplies for each Legislative
18 district.

19 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: But that would
20 be for each legislative district, but with
21 shelters, considering if we have, we are
22 planning on opening the other two, so we'll
23 have eight precincts. So maybe to start
24 with eight shelters, that might be
25 something.

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2 Do you also utilize the cert
3 members to help with you the sheltering?

4 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: We utilize
5 the cert members to, and I hate to make it
6 sound like they are doing the grunt work
7 here, but they're doing the lifting and
8 carrying. It's primarily folks from the Red
9 Cross and the ordinance staff from the
10 county that is each shelter has a radio
11 where they're able to communicate back and
12 forth with the Office of Emergency
13 Management so they're able to get whatever
14 they need and any issues that they have are
15 going to be met there.

16 The cert people, they are going
17 to be the ones that are helping setting up
18 the tables and chairs, and helping to move
19 food and move water around and stuff to that
20 degree. They are also going to be with us
21 in the EOC, the emergency operation center,
22 helping answer phones, helping to run
23 errands, make copies, filing, whatever they
24 need. So they're tremendously helpful in
25 that respect.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Just thinking
3 about the -- and we'll move from the
4 shelters after this, but when I think if we
5 did have designated shelters, I think that
6 in transportation maybe we can try to
7 partner with our school districts and at
8 least utilize the school buses.

9 I know that even with us, down in
10 the South Shore with Long Beach, the school
11 wanted to get their buses off the island so
12 it was easy if they just transported some of
13 the people up to a shelter and stayed up
14 there.

15 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: If I
16 remember correctly, they were going straight
17 from Long Beach to Nassau Community College
18 and not going back.

19 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Correct. So
20 that might be one of the things. And I
21 think even with the heating and cooling
22 centers, I think that would be very
23 important that we have some of them
24 designated so on a day like Thanksgiving,
25 that we can offer something to people

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2 because, if they have no heat and they're
3 elderly, we don't want them in the hospital.

4 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I agree
5 that was one of the bigger problems, the
6 fact that it was a holiday.

7 I have been a civil servant my
8 entire life. We worked holidays, weekends,
9 work nights. It's never been an issue.
10 Again, that is not something that I'm going
11 to tell anybody, this is how you should run
12 your business, or this is how -- but it's
13 something that, in my opinion, that's
14 something that we should look at.

15 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Even if we
16 have, it's hard, like we have police
17 officers that work 24 hours a day that maybe
18 something that we look at that, that if
19 worse comes to worse, because police
20 officers are trained in emergency situations
21 so they might be the perfect people to
22 basically put in that place if we can't get
23 anyone else.

24 My last question in regard to
25 sheltering is that, I know that one of the

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2 issues we had with Sandy, when we had the
3 outside fire departments and outside utility
4 workers come in, of course the hotels were
5 booked because everybody went there.

6 What plans are we making so that
7 if we ever have a disaster like this again
8 that we can provide adequate arrangements
9 for those that come from outside to give us
10 assistance?

11 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: It's
12 funny, we just met with a company called
13 Western Shelter, their business is very
14 large tents. I hesitate to call them tents.
15 They're pretty much shelters. They come
16 with floors. They can be erected in 15
17 minutes. You can also provide heating and
18 air conditioning within them. They are used
19 for medical purposes for housing people for
20 office space.

21 We are in the process of
22 purchasing three of them, I believe, and you
23 can vestibule them all so you can create
24 small cities with them.

25 If we needed to do that for

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2 additional first responders and they came
3 from all states, as you know, they came from
4 everywhere, as well as the utilities, I'm
5 not saying we would be hard pressed to do
6 it, the number that were here during Sandy
7 was astronomical.

8 I would drive past the parking
9 lot at Hempstead Lake State Park and there
10 were no parking spaces left for the number
11 of trucks that were there and the same thing
12 in Valley Stream. Hard-pressed, yes. As I
13 said, another thing we are looking at, and I
14 hate to make it sound as though everything
15 turns into a financial issue. Tents aren't
16 cheap.

17 So for us to spend 20, \$25,000
18 per tent and never use them becomes -- I'm
19 not saying it's a waste of money, penny
20 wise, pound foolish, I would rather see us
21 have the tents. That's the reason we're
22 going to purchase three of them just so we
23 can see exactly the benefit of their use.

24 My objective is, hopefully they
25 will arrive before the holidays. I would

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2 like to erect them in the parking lot of our
3 building and see if we can't function out of
4 there for one or two days just to see how
5 they would work. I think it would be a
6 pretty good exercise and, should that
7 happen, there's no reason why we couldn't go
8 forward and purchase a few more.

9 You're talking hundreds and
10 hundreds of people. If anyone saw what the
11 emergency operation center looked like
12 during Sandy, the one that's physically in
13 my office was filled to capacity. I can
14 only say because I have seen it in
15 photographs down in the end of the hall, the
16 lecture hall there were 140 positions set up
17 for people from the federal government, for
18 people from outside. That alone overwhelmed
19 the entire building.

20 It became a problem as far as
21 sleeping goes. We can put out as many cots
22 and as many pillows and food and whatnot, we
23 do the best we can.

24 But at the moment, my objective
25 here is to see what we can do about the

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2 tents. So, like I said, I like what I saw.
3 We had a couple of them demo'd at my
4 building and I was very impressed with them,
5 so I think it might be a good way to begin.

6 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: When we come I
7 would like to see them. I'm not going to
8 stay there because my camping is hotels and
9 motels.

10 COMMISSIONER MORELLI:
11 Absolutely.

12 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Legislator
13 Rhoads.

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Mr. Morelli,
15 thank you very much for coming back today.

16 I know that some of these
17 questions are a little bit difficult for you
18 to answer simply based on the fact you have
19 only been there since earlier this year and,
20 unfortunately, we lost a good friend and a
21 valuable resource in Craig Craft who
22 actually sort of engineered in many ways the
23 response that was put together in the
24 aftermath of Sandy.

25 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Big shoes

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2 to fill.

3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Big shoes to
4 fill and you are doing a fantastic job. But
5 obviously you only know about what you have
6 been told about, our response to Sandy,
7 which leaves you with a little bit of a
8 disadvantage in answering.

9 Just to follow-up on the topic of
10 sheltering. First I will cover this. It
11 sounds as though there is a little bit of a
12 chain of command problem. In the sense that
13 every county, every town, every village has
14 their own elected officials, their own
15 elected officials want to exercise direct
16 control over what happens within their own
17 municipality and affecting their residents
18 and they have every right to and it's
19 perfectly understandable.

20 That leads to potentially some
21 conflicts in an emergency situation who's in
22 charge.

23 Is there any kind of overall
24 county wide command structure? Are there
25 defined rules as to who's in charge in

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2 certain circumstances and circumstances in
3 how authority decision making is supposed to
4 be distributed?

5 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Yes, there
6 is. As I stated, every shelter -- the
7 shelters that the county stands up are all
8 done by the American Red Cross. They are in
9 charge of all of their sheltering. We have
10 liaisons within the shelters. They are able
11 to report back to us.

12 Again, nobody can make any
13 requests for any sort of resources or
14 assistance without going through the Office
15 of Emergency Management.

16 Consequently, the other
17 communities that want to establish their own
18 shelters, they also need to know, and the
19 majority of them do, their request will
20 still have to come to us.

21 A number of folks, as I said,
22 have requested to establish their own
23 shelters. They want their own generators.
24 Own food. Own bedding and water. That's
25 all well and good.

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2 At the end of the day when they
3 are going to need other assets, especially
4 by the county, they're going to have to go
5 through the county.

6 At the moment everybody that is
7 getting the sheltering information is
8 getting that exact information.

9 They can open up as many
10 buildings as they want. They're really not
11 going to be able to request any additional
12 resources without going through the county.
13 So we get the requests. There's somebody
14 from the American Red Cross in the EOC to
15 answer any of the requests they have.

16 One of our biggest concerns are
17 the people have issues with medication,
18 people that have issues with mental illness.
19 It's not that we are afraid of them, it's
20 just that they do have additional needs.
21 Our objective is get them those needs.

22 That's why we don't discourage
23 anybody from opening their own shelters. We
24 discourage them from freelancing. We
25 discourage them from just deciding that they

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2 will fly on their own without any
3 assistance.

4 That's something that we have
5 been working with the towns and villages.
6 As I said, we've done two presentations
7 already and present that exact information.
8 Opening up a shelter to hold on to some
9 people for a couple of hours is one thing.
10 If you are going to have an established
11 shelter where you're going to be housing
12 them overnight, there's going to be
13 requirements with respect to food and water.
14 Bedding, people they aren't comfortable.
15 People do bring their pets.

16 A lot of that becomes an issue.
17 At the end of the day, all of the sheltering
18 information is going through the Office of
19 Emergency Management.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Now the
21 American Red Cross, obviously OEM as
22 representatives in each of the shelters that
23 the American Red Cross --

24 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: No. We're
25 not going to have -- there will be ordinance

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2 staff from the county.

3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So it's not
4 necessarily from OEM, it's someone from the
5 county?

6 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: No. It's
7 all ordinance staff from the county.
8 They're going to be the ones that will be
9 the liaisons between the American Red Cross
10 and the people responsible for the shelter
11 and the Office of Emergency Management.

12 We will provide radios and
13 telephones. We actually have a pretty
14 robust radio system. The problem is nobody
15 listens to it. We do a radio test every
16 Monday morning.

17 We call out upwards of 80
18 different villages and communities and
19 whatnot, and we get five or six different
20 responses. That's all. That's something
21 else we are trying to stress now, is it a
22 radio problem? Is there nobody listening to
23 it? Is it turned off and stuck in a drawer
24 somewhere? Is your radio defective? Is it
25 an antennae issue? Is it old, the battery

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2 is dead? However it works out, we're
3 working on that, because that's the one
4 thing we can't have is a breakdown in
5 communications.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And that sort
7 of leads to my next question which is, is
8 there an overall communications plan, how
9 are these individual shelters and individual
10 municipalities supposed to communicate with
11 OEM in a situation where the telephones
12 don't work?

13 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: When the
14 shelters are open, they are provided with
15 radios. Those radios come straight from
16 OEM.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Our shelters
18 or everyone's shelters that you know about?

19 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: The
20 shelters that are opened up by the Red
21 Cross. Should another shelter open up, we
22 have no problem giving they will a radio.

23 By the same token, it's a matter
24 of not having a liaison there. So that's
25 our objective, not to have people running it

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2 on their own.

3 They receive a pretty good
4 training from the American Red Cross with
5 respect to the sheltering. If everybody
6 follows the direction of the Red Cross, it
7 makes it a whole lot easier. There's no
8 reason in the world why anybody can't set up
9 a shelter in their own community.
10 Especially if it's just going to be a few
11 hours until the tide goes back out, until
12 power is restored. That's not a problem.

13 Even if that's the case, someone
14 just reached out to the Office of Emergency
15 Management saying we might need this, we
16 might need that.

17 Since I'm there we've never said
18 no. As long as I'm there we're not going to
19 say no. That's our objective. We're here
20 to support everybody else.

21 Should one of those shelters
22 maybe they're going to need some water,
23 maybe need some meals for overnight. We
24 will do whatever we can to help them.

25 The objective here is for

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2 everybody here to communicate with us in an
3 orderly fashion. We can't just have the
4 radio screaming. We know in the fire
5 service, when people aren't listening, the
6 radios can be complete chaos and that's
7 something we don't want.

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Absolutely.
9 Just in terms of our own, because you had
10 mentioned earlier we have a tier system with
11 respect to sheltering. Can you describe
12 that? What exactly does that consist of at
13 this point?

14 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: The tiered
15 sheltering, we start with tier one, that's
16 where the larger shelter is going to be.

17 Then again, you have to
18 understand the volume of people you are
19 going to be expecting in your shelters, and
20 what their needs may be, and usually the
21 duration of time.

22 The lower the tier is the lower
23 -- I don't want to say the lower priority, I
24 should say when you reach five, six, and
25 seven. It's a lower priority. They're not

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2 shelters that are going to be overwhelmed
3 with people. Their needs may not be as
4 great, they may not be needing water and
5 bedding and stuff to that degree.

6 The higher shelters are going to
7 be where there are a larger volume of
8 people. The two number one shelters, as I
9 said, Nassau community and SUNY Farmingdale
10 where we can house more than a thousand at
11 each place. That's going to require extra
12 staff, require more than one liaison. It's
13 going to require truck loads of water and
14 food that's going to require people that are
15 going to be able to handle the medical
16 aspect of it.

17 We are also lucky that we have
18 folks from the sheriff's office and the
19 Department of Probation that will also be
20 helping us. It's not so much that we have
21 just ordinance staff here, we have people in
22 the first responder mindset and we do know
23 with everything, and it's not just because
24 it's been my discipline, we do know there is
25 a certain level of efficiency and

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2 professionalism that goes along with that.

3 That, to me, is comforting if we
4 can't be everywhere, it's good to have folks
5 like that there.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: You've been
7 there before. It helps to have, maybe not
8 that particular situation, but having been
9 in equivalent situations, it's certainly
10 provides some assistance.

11 So the tiering is a
12 classification of shelter but we don't have
13 established locations for those shelters,
14 other than the tier one?

15 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: There are
16 established locations. I apologize, I was
17 just looking through here to see if I did
18 have it.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I know, for
20 example, the first responders, for example,
21 two years ago I think they established if we
22 were to have a similar type of situation,
23 established at Island Trees High School in
24 Levittown, there is a shelter for the
25 families of first responders because one of

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2 the issues they were having with first
3 responders is you go out and you're on stand
4 by for 48 hours, what's happening to your
5 family, when do they do when you're not
6 around? Is that still functioning?

7 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I believe
8 it is. Again, I apologize, I don't have the
9 plan with me.

10 As many times as I can read it, I
11 still need to read it more. As I said, I
12 will immediately when I leave here I will
13 have somebody forward it to every Legislator
14 here and for those who aren't here to see
15 exactly how the plan is and then I would be
16 more than happy to discuss it at another
17 time.

18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: If you
19 wouldn't mind. I don't know how the tiering
20 works. Obviously tier one is your major
21 center is in Farmingdale, and Nassau
22 Community College.

23 But I would like to see, do we
24 have, for example, do we have tier two
25 shelters in each of the eight precinct

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2 areas? Is there a tier three shelter if you
3 have a larger issue? Do you have locations
4 in each Legislative district? Can it expand
5 out from there depending on the level of the
6 emergency; and depending on the volume
7 potentially that you will receive?

8 For example, hurricane shelters
9 in storm communities, shore communities,
10 probably need to be bigger than they do
11 inlet, for example, let's try to get
12 everybody inland.

13 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Like I
14 said, first opportunity, as soon as I leave
15 here I will have that sent to everybody.

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I certainly
17 appreciate that.

18 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I'm
19 looking to post that along with -- I
20 apologize, I had half a dozen in my car from
21 my meeting the other day and I took them
22 out, the sheltering plan, plus the 120 hour
23 plan. The 120 hour plan being what's going
24 to happen as we lead up to an event like
25 that.

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2 As I discussed it with some of
3 the individuals the other night, in the last
4 80 years, there's only been three storms
5 that have impacted Long Island directly.

6 1985, 1954, and 1938, the only
7 times hurricanes directly hit Long Island.
8 They usually come up the coast from other
9 states. I have got to admit, we have been
10 very lucky. Even Sandy wasn't a hurricane
11 when it was here, it was a super storm.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Don't tell
13 the insurance companies.

14 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I
15 understand that and it's funny because we
16 told some of our members at work. We joked
17 with them. You can't replace your equipment
18 if it was not a hurricane. The idea of it
19 was though, it became the high winds, wasn't
20 a lot of rain either, and it was a lunar
21 event.

22 People actually say it was worse
23 than Katrina. Katrina being a more
24 centralized location.

25 This went from Atlantic City, the

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2 southern part of New Jersey all the way
3 through Long Island. It actually became a
4 bigger event.

5 I can't say we weren't prepared
6 for it. We knew it was coming. But getting
7 back to where I say the 120 hour plan, the
8 most recent hurricane that we saw that gave
9 us an opportunity like that was Florence.
10 That directly impacted the Carolinas. That
11 stalled out there for days so we had plenty
12 of time to keep an eye on that. You all
13 received the reports from my office on a
14 daily basis as we saw what the storm could
15 be doing to us. We were very fortunate in
16 that respect.

17 Hurricane Mike came out of
18 nowhere and destroyed the panhandle in
19 Florida. They didn't have the luxury of the
20 120 hour report.

21 One of the points that I made to
22 some of the folks that I met within the five
23 towns was, their concern is the evacuations
24 routes. Heeding the advice. You know the
25 storm is coming, you know what it can do.

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2 Don't wait until you're 24 hours out for
3 that to happen. Their concern is traffic
4 jams on those roads.

5 If the people start to leave
6 earlier, then you shouldn't have those
7 problems. Their objective is they want to
8 turn all of the roads leading into the Five
9 Towns north. It's impossible to do. You
10 need a cop on every corner. They want us to
11 put cert people there. I don't think that's
12 the wise thing to do.

13 I think people should recognize
14 the value of the 120 hour -- and I've
15 actually said, let's move it 144 hours, so
16 we will give people six day's notice. I
17 don't think there is any harm in doing that.
18 It just allows us another day to be
19 prepared.

20 If the folks see the warnings
21 almost a week in advance, I can only hope
22 that our work will be cut dramatically
23 because they have been able to take care of
24 themselves. That's one of the points that
25 we make during the all hazards preparedness.

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2 We're going to be there to help you. The
3 government is going to be there to help you.
4 It might not be right now.

5 You are going to have to prepare
6 yourself and that's what -- I know within my
7 own fire district, we tried to stress that
8 with all the community. We let them know,
9 we are here for you, but understand it's not
10 going to be this moment. So that's all I can
11 expect to do.

12 It's a very good point about the
13 first responders, where are they going,
14 where are their families going? In South
15 Hempstead, all the members were told to
16 bring their families to us. We have 50
17 members. It's easy. You have a fire
18 district, fire department like Hicksville,
19 or Hempstead or Uniondale or Rockville
20 Centre that's got more than 200 members.
21 That's a lot of people that you have to
22 house, and trying to find places for them
23 and trying to feed them.

24 Preparedness is not just for our
25 constituents, the preparedness is for

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2 everybody. That was one of the purposes of
3 doing it with the department heads first,
4 this way you folks can be prepared. Their
5 staffs can be prepared and they can
6 understand, you may be out of the home for a
7 couple of days. You may be at work a few
8 days, you may end up having to work from
9 home for a few days. However it works out,
10 it's all a matter of us being prepared ahead
11 of time.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Not to
13 specifically advocate for shore communities
14 and for departments in shore communities,
15 but we had situations in Sandy where guys in
16 their own department are losing their house.
17 It's not a situation where you can just --
18 your family can just ride it out and just
19 need somebody to check on them. They need
20 to leave because you can't live where you
21 used to live. So that underscores the need
22 perhaps.

23 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Let me go
24 one step further, I agree with you. Maybe
25 because it's 36 years in the volunteer fire

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2 service. I would rather they were with me
3 at the firehouse.

4 Far be it for me to tell every
5 fire district or every fire department make
6 sure you house your own people. I would
7 like to believe they're doing that.

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And we did it
9 in Wantagh. I don't know that that was the
10 case in every place. That was my concern.

11 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Again, you
12 needed to because of the level of the threat
13 and danger that you had in Wantagh. And I
14 certainly agree with you.

15 If you need additional bedding,
16 if you need food, we've got thousands and
17 thousands of meals ready to eat. At any
18 given time, we have two truck loads of
19 water. That's a lot of water.

20 If you are going to be standing
21 up in any one of your own firehouses and you
22 need cots and bedding and need water and
23 need food, please let us know. We will make
24 every effort to get the stuff there to you
25 early before that happens.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Absolutely.

3 And you mentioned also that you have a
4 couple of truck loads of water, and a couple
5 of thousand MREs ready to go.

6 One of the issues that we saw in
7 Superstorm Sandy that we heard about in the
8 news and the aftermath was the scramble to
9 put together on an emergency basis some of
10 those contracts for work that needed to be
11 done. Tree clearing. Who is providing
12 roles? Where was the food coming from? As
13 we all read about.

14 It's difficult in a situation
15 where all of a sudden you're responsible for
16 feeding theoretically thousands of people
17 with only a couple of day's notice. Is
18 there any movement towards trying to have
19 contracts in place in the event of an
20 emergency with particular vendors like, for
21 example, bus companies, if you need to
22 evacuate people, we know that we have an
23 established contract in place, we call on
24 you and you provide the buses, you provide
25 the drivers. We are all ready. All I have

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2 to do is flip the switch and I have a plan
3 in place for that. Do we have established
4 contracts for food? For water?

5 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I can tell
6 you food we do have. I believe the company
7 is Whitson. It used to be -- I can't think
8 of the name off the top of my head. It's
9 the vendor that deals with Nassau Community
10 College.

11 For a time it was, I apologize,
12 the name escapes me. But now the new vendor
13 that we have a contract with them is to
14 provide meals at the shelters.

15 One of the bigger concerns is the
16 immediate need. That's where the MREs come
17 in. If you ever had to enjoy an MRE, I
18 don't understand can ever enjoy an MRE, it's
19 nothing more than a box of sodium. That's
20 the way they are. And if you have to, we
21 have kosher MREs, for people who have a
22 specific kosher diet.

23 We also have an agreement with
24 the contract that we have with the company
25 to provide the food to also provide kosher

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2 meals. The water as I said is something
3 that's in and out. There's water all the
4 time. Plenty of water, that's not a
5 concern.

6 I do get calls on a regular
7 basis, I hear you guys have water. We're
8 running a sporting event. That's not what
9 emergency management is about. But we
10 always have plenty of water on hand.

11 As far as busing and
12 transportation, that's kind of a tough one
13 because at the end the day a hand always
14 goes out, they want to know who is paying
15 for what.

16 Even during an emergency, could
17 be a major fire going on, and we get a
18 request for a NICE bus so they can house
19 people temporarily. It's a very big process
20 because first they have to identify the bus.
21 He has to empty out his passengers first and
22 then go up there.

23 Then they want to know who is
24 paying for it. I still have a bill floating
25 around our office for a fire that was up in

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2 Roslyn. Nobody knows how it's going to get
3 paid. Eventually they will be paid. Again,
4 it becomes an issue of payment.

5 We haven't worked out anything
6 with NICE which is something that I also
7 advocate a way to move people.

8 In the situation as we ran into
9 in Long Beach, the water is coming up so the
10 buses can't stay very long and they can't
11 get back in. It's how long and how far we
12 are going to moving these folks. But I will
13 make a note of that that I will look into
14 that as far as our contracts for shelter,
15 for transportation and see if I can't get
16 that information right to you.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Great. I
18 appreciate that. Now, just in terms of the
19 dissemination of information. Obviously we
20 rely on a tremendous amount of people
21 listening to the radio, people watching
22 television. I'm sure we have some sort of
23 email blast list that we send out.

24 It was a couple of months ago
25 that I know we all received that we received

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2 that test message via text from the federal
3 government. I'm sure everybody got it at
4 the same time.

5 I didn't know you could do
6 that and quite honestly it's pretty cool
7 that you can. Does Nassau OEM have the
8 ability to alert its residents using a
9 similar type of system, the mechanics of it?

10 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Yes, we
11 do. Formerly used code red which was a
12 system in place to do that, deliver
13 messages. Now we're using a company called
14 Ever Bridge which, believe it or not, is
15 paid for by the state so it's actually
16 costing us nothing.

17 But the only encumbrance that we
18 have on that is people have to opt in. What
19 we've been able to do is to import from code
20 red a large number of phone numbers and it
21 does just that. It sends a message, it will
22 send a text and call your home with a
23 message.

24 Actually one should be going out
25 today because of opioid training. So we

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2 actually have been using it a lot.

3 We are in the process of having
4 the company help us streamline it a bit
5 because folks from the correctional center
6 want us to be able to target a specific area
7 just around the jail should there be a
8 problem there.

9 It had to be a little bit of work
10 to do that but we are able to hit specific
11 zip codes, hit specific telephone exchanges
12 and anybody that's opted in. So we can get
13 the message out there. Our social media is
14 also, I don't want to say taken off, but we
15 have somebody in there, our public
16 information officer, Brendan Stanton, he
17 came to us and before you know it we went
18 from 1,500 to 10,000 hits in a week. So the
19 message is getting out there, as long as
20 people are on social media, it's the big
21 thing these days. Our Twitter page and our
22 Facebook page are really taking off.

23 Plus we are starting to make it a
24 point to put as much information we can on
25 the county's website. So when people go to

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2 the OEM page they're able to open up.

3 There's an interactive map for the

4 evacuation routes. So they're able to see

5 exactly where they're able to go, the one

6 that is nearest to them. So we're doing as

7 much as we can in that respect.

8 As far as emergency notification,

9 we can do it. Changing from code red to

10 Ever Bridge has been beneficial to us.

11 But right now we just need to

12 make sure we're able to get more people in.

13 It was a little bit of an issue having

14 people opt in. There was something that

15 they had to fill out.

16 When I tried to fill it out, it

17 bumped me out. I don't understand how, but

18 we were able to finally get me in, but at

19 least I'm able to hear the messages also.

20 We will offer anybody any

21 assistance that they need to opt into Ever

22 Bridge.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: What is the

24 process though to opt in?

25 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: There's a

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2 link that we can provide that is, as I said
3 New York State is the one that funds this,
4 so it's a New York State notification
5 primarily. So there's a link that you have
6 to go and enter your information.

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: For example,
8 I know on some of these things for example
9 you can go on to your cell phone and text no
10 to opt out to certain messages that you
11 receive, is there a way with Ever Bridge to
12 be able to text a certain number "yes" and
13 opt in?

14 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: As I said,
15 they have to go to the link.

16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Because then
17 we can help disseminate that information in
18 each of our own districts.

19 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Is it possible
20 considering what the federal government did,
21 is it possible maybe in the coming weeks
22 where we can set it up and you can do a test
23 message to everybody in the county so that
24 if you didn't receive this message from you
25 that we know that we have to opt in?

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2 It's just a way of finding out
3 how many people basically are opted in or to
4 make sure people do opt in.

5 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: There's
6 got to be a way. Just the way that you made
7 it sound, if you didn't --

8 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Like if you did
9 like the government did, if you could send
10 out on December 29th, we let everybody know,
11 even for us, even for the legislators, so we
12 know we are in on this system, because I
13 don't think we are, but where we can say to
14 everybody that Nassau County is going to do
15 a test of the emergency notification system
16 on your cell phones. So it's only a test.
17 Everybody at 12 o'clock is going to get this
18 message, so that if people get it they know
19 they are on our system.

20 If they don't get it, then we can
21 follow up with a message, if you do not
22 receive it, you need then to call or go
23 online and send a message to say that you
24 did not get the message so that we know as
25 many people as we can are in this system so

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2 if there is an emergency they will be
3 notified.

4 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I don't
5 think that that's a bad idea. I think
6 that's a good idea.

7 I do know there was a problem
8 that occurred with Suffolk County not long
9 ago in doing just that. It was supposed to
10 be a mass test between Nassau and Suffolk
11 County.

12 Something happened where the
13 wrong message went out and it scared a lot
14 of people. So they cancelled the test.

15 I have been dealing with some of
16 the folks in the Suffolk County emergency
17 management and fire and rescue emergency
18 services to do just that again.

19 I think that's a good idea. In
20 my mind, I'm thinking there is probably, got
21 to be a better way that we can get this
22 information, this opt-in information.

23 Legislator Rhoads makes a very
24 good point. There has to be a way, has to
25 be a way somewhere where a message can be

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2 sent or they can -- you hear the radio
3 stations do it all the time, text "yes" to
4 12345 and it opts them in. So I think
5 that's a great idea.

6 One of the conditions with that
7 is though, we would like to get a little bit
8 of a pedigree on the people we're opting in.

9 The reason being, just recently,
10 we tried to reach the elderly in a
11 particular area. We can do that but it
12 required a day's worth of work for the
13 person to cherry pick each elderly person
14 out to be able to now create a separate
15 group for that notification. So it could
16 probably be done. The folks from Ever
17 Bridge have been really really good with us.

18 So, like I said, I think that's a
19 great idea and I would be more than happy to
20 put it to them.

21 As far as running a test, I have
22 said that on more than one occasion when is
23 the last time we tested it. Again, I got
24 the whole issue with Suffolk County where
25 they didn't say this is a test first which

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2 caused a tremendous panic.

3 I will be honest with you. When
4 we do send messages out, specifically
5 messages that come from the County
6 Executive's office or others, they're
7 primarily messages that -- it helps us in
8 two ways. It gets the message out and it
9 also let's us know how many people are
10 hearing the message.

11 The message that I believe is
12 supposed to go out tonight is regarding an
13 opioid meeting they're going to be doing if
14 Wantagh.

15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Tomorrow.

16 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: So the
17 people in the Wantagh community will be
18 getting that. I can't tell you how many
19 people get it a second day and right away
20 are angry. Why do I have to get it every
21 day? To me, hang up the phone. It don't
22 mean I'm going to put myself at risk because
23 I don't want to get another message. That's
24 how people are. I'm not going to begrudge
25 them for it. I do understand.

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2 Some great suggestions. I will
3 see exactly what we can do about that.
4 Maybe not so much as this is a test. We can
5 do any type of a message on behalf of the
6 Legislature. Happy New Year, have a great
7 holiday. However it works out, just to get
8 that message out.

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I think that
10 part of the issue though is for your
11 particular purposes, it's important that we
12 be discriminating about the messages.

13 I mean there's going to be a
14 separate system for us to get information
15 out there about, you know, I'm having a dog
16 run or whatever program we're running.

17 But, I think that for emergency
18 services it's important that the messages
19 that go out are only emergency services.
20 Otherwise, you're going to get people that
21 turn around and opt out.

22 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: That very
23 same point was made, in working with Nassau
24 Community College on a couple of other
25 issues just like that. One of the points

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2 is, the message has to be relevant. We
3 don't want to provide a system for Nassau
4 Community College that's going to allow them
5 to say there is a concert this weekend, or
6 that class is cancelled. Before you know
7 it, those are the ones people don't want to
8 hear it anymore.

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Hi,
10 Commissioner Morelli. How are you?

11 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Good.
12 Thank you.

13 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I was just
14 thinking when my wife and I, we were just
15 about new parents at the time of Sandy, our
16 son Legan was six or seven months old. I
17 think a lot of time -- any time, whether
18 you're a new parent or have small children,
19 you're always concerned about getting from
20 one place to another. If something comes in
21 your way, how do you do that?

22 I know that one of the biggest
23 challenges that we faced was the prolonged
24 shortage of gasoline resulting from damage
25 to our ports or lack of power and many of

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2 the facilities.

3 I was just wondering if there is
4 any way to facilitate bringing gasoline in
5 from other areas?

6 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: This is
7 actually myself and Legislator Lafazan were
8 talking about the other night, the
9 availability of gas for folks that need it.

10 There was legislation I believe
11 that required service stations to be able to
12 continue pumping having generators for their
13 pumps alone. Again, I don't know exactly if
14 they have done an audit or actually signed
15 that into law or rubber stamped it, however,
16 I believe they have. But a point that I
17 made, they just renovated a service station
18 near my home, I said to them where is your
19 generator, and he didn't know what I was
20 talking about. So it's a matter of them
21 getting it out there.

22 And as far as us being able to
23 provide fuel, one of the problems being, how
24 are we dispensing it.

25 We do have a supply of fuel

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2 available to us. I believe it's housed over
3 at the Town of Oyster Bay for first
4 responders, which is the police and certain
5 folks in the fire commission and certain
6 folks in emergency management. It's not a
7 lot of fuel but it's just enough to keep
8 that aspect of the business running.

9 As far as being able to provide
10 fuel for everybody, you saw what the lines
11 were like at the service stations, that's
12 what they're going to be like outside of our
13 trucks. I don't want to say no we can't do
14 that. I don't think it's physically
15 possible for us to do that. The fuel that
16 these folks are waiting for to go into the
17 ground to dispense their residents is going
18 to be stopped up the corner so they can
19 start another line there. I'm not saying
20 that we would probably end up seeing
21 anarchy, for lack of a better word, but I
22 think you might start seeing people that are
23 heated. I waited on the lines also. Even
24 though they were given priority the first
25 responders. I have to take this one on the

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2 chin like the rest of them and that's what
3 we did.

4 It becomes a bigger problem and
5 if we can establish that that legislation is
6 there and the service stations are doing
7 what they're supposed to do, we would
8 probably take the edge off in that respect.

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I don't
10 think the legislation --

11 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: That
12 legislation, actually way back when, that
13 idea was first proposed requiring all gas
14 stations that when they replaced their
15 underground tanks, that they put in
16 generators and we got such push back from
17 the gas retailers association.

18 But it was only the larger gas
19 stations, not every single one of them. It
20 was after Sandy when replaced, but the Town
21 of Hempstead, New York State passed it.

22 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I was
23 under the impression that it was New York
24 State.

25 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: But once the

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2 electric came back, the backup generators
3 for the gas stations, but a lot of the gas
4 stations couldn't get gas.

5 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: That was
6 also something. The gas suppliers would
7 rather supply the gas station that has eight
8 or 12 pumps as opposed to the guy who has
9 two.

10 That's something I can't address
11 inasmuch as it becomes a problem when you
12 say we are going to start rationing. Back
13 in the day of even and odd plates. It was
14 not pretty back then.

15 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I remember.
16 I'm not old but I remember. But I know that
17 some legislation has been passed requiring
18 the larger gas stations. But I guess we
19 then need to ensure that we have agreements
20 with suppliers so that they can get the gas
21 into the communities, because it's not only
22 vehicles going back and forth, but a lot of
23 people rely on generators. I was on line
24 with my gas can.

25 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: See, and

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2 it drifts to another side here. I'm saying
3 to myself, how much is that an issue for the
4 department or the Office of Emergency
5 Management?

6 For me it was a concern, how am I
7 getting to work? Other than that, we were
8 staying home. We had no power. We had
9 nothing to do. Nowhere to go. We were
10 staying home.

11 There were people in my own
12 neighborhood that knew I was a first
13 responder, can you take my car? No. I
14 can't take your car because it's not the
15 right thing to do. I do know that there
16 were people that tried to do that.

17 It's a difficult thing when
18 you're talking about having to fuel up cars,
19 fuel up generators. The goal, as I said,
20 are the first responders. I want to make
21 sure everybody out there it protected.

22 If it's a matter of the first
23 responders actually being able to respond
24 from their homes to the firehouses, I still
25 don't see a way that we are going to be able

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2 to provide that. Certainly something I will
3 bring back in discussions and talk about it.

4 Again, you're talking about
5 trying to find a lot of fuel for a lot of
6 people and then distribute it.

7 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I think even
8 with New York State, maybe New York State
9 OEM can give us some guidance on that.

10 COMMISSIONER MORELLI:
11 Absolutely. They're in my office every day.
12 I can refer to them also.

13 But, again, as I said, it's going
14 to be become a bigger issue to have to
15 distribute the fuel.

16 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: We don't. We
17 want the trucks to come in and at least get
18 the fuel into the major gas stations.

19 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I agree
20 with you there. That's something hopefully
21 that the individual service stations have
22 worked out with the oil distributors.

23 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: I'm going to go
24 back and then let the rest ask questions.

25 Just to go back to communications

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2 because I know that preparing up to it, we
3 have our cell phones, but when you have a
4 major storm and you don't have power, cell
5 phones don't work. Cell towers are out.

6 I think that one of the biggest
7 challenges we faced after Sandy and I'm sure
8 that even if you had a major snowstorm
9 people can lose power. How do we get
10 information to people?

11 I know that for us, we had like
12 one fire department that became the quasi
13 government of Point Lookout. So twice a day
14 they made the residents know that, say, at
15 two o'clock and seven o'clock they were
16 going to make announcements so that
17 everybody in the village, in the area would
18 walk down and hear what is going on. They
19 had a radio that they could communicate with
20 maybe OEM, whatever. They were able to get
21 the information. But there were other areas
22 that didn't have that. So people did not
23 know about MREs. They didn't know where the
24 could get water. They didn't know whether
25 or not the schools were open. It was just

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2 like there was -- like people came around
3 and they thought it was so great to take
4 flyers and put it in the people's doors
5 except for the fact that the flyers blew
6 away, if the people weren't there, if they
7 were at somebody else's house.

8 There really was a true lack of
9 communication that people had no idea of the
10 extent of the storm. I experienced it
11 because I was in Long Beach.

12 So what are we doing to designate
13 areas within a community so that people know
14 that if there is something where they are
15 cut off from the rest of the world, that
16 they would go to Glen Cove Town Hall or city
17 hall in Long Beach, or the Village Hall in
18 Atlantic Beach and you must go there if you
19 need to get the necessary information so
20 that you know where supplies are or where
21 help is?

22 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: One of the
23 things we have actually been discussing is
24 -- one of the big problems that we run into
25 is mixed messages. We want to make sure

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2 everybody gets the same messages. We have
3 designated public information people and
4 they would be working with other facets of
5 the county government, whether it be the
6 Legislature or the County Executive's
7 Office, or any of the other areas, be it the
8 fire commission or parks or the police
9 department.

10 A concerted message has to go out
11 on a regular basis. We don't want
12 information to trickle out. We don't want
13 to give you a message now and then 13
14 minutes from now send another message out.

15 One of our best avenues for doing
16 so is the fire commission. Each of the fire
17 battalions has representatives and they are
18 able to disseminate the information to the
19 fire districts within their fire battalions.
20 There are nine battalions. A lot of people
21 can get that same message.

22 The fire commission has a seat in
23 our EOC so they are able to get the message
24 on a regular basis.

25 The timing of the message is

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2 something that's dynamic. We can determine
3 that we want to send a message out every two
4 hours or ten hours. That's something that's
5 based on the actual event.

6 We have seen some blizzards that
7 have blown themselves out while we have an
8 EOC filled with people and before you know
9 it there's nothing going on. It's also our
10 goal not to make people panic. But they'll
11 panic more if they don't get the
12 information.

13 So, as I said, we do have an
14 avenue for getting the information out. We
15 have a pretty good relationship with the
16 folks in the fire commission, especially the
17 battalion representatives. We meet with
18 them on a regular basis. We meet with the
19 folks from the fire commission.

20 I'm certain there are avenues
21 that we will be able to establish to get
22 that message out better, perhaps even to do
23 it timely.

24 As I said, our objective here is
25 not to get mixed messages out. It's to get

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2 the same message out to everybody.

3 We are in the process, and
4 actually next week we'll be in New Orleans
5 looking at a new system. It's called Alert
6 FM. It's a little transistor box about the
7 size of a deck of cards fully opened. It's
8 done with radio waves from the radio
9 stations. You don't need internet. You
10 don't need electricity. It's all done by
11 battery. It will broadcast any message we
12 want to anybody who has those devices.

13 You can have them mounted on your
14 wall. We are looking to put them in senior
15 centers, in schools, houses of worship,
16 anywhere where someone may not have access
17 to the internet, and during a storm when no
18 one has power at home. You can have all the
19 internet you want. You don't have to have a
20 router, you don't have a modum, unable to
21 access the internet. Even if your phone is
22 going to be your hot spot, everybody is
23 using it. You're going to have complete
24 saturation and not be able to use them.

25 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Would that be

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2 one way communication?

3 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Yes, it's
4 just a text message that goes out on that
5 device. We can actually use that device to
6 say that there is a briefing and hopefully
7 the residents will know.

8 It's actually something we were
9 talking about, once we are able to establish
10 that this -- we have made an agreement with
11 this company, I believe we're in the final
12 phase of making it operational.

13 So once we are able to do that,
14 we are going to see if we can't get the
15 devices out to everybody.

16 One of the issues is, the devices
17 are \$30 each. Some people are hesitant to
18 do it. We are expanding -- we're actually
19 examining other ways to find grant funding
20 to see if we can purchase several thousands
21 of them.

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: How are they
23 powered?

24 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: By
25 battery.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: So that you
3 would distribute them to the various fire
4 departments and --

5 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: No. What
6 we are hoping to do once we have these
7 devices and we're ready to do it is to hold
8 community meetings whether it's in the
9 Legislative district, Nights of Columbus,
10 churches, however it is, bring the people
11 there because we want them to not just take
12 the device and go. We want them to
13 understand how it's being used. We want
14 them to understand that the battery does not
15 need to remain in there all year round. The
16 storm is coming, put the battery in and
17 you'll get the messages that you want.

18 It's a way for them -- if my
19 father didn't really grasp it by the time he
20 turned 80, he would have never had a
21 computer. We would have never been able to
22 reach him using the internet.

23 There's a lot of people out there
24 in this day and age that don't embrace
25 technology the way they should.

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2 So this is a way that we're able
3 to do it, broadcasting on radio waves.
4 We've got agreements with nine local radio
5 stations to be able to do that.

6 We have pretty much complete
7 coverage over Nassau County to disseminate
8 that message.

9 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Using the crank
10 radios, I will tell you, which I do,
11 actually I could get messages, but I want to
12 tell you something, after a while, enough
13 already. This might be a good solution and
14 I urge you, I think that we should find the
15 money.

16 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: That's
17 what I'm saying. It's very important. I
18 actually discussed it --

19 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: The light might
20 be -- maybe you're right, with a little
21 light in it too so you can see, it may
22 illuminate.

23 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: The
24 devices that we have are small and do light
25 up. It looks like a little travel alarm

1 Superstorm Sandy/11-28-18
2 clock. You open it up and you fold it the
3 right way and sits up there gives you the
4 message. It will alert you. I believe
5 there is a beeping. There's a light also.
6 But the beauty of it is it's a text message.
7 And they're getting it with radio waves. So
8 it's not like something we had to pay for.

9 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: When you are
10 down there, do you look to see for those who
11 are hearing impaired because if somebody is
12 hard of hearing or deaf --

13 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I believe
14 they have new devices now that vibrate and
15 -- I don't want to call it a strobe, but a
16 bright light that flashes so it's able to
17 get their attention. But I will certainly
18 look at that.

19 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Perfect. And
20 something even vocal for people that are
21 blind, if they can't read, maybe they can
22 hear a voice or something.

23 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I don't
24 know if they have that but I will certainly
25 look into that.

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2 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: Legislator

3 Lafazan.

4 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you,
5 Madam Chair. Just on the record, we had
6 quite the night the other night. The
7 Commissioner drove out probably upwards of
8 45 minutes in the rain to attend an
9 emergency meeting in District 18, so I thank
10 you for your diligence and I thank you for
11 your time, and it was really well received.

12 That's actually my question. I
13 was shocked when you spoke about these 120
14 hours plans, which, in your words, are
15 incredibly crucial. It's the preparation
16 and not just the execution.

17 I was shocked at how many of
18 those mayors were not aware of the specifics
19 in those plans and were not sure what that
20 120 hour plan consisted of.

21 How do we make sure that
22 municipalities across the county, there are
23 so many villages, have complete
24 comprehension of what this 220 hour plan
25 should look like. What do you need from us

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2 to get the word out? How do we get that
3 done because now is the time to do that?

4 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Well, a
5 copy of the plan that I distributed that
6 night was what we at the Office of Emergency
7 Management do during that 120 hours. The
8 point that I made, there's no reason why you
9 can't just erase the initials that are on
10 the right side of the page and put your own
11 folks in there.

12 There are a lot of things that
13 are in that plan that are specific as to
14 what OEM can do. It wouldn't be things that
15 their own municipalities would do, but they
16 can take that actual plan and apply it to
17 themselves. We give them that plan and do
18 give them the tools and the ideas when we do
19 the all hazard presentation, which is
20 December 17th, the last one we are going to
21 be doing.

22 But we have also stressed to the
23 Town of Hempstead, the Town of Hempstead
24 promised me 40 some odd people. There were
25 22 in the room. That makes me sad because

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2 half the people didn't get the message. And
3 the funny part was it was a day after the
4 snowstorm, so to speak. So they missed
5 something that was crucial. We sent
6 messages out to them also to say, there's
7 plenty of seats there in the town of North
8 Hempstead and the Town of Oyster Bay and all
9 those villages, just please send your folks
10 with us. We want them to get the same
11 information primarily with the 120 hour plan
12 and COOP. And, like I said, COOP is
13 something that we will harp on, something
14 that the state wants to know that we are
15 good with, that is vital to the continuity
16 of government.

17 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: So just a
18 suggestion, I believe, to my recollection,
19 all the mayors in Nassau County have had a
20 meeting with the County Executive at some
21 point. I'm not sure that happens annually
22 or biannually, but I think that this would
23 be a no-brainer to bring it up at that
24 meeting if you have every mayor representing
25 its village in one room.

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2 Again, I'm not sure when that
3 meeting takes place but it would behoove the
4 county to present that information at that
5 meeting.

6 Again, it was concerning to see
7 that the majority of the folks in the room
8 did not have a clear comprehension of what
9 goes in that plan or what was in their own
10 plan, so that was on my mind when I left
11 that meeting. But, other than that, I thank
12 you for your diligence and for your efforts,
13 and hopefully next time you come out it's a
14 little nicer than on the north shore.

15 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I
16 appreciate that. And it's not as though the
17 120 hour plan is new. It's just one of
18 those things that if it's not in the front
19 of your mind it's in the back of your mind
20 and we want to believe somebody else is
21 doing it.

22 It's not something that needs to
23 be done every time there's a storm. You can
24 have a plan in place. The only this is, you
25 have to make sure the same personnel are

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2 working for you.

3 If they're not there you have to
4 reassign some roles of responsibilities.
5 Some of they are pretty rudimentary, make
6 your office supplies are ready to go. Make
7 sure you have your meal plan for your
8 personnel. Make sure the transportation for
9 some of the folks is there.

10 Once that's done, I don't know if
11 it's going to change in an hour or so, but,
12 again we can move on to other tasks.

13 There's a lot in that 120 hour plan, but
14 think about what can happen should something
15 like Super Storm Sandy impact us again, we
16 want to make sure we have those 120 hours.

17 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: And you
18 noted now how you have a surplus of interns
19 and personnel who can come and exchange
20 radios in the midst of adversity, it's
21 difficult to pull resources and those radio
22 checks should be done in advance. We always
23 want to be proactive rather than reactive.
24 I think we are and I look forward to
25 attending that meeting with you. Thank you,

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2 Commissioner.

3 LEGISLATOR MULE: So, what you
4 said at the beginning of today, is that it
5 all filters up through the Nassau County
6 OEM. Everything needs to go that way.

7 And in listening to all the
8 questioning, it's gotten me thinking that we
9 have two cities, three towns.

10 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: 64
11 villages.

12 LEGISLATOR MULE: We had numerous
13 police departments. Nassau County village
14 police. We have at the nine battalions, the
15 fire department and every area having their
16 own fire department.

17 What is not clear to me, and
18 maybe this is happening, but what's not
19 clear to me is, has there been a discussion
20 amongst everybody that there's this -- that
21 Nassau County OEM is the central
22 disseminator of everything when it comes to
23 emergency management?

24 And is there a comprehensive
25 coordinated plan so that every one knows,

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2 every one is on the same page? That's what
3 I want to know. So that lessons that we
4 have hopefully learned since Sandy so no one
5 is caught up short, no one can say, "oh, I
6 don't have that information or how to access
7 that information."

8 What I'm hearing is maybe we're
9 not there yet. So my question is this: Do
10 we have a comprehensive coordinated plan to
11 make sure every one is going to be on the
12 same page if we have an emergency in the
13 future?

14 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Well,
15 going back to the presentation we did, and I
16 stressed to my staff that I think, even
17 though they weren't well attended, I do
18 understand that stuff comes up and people
19 aren't able to make it. I don't have a
20 problem actually rerunning those
21 presentations again.

22 I welcome everybody, I invite you
23 all to come see the EOC, the emergency
24 operations center, to see how it functions.

25 There are presently 42 positions

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2 in the emergency operations center for every
3 discipline you can imagine. There is a spot
4 where there is a representative for the
5 villages. The representative for the
6 villages is responsible for disseminating
7 the information and receiving it from all of
8 the villages.

9 Each of the towns has
10 representation from the EOC. The department
11 of Social Services is there. All of the
12 utilities are there. TSA is there. Police
13 department, fire department, and everybody
14 that you can imagine that's able to get the
15 information out.

16 One of the things that beneficial
17 and it goes back to Long Beach that we
18 talked about and some other communities,
19 such as the Five Towns and such as Freeport
20 where they developed their own offices of
21 emergency management and their own EOCs,
22 their own emergency operation centers.

23 I think those are very beneficial
24 in that they are now able to gather the
25 information from their own area and pass it

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2 along to us.

3 There was a discussion I had with
4 some folks from the Town of Hempstead also.
5 They had an EOC. I think that's great.
6 Stand up your EOC. Manage your own offices.
7 Manage your own areas of consideration, and
8 then forward that information up to us.

9 One of our fears is that the
10 phones just keep ringing with request after
11 request after request, and there's a little
12 bit of work that goes into making a request
13 as you go through New York responds. That's
14 not the problem.

15 The problem is to be able to make
16 it a little more streamlined. If everybody
17 and all the positions are filled in the
18 emergency operations center, that's the only
19 place the information is going.

20 Anybody that needs any sort of
21 resources, whether it's lights, generators,
22 or anything to that degree, is going to have
23 to go through us.

24 The village representatives that
25 are there will be working with the villages

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2 the fire commission will be working with the
3 villages. The fire Commissioner will be
4 working with the fire battalions.

5 I'm from the Seventh Battalion.
6 We have our own EOC. The objective of that
7 is to work with the fire districts or the
8 fire departments within your own battalions.
9 Get the information and funnel it through
10 the fire commission who sits in our EOC.

11 So everybody has a mechanism to
12 get the information to the proper people
13 that are going to be able to pass it along
14 to us, but, at the end of the day, all
15 requests are coming to the emergency
16 management and my office.

17 LEGISLATOR MULE: Okay. Are you
18 familiar with the Interstate Mutual Aid
19 Compact?

20 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Yes.

21 LEGISLATOR MULE: Are we a part
22 of that?

23 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I believe
24 we are. We were very fortunate to have the
25 amount of mutual aid that we had with Super

1 Superstorm Sandy/11-28-18

2 Storm Sandy as we saw ambulances come from a
3 lot of very distant states.

4 We haven't really had any
5 engagement with them lately, but I do know
6 that there is communication and maybe I'm at
7 a disadvantage here, I don't really know
8 that much when it comes to that.

9 I do know that we have an
10 agreement when it comes to using the larger
11 vehicle that we have because it's a regional
12 asset. Should we have to send our MERV[sic]
13 out, as every good reason to believe, we
14 might send out to other areas and they would
15 send theirs into us.

16 But as far as that pact, I
17 believe we are a part of it and I do know we
18 have some communication, but we just haven't
19 had any real engagement with them lately.

20 LEGISLATOR MULE: Is that because
21 there hasn't been an emergency that would
22 require that?

23 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I hate to
24 say it but people become complacent when
25 they see something like that. There is no

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2 need. But it is absolutely something that
3 I'm going to put on the front of the page
4 here so we do address that.

5 LEGISLATOR MULE: Great. Do you
6 know, are villages and towns part of that?

7 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: That I
8 don't know off the top of my head but I can
9 get that information to you.

10 LEGISLATOR MULE: Okay. Final
11 question with regards to that. Do you know
12 what the compact entails?

13 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I don't
14 have a lot of that information and I don't
15 want to tell you anything because I might be
16 wrong. But I can get all the information
17 for you forwarded to you.

18 LEGISLATOR MULE: Thank you.
19 That would be the great thank you.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
21 just wanted to follow-up with Legislator
22 Rhoads in the sense that we should do a test
23 with all the legislators with our private
24 cell phone numbers even for an emergency
25 test.

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2 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Just test
3 it with the legislators? Did you all opt
4 in?

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
6 have to go and see if I did opt in. I don't
7 even know. Probably not. But I think we
8 should have a separate list also for us, you
9 know.

10 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: We can do
11 that.

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And
13 we should do the private ones.

14 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: What I
15 will do is have my office, as I'm on my way
16 to my next appearance, I will text --

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You
18 should take advantage of us in the sense
19 that we have contacts.

20 For instance, when you said that
21 all of these municipalities have radios and
22 they don't respond. When you send a message
23 to them, the legislators should know that
24 they're sending that message, and whoever
25 doesn't respond we can talk to them.

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2 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: That would
3 be terrific. What I'm going to do, as I
4 leave here, I'm going to have the gentleman
5 that is our manager ever Ever Bridge forward
6 the link to each one of your emails.

7 So, like I said, it's a brief
8 couple of things that you need to enter and
9 then we will schedule a test to all 19
10 legislators.

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The
12 other thing I think we should do, I have a
13 newsletter, I think most of us have
14 newsletters, and I'm going to include the
15 link how to sign up for the OEM to every
16 household in our district.

17 COMMISSIONER MORELLI:
18 Magnificent. Fantastic. I can't thank you
19 enough.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So I
21 think honestly you could use us to help give
22 out information prior a little bit more.

23 The other thing which, I don't
24 know if you would be familiar with, but we
25 were having all those problems with the

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2 assessment during the time homes were
3 destroyed or whatever.

4 Do you know if there was any type
5 of legislation put in basically requiring
6 that temporary assessment under the federal
7 Stafford Act that the county is required to
8 have basically a temporary assessment in
9 place to maximize the federal hazard
10 mitigation reimbursement?

11 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: That I
12 don't know. I apologize.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: That
14 really wouldn't be your office?

15 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: I do know
16 we completed our mitigation plan. It had to
17 be updated. I believe it had expired.

18 We were under the impression that
19 we had an additional year. So we
20 resubmitted our mitigation plan which was
21 one of the things that we needed a lot of
22 input from some of the villages and they
23 were very forthcoming in getting us the
24 information for the mitigation plans.

25 I believe our plan is done. And

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2 I can do what I can to look into that other
3 aspect. I'm not that familiar with the
4 assessment and how the storm and its effects
5 impacted that.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
7 we have a copy of the emergency preparedness
8 plan? Can you send that to all the
9 legislators also?

10 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Sure.
11 Thank you so much.

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: As
13 far as the vulnerability assessment, under
14 the federal Stafford Act, the county is
15 required to have a vulnerability assessment
16 plan in place to maximize the federal hazard
17 mitigation reimbursement.

18 Does the county have its
19 vulnerability assessment in place?

20 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Is that
21 the THIRA that you're talking about, threat
22 hazard identification?

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It
24 would be good if I knew what that was.

25 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Actually I

1 Superstorm Sandy/11-28-18

2 have the THIRA here. It's a plan.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
4 we have a copy?

5 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Sure. I
6 can get a copy of the THIRA to you also.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
8 haven't actually ever read an emergency
9 preparedness plan. I would be curious to
10 see what that entails, maybe you can email
11 that to us, maybe there is something
12 pertaining to the assessment, temporary
13 assessment.

14 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Not a
15 problem.

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And
17 I do hope that maybe next meeting we could
18 have the Red Cross. I think that could be
19 very helpful.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: That would help
23 us with the shelters.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Just one
25 final questions question, I know we are

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2 drawing to a close.

3 It's actually funny, so there is
4 proof people are either listening or
5 watching this separate and apart from
6 Mr. Pulitzer. I'm getting text messages of
7 questions, hey, what about this. I'm
8 actually going to ask one.

9 Does Nassau County have its own
10 -- or what would be involved or has Nassau
11 County actually thought about getting its
12 own frequency for emergency messages?

13 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: Do you
14 mean over air, a.m., f.m.?

15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: In other
16 words, you dial into.

17 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: You first
18 have to apply for a radio license from the
19 FCC and find a frequency.

20 To be honest, I don't know if a
21 lot of people listen to the radio these
22 days.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: But in an
24 emergency, if people need to get the
25 information?

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2 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: It's a
3 great idea plus we would like to get this --
4 we would like to get a concerted message out
5 to everybody.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: You don't
7 need 50,000 watts because you're not
8 broadcasting over that distance.

9 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: We just
10 want the people in the county to know. We
11 will look into that.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER MORELLI: As
14 commissioner, I appreciate everybody's
15 thoughts. I hope I'm able to get the
16 information to you as quick as I would like
17 to. I give you my word, and I listened to
18 everything you said here.

19 I meet with my staff twice a day,
20 in the morning and just before everybody
21 goes home to determine what we are going to
22 discuss and think about that day, and what
23 we're going to get accomplished, and then by
24 the end of the day, don't tell me what you
25 did, tell me what you got done. That's what

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2 we are looking for.

3 I'm grateful to have the staff I
4 do. Everybody is very dedicated.

5 If there is anything else you can
6 think of, anything else that you might want
7 us to take a look at, please, you all have
8 my email address. Please don't wait. Don't
9 waste any time. Please reach out to me at
10 your earliest.

11 CHAIRWOMAN FORD: We want to
12 thank you very much for joining us again and
13 we thank you for the testimony and answering
14 the questions and your follow up. It was
15 really great. We do appreciate your
16 dedication to the county and to your
17 position as Commissioner of OEM. It's a big
18 job.

19 We look forward to continuing our
20 discussion with you and I thank you very
21 much for doing this. And I thank all the
22 legislators and everybody that is here.
23 Have a good evening. I guess we will
24 adjourn this meeting. Everybody in favor of
25 adjourning this meeting?

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2 (Aye.)

3 Passes unanimously. Everyone
4 have a good evening and, thank you, sir.

5 (Whereupon, the Superstorm Sandy
6 Committee adjourned at 4:55 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

THAT I attended at the time and place
above mentioned and took stenographic record
of the proceedings in the above-entitled
matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true
and accurate transcript of the same and the
whole thereof, according to the best of my
ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 19th day of December, 2018.

FRANK GRAY