

1.

Public Notice 4-1-2022 Special Meeting

Documents:

4-1-22 Special Meeting.pdf

2.

Legislative Calendar

Documents:

4-1-22 CALENDAR.pdf

3.

full leg special session 4/1/22

Documents:

FULL LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 04-01-22.pdf



PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT

**THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE WILL HOLD
A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FULL LEGISLATURE**

**ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022 AT 10:00 AM**

**IN
THE PETER J. SCHMITT MEMORIAL LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501**

As per the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office, the Peter J. Schmitt Memorial Legislative Chamber has a maximum occupancy of 200 people. Attendees will be given an opportunity to sign in to address the Legislature. Public comment on any item may also be emailed to the Clerk of the Legislature at LegPublicComment@nassaucountyny.gov and will be made part of the formal record of this Legislative meeting.

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. Every Legislative meeting is streamed live on <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html>

**DATED: March 25, 2022
Mineola, NY**

**MICHAEL C. PULITZER
Clerk of the Legislature
Nassau County, New York**

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL MEETING

MINEOLA, NEW YORK
APRIL 1, 2022 10:00 AM
LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

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EVERY LEGISLATIVE MEETING IS STREAMED LIVE ON
<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html>

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 51-2022**

A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT MATTHEW J. BRUDERMAN AS A DIRECTOR TO THE BOARD OF THE NASSAU HEALTH CARE CORPORATION. 89-22(LE)

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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO
PRESIDING OFFICER

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

Friday, April 1, 2022
10:18 A.M.

1

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

3

4 LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

5 Presiding Officer

6 9th Legislative District

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8 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

9 Deputy Presiding Officer

10 7th Legislative District

11

12 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

13 Alternate Presiding Officer

14 4th Legislative District

15

16 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

17 Minority Leader

18 1st Legislative District

19

20 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

21 2nd Legislative District

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23 LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

24 3rd Legislative District

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2 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE
3 5th Legislative District
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5 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III
6 6th Legislative District
7
8 LEGISLATOR JOHN GIUFFRE
9 8th Legislative District
10
11 LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP
12 10th Legislative District
13
14 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
15 11th Legislative District
16
17 LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY
18 12th Legislative District
19
20 LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT
21 13th Legislative District
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23 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER
24 14th Legislative District
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2 LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

3 15th Legislative District

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5 LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

6 16th Legislative District

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8 LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

9 17th Legislative District

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11 LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

12 18th Legislative District

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14 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

15 19th Legislative District

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17 MICHAEL PULITZER

18 Clerk of the Legislature

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let's go
3 right into the full legislature. Mike, you
4 want to call the roll again, sir.

5 MR. PULITZER: Yes sir. Roll
6 call. Deputy Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy
9 Presiding Officer Denise Ford.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela
12 Bynoe.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Carrie
15 Solages.

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Debra
18 Mule. Okay.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.
20 William Gaylor III.

21 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

22 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John
23 Giuffre.

24 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Mazi

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2 Pilip.

3 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

4 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
5 DeRiggi-Whitton.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

7 Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James
9 Kennedy.

10 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Thomas
12 McKevitt.

13 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
15 Schaefer.

16 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John

18 Ferretti.

19 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold
21 Drucker.

22 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose
24 Marie Walker.

25 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Joshua
3 Lafazan. We will come back there.

4 Legislator Steven Rhoads.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

6 MR. PULITZER: Minority Leader
7 Kevan Abrahams.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Presiding Officer
10 Richard Nicoletto.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Josh
13 Lafazan. He's on. Okay. Sir, we have a
14 quorum.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Okay.
16 First order of business is a motion to suspend
17 the rules. Moved by Deputy Presiding Officer
18 Kopel. Seconded by Legislator Walker. Any
19 debate or discussion on suspending the rules?
20 Hearing none, all in favor of suspending the
21 rules signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
22 It passes unanimously. The rules are
23 suspended.

24 One item we have again is
25 resolution number 51. It is a resolution to

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2 appoint Matthew J. Bruderman as a director to
3 the board of the Nassau Health Care
4 Corporation.

5 Motion by Legislator Kennedy.
6 Seconded by Legislator Schaefer. It puts the
7 item before the legislature.

8 I would ask Mr. Bruderman if he
9 would like to approach the podium. I
10 understand he has a statement. He's going to
11 be sitting at the table here. We're going to
12 hold for a second. I guess the remote
13 connection by our Microsoft Team is not
14 working at the moment. Give it a couple of
15 seconds.

16 I have received a number of slips
17 for people who want to make some public
18 comment. If you are interested in doing so
19 and haven't submitted a slip already we have
20 the slips up by the clerk's table. Fill one
21 out, hand it to the clerk and we'll make sure
22 we call on you at the appropriate time.

23 Welcome to the legislature. We are
24 waiting for the remote connection to
25 reconnect.

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2 We're back on. Our legislators are
3 connected again. We have Mr. Bruderman at the
4 table. Welcome. And I understand you have a
5 statement that you would like to read.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes, I do. Thank
7 you. First of all, I wanted to say that I'm
8 aware that there is something being passed or
9 voted on in Albany on behalf of the state I
10 think on Monday. And so, I just wanted to say
11 I hope after today, should I be made chairman,
12 that my chairmanship lasts more than a day so
13 I can do, finally, the good work I've been
14 trying to do.

15 I also wanted to point out I
16 questioned whether or not I should come today
17 because the effort and things that I had to
18 sacrifice to be here were great. And I was
19 thinking is it worth me taking the time to
20 come down here if I'm not going to be in the
21 seat and able to do the work come Monday
22 anyway? So, I'm hoping that after we get
23 through this that the county legislature and
24 the people in the community realize what can
25 be done if you get the right person and people

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2 in the job.

3 I wanted everyone to know that
4 today I violated a cardinal rule personally in
5 my family, and that is, if anyone knows me,
6 the way I organize my life, which is crazy,
7 not as crazy as I personally am, is that I
8 prioritize first my family. I fell in love
9 with my wife in 11th grade. First time I saw
10 her in the cafeteria. I tell my daughter,
11 like my wife, it's amazing how I could
12 actually love them more every day. I think I
13 love them so much and then the next day I love
14 them more.

15 My daughter is looking to switch
16 schools and is spending a day away, and I was
17 with her last night and she's up there today
18 with her mom without me. And anyone, again,
19 that knows me, knows that my family comes
20 first. Then actually my sports and my
21 activities that I love to do and then
22 business. I have enough money. I can support
23 myself and my family. So, I don't need to
24 chase a ton of money like a lot of people that
25 I know. So I have the luxury of being able to

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2 say family and friends first, then my sports,
3 which I love, and then worry about my
4 investments.

5 So, today I got up at four o'clock
6 in the morning and I drove all the way down
7 here all by myself in the rain. All by myself
8 in the dark. And my daughter now is going on
9 a tour without her dad. So, I hope that's not
10 in vain.

11 The other thing I would like to say
12 is that I would like to say thank you to my
13 old friends, especially John and Ricky, who
14 are in the front here, who when they saw what
15 was being written in the newspaper wrongly,
16 twisted, wrong, not only did they call me and
17 say it's wrong but they said I want to be
18 there. I said I don't want to get into a race
19 situation and have my friends of color there
20 as if they're tokens. And you know what they
21 said to me? I have real friends. They said
22 we're going to be there no matter what. These
23 guys love me. I love them. And they're here
24 to support me.

25 Again, I hope that they're care for

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2 me, they stopped their jobs, they took off
3 from work and they came in here and they were
4 like I'll fight for you. Again, I hope that's
5 not in vain.

6 I also want to thank all of the
7 other people that have come here. My new
8 friends. Nurses, doctors. I haven't seen Dr.
9 Boutin but I understand he's here. Fabulous
10 people that have embraced me coming out of the
11 gate.

12 I think before I get into my speech
13 here, you know, again, I just wanted to thank
14 everyone for embracing me and I want to sort
15 of set the table with, you know, to me,
16 there's been like this crazy attack. I've
17 never seen it in the history of NUMC. I know
18 that people came and went and this and that.
19 But I want everyone to ask themselves why in
20 three days of me being nominated and me being
21 at NUMC one day asking very hard questions,
22 why was it so important that people race to
23 file temporary restraining orders restraining
24 me from being in a seat and acting as a
25 chairman? Why? Why so urgent? This guy's in

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2 for three days. What's he going to do? Ask
3 yourselves that question.

4 Why did they send restraining
5 orders and legal documents to my home? Why do
6 they run into court and then fight appeals.
7 One guy. Am I that special? Why are people
8 instead of on Monday instead of you've got an
9 organization that's been messed up for like 40
10 years. Certainly of recently there's tons of
11 press. Press is written about it. Why the
12 urgency for the state to not speak to the
13 constituents in the community? Not come to
14 the county? Not hear what the people and the
15 doctors and nurses have to say. Not talk to
16 me. Why would the state urgently have to take
17 control? They already had control.

18 There's eight seats on the board
19 that were appointed by the state and there are
20 seven seats that were appointed by the
21 county. Coincidentally enough, nobody wants
22 me to talk about politics. But guess what?
23 This hospital is burdened with politics.

24 So, the last four years, I don't
25 even know because I don't follow politics, in

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2 the last four years I understand that the
3 county and the state were democratic and the
4 county and the state appointed all the other
5 board members and the chairman.

6 So, to me -- and especially the
7 twisting of words. Like one paper said
8 directly Matthew Bruderman has no health care
9 experience. Did the reporters check their
10 facts? If you Google me the first thing that
11 comes up says I'm a health care investor and I
12 own a health care company now. Did they care
13 about the facts? No, I don't think so.

14 They've listed me as GOP donor
15 instead of a health care investor and a
16 turnaround expert. Why? Again, I think
17 there's agendas here that are very problematic
18 and systematic. And until that's fixed NUMC
19 will never thrive. It will never work.
20 Because it is politicized.

21 And I have solutions even for that,
22 which I'm hoping I get to propose to the
23 county and to the state so that way it's fixed
24 forever not just now.

25 As I told Bruce Blakeman when he

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2 asked me to serve -- by the way, I know I'm
3 answering a lot of questions, prior to five
4 months ago you can check political records I
5 never donated a penny. I don't care about
6 politics. People that know me know I'm a
7 fiscal conservative because if an economy has
8 money it can do good works. And if it doesn't
9 it can't help itself much less others. So,
10 yes, I'm a fiscal conservative and I've been
11 very aggressive about backing fiscal
12 conservative good people.

13

So, yes, I have poured my money
14 first and now my time because my heart is in
15 fixing the inner city community and the crisis
16 that goes on there and getting young people
17 jobs and giving people an opportunity.
18 Helping the poor. Helping the homeless.

19

So, on top of my money, people like
20 Bruce Blakeman asked me if I would do sort of
21 the ultimate thing and spend my time, take the
22 time from my family and try to use my skills
23 and experience and relationships to fix a
24 broken institution in an important area. I
25 stepped up to do that.

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2 And in exchange I've been
3 persecuted. My good friends tell me you're
4 crazy. What are you doing? You're totally
5 successful. You don't even go to work. And
6 to be clear, I wakeboard and water ski and
7 hunt and fish every day with my kids. I just
8 for the first time with my son figured out how
9 to make maple syrup. If you guys want to come
10 over you can. I'm sacrificing that. People
11 tell me that they're going to assassinate my
12 character because they couldn't stop me
13 potentially at the board level with temporary
14 restraining orders and they may not be able to
15 stop me at the state level.

16 So what are they going to do?
17 They're going to burn me at the stake.
18 They're going to write what they want. A
19 false narrative. I heard about that. But God
20 is it terrifying to actually live through it.

21 Again, I say this because I don't
22 care about politics. I have all the friends I
23 need and I have a lot of new ones. So I don't
24 care what they put in the press. But what I
25 care what the press does in undermining saving

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2 a lot a hospital for people that need it
3 desperately.

4 So, that's why I care and that's
5 why I'm here and that's why I got up at four
6 a.m. today so I could subject myself to more
7 punishment that will be twisted in the press.
8 But I'm not running like I told everyone in
9 the hospital. I'm never running. I was
10 raised that you don't walk past a crime. You
11 don't walk past bullying. And you can dig up
12 every kid I went to school with and they'll
13 tell you, if a kid was being bullied I would
14 beat their ass. I don't tolerate it.

15 Here I feel like I'm in that
16 situation. This community is being bullied.
17 The community and the hospital are being
18 exploited. And the reason people are upset
19 with me is because I'm pulling back the
20 curtain. In the first day I pulled back the
21 curtain and that's what people don't want to
22 happen because people are going to be
23 embarrassed. I'm sorry about that. I'm not
24 doing it politics.

25 Again, I live in Nassau County. I

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2 was born in Nassau County and I'm going to
3 commit my time to help Nassau County. Now I
4 will read my speech.

5 Good morning everyone and thank you
6 for considering my nomination to the board of
7 Nassau University Medical Center. I'm honored
8 to be here and truly humbled by the confidence
9 that Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman
10 has placed in me to not only serve NUMC but to
11 lead the effort to save this vital
12 institution.

13 NUMC means so much to so many. In
14 fact, I wasn't even aware of it. This health
15 care facility employs more than 4,000
16 dedicated people. It provides critical care
17 to thousands of patients each year. Many of
18 whom have nowhere else to go. Nassau County
19 residents deserve this hospital to be fiscally
20 sound. Sustainable for the long term and
21 provide first class health care.

22 Over the past three decades I have
23 worked across finance, health care, consumer
24 products, retail, media and other industries.
25 As an investor, an entrepreneur, the

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2 difference there is you started not bought it,
3 and an advisor. I have advised many health
4 care companies. In fact, people wanted to
5 come stand by my side but I said I don't want
6 to bring you into in this situation.

7 From Fortune 500 companies to
8 start-ups my goal in each case has been to
9 build better, more resilient enterprises.
10 Today I'm the majority shareholder in more
11 than 80 companies.

12 In the health care industry I have
13 been involved in many capacities. M and A
14 advisor, owner, operator and investor in more
15 than a dozen health care service companies
16 including physician practice management,
17 diagnostic imaging, rehabilitation, health
18 care IT, health and wellness services and
19 durable medical equipment.

20 The long-standing challenges of
21 NUMC threaten its ability to keep our promise
22 to the people of our communities to provide
23 them access to high quality health care. The
24 hospital suffers from financial mismanagement
25 and it has for some time. I've already begun

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2 work on a long-term strategic plan to turn
3 around the hospital's finances and have
4 already identified several operational and
5 management deficiencies. That once rectified,
6 can go a long way toward assuring we achieve
7 the goal of everyone here today. And that is
8 to turn, finally turn this hospital around.
9 By the way, I fixed it already.

10 I believe with my extensive
11 experience in finance and management I can
12 insure NUMC is a place that every Nassau
13 resident can be proud of. I believe in
14 transparency. I believe in harnessing
15 innovation. I believe in cultivating the best
16 talent, and I believe, most of all, in the
17 people of NUMC that I've already had the
18 pleasure of meeting. And I believe in their
19 capacity to take our shared vision for this
20 hospital and carry it forward.

21 I look forward to working with
22 Dr. Boutin and my fellow board members to
23 create a financially sound, leading edge and
24 thriving medical center.

25 My parents instilled in me an

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2 important work ethic. But more importantly,
3 they instilled in me compassion for my fellow
4 man. I've been personally involved in
5 philanthropy, quietly, for many years.

6 But as you may know, this is the
7 first time I have chosen to serve the public
8 in this way. Some people get involved in
9 public service because they want to be
10 someone. Others do it because they want to do
11 something. I assure you I view this not only
12 as a public trust but as a personal mission,
13 and I will work day and night to save the
14 hospital.

15 Now, I know my passion for problem
16 solving for this mission has gotten some
17 attention of late. Thanks to a poor choice of
18 words on my part, they regrettably created
19 some misunderstanding and I'm sorry for that.
20 It may surprise you but I'm not a trained
21 public speaker. Actually I feel like I'm
22 doing pretty well right now. I am, however,
23 absolutely committed to ensuring that NUMC is
24 known for diversity including -- and as a
25 place of every member of the community.

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2 That's what's in my heart. It's who I am.
3 It's who I've always been. I don't need to do
4 this job. I want to do it for the community.

5 A hospital is a place where hard
6 work, dedication and human compassion combine
7 in ways that serve to inspire us. I believe
8 that my expertise and the help of many others
9 will ensure that a nurse can go home after a
10 long shift with a peace of mind that she'll
11 have a job at NUMC. That the patient from
12 Hempstead who comes into the emergency room
13 will feel cared for and comforted. That the
14 first responder will know that this county
15 will remember their sacrifice and appreciate
16 it. That the mother will have confidence her
17 child is in the best possible hands. And all
18 of us will know the reward of having done
19 God's work by doing our part to make this all
20 happen.

21 Thank you for your time and your
22 consideration.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
24 Mr. Bruderman. Any questions? Minority
25 Leader Abrahams.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are you
3 Mr. Bruderman?

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm well. Thank
5 you.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good to
7 hear. It's our fiduciary responsibility to
8 ensure that the hospital, for multiple
9 reasons, that provides patient care to our
10 residents. That basically many of our
11 residents also, through the county budget,
12 have a debt that is paid by our county
13 residents. So it's in our fiduciary
14 responsibility to make sure that we appoint
15 members to the body that are going to ensure
16 the best interest of the people of Nassau
17 County.

18 So, our questioning today, I'm not
19 too sure if the majority has questions, but
20 our questioning today is not deemed to be seen
21 as personal or vindictive or trying to put you
22 in a tough spot. But I do want to clear up
23 the record on a couple of things you just
24 said. But before I do so, I will say that you
25 have quite the crowd today. I've never seen a

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2 crowd for one item today.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: I thought it was
4 a little light.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Many of the
6 faces I see I'm curious because I'm not too
7 sure of their role with the hospital that are
8 county workers. But that's okay. I'm not too
9 sure if they were asked to be here or they're
10 friends to you personally or anything along
11 those lines.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: I think people
13 care about the county.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm sorry?
15 I think everyone in this room cares about the
16 county Mr. Bruderman. But I think what the
17 point is if they're being paid as county
18 workers today the responsible thing to do
19 would be to take the day off. Wouldn't you
20 agree?

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I think we should
22 arrest them all.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're going
24 to get off to a very good start. You had
25 mentioned that you felt there was some level

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2 of politics that was played into this process
3 in regards to the state legislation that was
4 filed?

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes, sir.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I took a
7 look at the bill and as funny things would
8 happen, the bill was introduced on February
9 18th. I don't know if you were aware of that.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was not.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The bill
12 was filed on February 18th. The Newsday story
13 that announces your pick, the county
14 executive's pick for you to head NUMC was on
15 March 6th. So how do you reconcile some type
16 of vindictive thing by the state legislators?
17 They filed their bill before they knew about
18 your pick.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't have to
20 reconcile it. But what it could be, as long
21 as you're opening up the door, which everyone
22 told me don't talk about -- which is just like
23 at Thanksgiving dinner -- don't talk about
24 politics, religion and certainly not race.
25 Particularly if you're White. But I'm going

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2 to touch all of those for you today.

3 And what I would say is that the
4 county and the state were both democratic. So
5 they didn't know that I would come in there
6 and yank back the curtain and expose
7 everything and embarrass people. So maybe
8 they didn't know it was specifically me but
9 maybe they were more concerned about who a
10 great man Bruce Blakeman was going to bring to
11 the table. So they were just seizing control
12 because the county gets to appoint the
13 chairman even though the state has more
14 votes.

15 And so, yeah, what do I think?
16 You're asking my opinion only and my opinion
17 would be that, well, they lost control of the
18 county and they want to keep people out of
19 there because it might be embarrassing what
20 they find. Maybe it wasn't me. Maybe I'm
21 flattering myself. I just still think it was
22 political. I think they're really pissed now
23 that's it's me though because as you can tell
24 I'm not afraid of a fight.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't

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2 think it was either actually. I don't think
3 it was political. The hospital, as you
4 probably well noted, the hospital has been
5 rooted in levels of patronage and deception
6 that has gone on throughout the management for
7 years and decades quite frankly. It has
8 carried over through multiple county
9 executives, democratic and Republicans alike.
10 And for that matter, we are now at a point
11 where we have a fiduciary responsibility where
12 the state feels they need to do something more
13 serious to address the matter.

14

MR. BRUDERMAN: Because they did
15 such a bad job before?

16

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I haven't
17 cut you off. I've let you speak. That being
18 said, I think they decided to introduce this
19 bill. I don't think it has anything to do
20 with you quite frankly. It's evident it
21 doesn't because the bill was introduced on the
22 18th. They didn't learn about your pick until
23 March 6th. But that's beside the point.

24

You had also mentioned that you are
25 a health care investor and owner of a health

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2 care firm. I would like to you elaborate on
3 that because I would like to understand how
4 those relationships would continue at those
5 particular entities or those particular
6 practices while you are chairman of the NUMC
7 hospital which is also a health care facility.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I, right now, am
9 not working. Do not do transactions as an
10 advisor generally anymore. I wouldn't
11 undertake one except for free on behalf of the
12 hospital because I think you can buy up a lot
13 of nice things and put them in that wonderful
14 physical plant. So, I'd be your free
15 investment banker.

16 As it relates to the holdings that
17 I have in health care, we own one company
18 right now, which would be fully disclosed.
19 Only one. I have no management role in it
20 whatsoever. And if it came anywhere near NUMC
21 of course, unlike other people that I've
22 already found on the board, I'd fully disclose
23 it. But I don't anticipate where we would do
24 any business with NUMC. The facility we have
25 now does outsourced -- basically it's an

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2 outsource sleep apnea testing and diagnosis
3 for hospitals. Doesn't do it for NUMC and I
4 don't think we need to. If we did I'd
5 obviously disclose it.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What's the
7 name?

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'd rather not
9 say. It's out there on the Internet. But I
10 don't want to drag company names either that I
11 own or that I have owned or anything else into
12 this fire pit that people have created in the
13 media.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Do you plan
15 to disclose it?

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: Anyone can go and
17 research it. It's out on the Internet. Let
18 me just be clear about something too.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: From an
20 ethical standpoint don't you feel it's --

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm putting it on
22 my disclosure. Of course. On my disclosure
23 schedule there's an oath that you take.
24 There's bylaws that I read. I don't know if
25 anyone else did. But I can tell you before

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2 the first day, in fact when I sat down with
3 the county executive, I think he and the
4 deputy executive were impressed, I probably
5 knew more than anyone else knew in the whole
6 hospital before I got the job. So I'm very
7 aware of the bylaws and the disclosure
8 obligations and of course they would be
9 adhered to.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We will
11 speak to counsel but we would need you to
12 disclose it. It's important to be disclosed.
13 You're going to serve in a capacity where --

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm saying it
15 will be disclosed.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Then we're
17 good.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, I
19 just wanted to point one other thing out
20 before we get into the questions that, again,
21 I was advised to be very limited in scope
22 because they're concerned that, again, people
23 can only use what I say against me. Already
24 they've said, you know, Matt said blah, blah,
25 dot, dot, dot and then they put something

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2 else. But I wanted to come in here
3 fearlessly. But I wanted everyone to know
4 why. I didn't come in here to answer
5 questions openly and truthfully, fully,
6 knowing that people have a character
7 assassination attempt here and they're telling
8 me that they got a witch-hunt and they're
9 going to punish me and they're going to twist
10 everything around, which they've already
11 done.

12 I wanted to take this opportunity
13 to say this month is actually a very special
14 month. Today I think is the first day of
15 Ramadan. Passover begins soon. And I'm
16 Christian and Easter is this month as well.
17 So, what I wanted to come here and say is, in
18 my religion and Jesus they say was tortured,
19 carried his cross and then was hung on it.
20 So, I want everybody to know here that I'm not
21 here today as a guy that doesn't need to be
22 here taking the abuse because I'm ignorant or
23 stupid. I'm here because I look at this as
24 carrying my cross.

25 So, whatever you do or you say or

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2 twist I don't care because Jesus carried his
3 cross and I'm here to carry mine. All I want
4 to spread, especially in light of this special
5 month, is love. And so I'm going to tell you
6 everything and I'm going to tell you the
7 truth. And if people want to use it against
8 me and harm me that's okay. I get to carry my
9 own little tiny cross. But go ahead.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.
11 Bruderman, I have to tell you no one's here to
12 harm you.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's not what
14 the papers say.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I didn't
16 know who you were before March 6th to be
17 honest.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: Nobody did.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: From that
20 standpoint I'm taking no interest. Everything
21 that we might have commented on is in response
22 to something that you said.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sure. No, but
24 I'm just saying that I was warned that if I
25 say too much they're going to take those words

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2 and clip them together and put really bad
3 stuff out there. So I'm supposed to -- my
4 advisors who are trying to protect me from
5 myself want me to be very closed lipped. But
6 I'm not because I feel like there are things
7 that have to be said to protect the community
8 that I care about and to protect that
9 hospital.

10 So, I'm going to take the hits so
11 that way hopefully people can have jobs and
12 people are held accountable and that community
13 is health care. So, I'm going to answer
14 openly and freely because I don't want people
15 to think that I'm hiding or not being clear.
16 I'm not going to try to protect myself, which
17 I should. I'm going to be selfless and I'm to
18 answer fully. And just when everything's
19 twisted up in the papers later I just want
20 everyone to know that cares that the truth is
21 what we're saying here today and they know my
22 heart.

23 But again, I'm just not going to
24 listen to my advisors and be short winded and
25 don't talk about race, religion or this or

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2 that and I'm going to answer fully. So go
3 ahead.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I sure hope
5 that you're going to answer fully and
6 honestly. We appreciate that.

7 So, I do want to dive into a little
8 bit of your -- so from what I understand from
9 your bio, I never got an actual resume but I
10 did get your bio in terms of your financial
11 interests and your investment firm and it's
12 been headed up and has been transcended down
13 through family and generations and done a good
14 job with that. But your comment in regards to
15 the board -- at your financial firm do you
16 build consensus? When you're looking to do
17 investments do you build consensus?

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: Of course.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If the
20 consensus cannot be met how do you figure your
21 way out through that?

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was going to
23 mow everybody down with my lawn mower.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You see
25 where I'm going with this. What I'm trying to

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2 say is, why would you not apply the same
3 consensus building that build -- such a great
4 firm. I saw in your bio it's been around
5 since 1879?

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's right.
7 And you know what? On my mom's side we came
8 here before there was a country.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm going
10 to cut you off. There's a proper decorum
11 here.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm trying.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'll try
14 not to cut you off. You try not to cut me
15 off. We'll go well.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: It's my first
17 rodeo. No disrespect meant.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I'm
19 trying to understand is if something that is
20 built quite frankly over a century and a
21 half --

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: We don't have to
23 talk all about my family. I think you can get
24 to your point of getting a consensus is that
25 what you want to know?

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're
3 talking Mr. Bruderman. I appreciate you not
4 cutting me off.

5 That being said, if something is
6 built over the last century and a half such a
7 strong financial background and it was built
8 off of consensus, as you just said, why would
9 you say in your first days as being appointed
10 to the board, why you would you say if you're
11 not with me, you're on my other side, I'm
12 going to mow you down? That doesn't seem like
13 a comment that you would make coming from your
14 background where consensus has worked for over
15 a century and a half versus being there for
16 three days.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm so glad you
18 asked me. Is it my turn?

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sure,
20 Mr. Bruderman, it's your turn.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: First of all,
22 what you're doing is quoting -- and
23 unfortunately most people they only read the
24 headlines -- did you listen to the entire both
25 the open and the executive session?

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It wasn't
3 provided to us.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: So you don't have
5 that. I said a lot of great stuff in there.
6 And guess what else I did? I met with the
7 former chairman. And to show you how I
8 entered into this, I met with the former
9 chairman. Sent me an email. He actually said
10 hey, I would like to meet with you and help
11 create a smooth transition. Wow. Wonderful.
12 So I met with him. I talked to him. I met
13 with Dr. Boutin my first day. And five
14 minutes after that meeting I'm in possession
15 of text or emails, whatever, they were mixed
16 up somehow with the press, I don't why he's
17 talking with the press, but we're in
18 possession of texts and emails doing the exact
19 opposite.

20 So, if you want go ahead and you
21 want to do your job, go get the information,
22 listen to it and look at what the former
23 chairman sent me something saying I want to
24 create a smooth transition. That was the
25 chairman. And then what he did is he went to

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2 frustrate it completely. Not just not help
3 with the transition but he frustrated it
4 completely.

5 So, then I asked for a meeting with
6 him and we sat down. I said to him, I said
7 look, I don't mess around. If you lie to me
8 once you'll lie to me always. Everything that
9 you've done now today is forgiven. There's
10 more Democratic appointees here than me. And
11 I'm supposedly a Republican which I'm not.
12 I'm a fiscal conservative with a bleeding
13 heart with my own time and money. So, I have
14 a passion for this. I think the outcome
15 should be the same because in my heart I'm a
16 bleeding liberal.

17 So, all of those social agendas of
18 the Democratic party I am a vicious defender
19 of. Because I'm not a politician. I don't
20 have to play both sides. Nobody has to vote
21 for me.

22 So, I sat down with him and said
23 look, let's put it behind us. Let's work
24 together. And as the general counsel of the
25 hospital will tell you and Dr. Boutin will

1

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2

tell you because they were there. By the way,

3

I also like to have meetings with other people

4

in the room. Not only did I encourage him to

5

work with me but I also asked him to be my

6

vice chairman. I also told him that because I

7

am a busy man with a beautiful, lovely family

8

that I don't want to be here for five years.

9

I told Bruce and Bruce will tell you too.

10

Said yeah, I'll sign up for five years. But

11

I'm out of here in less than one. Because I'm

12

going to come in hot. I'm going to fix this

13

place up. I'm not going to make any friends.

14

I said maybe when they talk to him about it

15

maybe I'll sit on the board but somebody else

16

has to be chairman.

17

And again, one of the things on my

18

agenda is actually fixing the board because

19

that place will never thrive if you don't fix

20

how it works.

21

So, I started with the chairman

22

privately. I did what I said. He lied.

23

Period. There's no other way to say it. He

24

lied. He went to completely frustrate not

25

create a smooth transition.

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2 If you read the hearing, the
3 original hearing before people riled me up
4 because of my passion for the community,
5 before they riled me up I said look, I'm going
6 to be, and this is where things get
7 manipulated, I said look, we can fight about
8 my appointment but the fact is is that County
9 Executive Blakeman said I'm chairman. And if
10 it's not in this seat, which, by the way, I
11 didn't care, I didn't even know but I think
12 there was like some balance of what people
13 thought were Republicans versus Democrats, I
14 didn't care because I do get consensus one way
15 or another.

16 So for me coming in I said to the
17 board, if people would actually listen to what
18 I say, I'm sure, again, they're going to take
19 snippets here and make it say that I said that
20 like the planet's flat.

21 When we were there I opened up and
22 said look, we can fight over what seat I'm in,
23 but if the county executive said he's putting
24 me in another seat anyway, which is why we're
25 here today, he's good to his word, why are we

1 Full - 4-1-22
2 going to waste our time? Let the courts
3 rage. Let's just do that. But like let's get
4 down to the -- why don't we put our efforts
5 into the business of the hospital and not
6 fight over this.

7 And then I had like barrages of
8 lunatics, which I don't mind saying. Because
9 even lunatics are either going to agree with
10 what I propose or they're going to look
11 foolish and divisive and destructive because I
12 only propose things that are freaking smart,
13 that are freaking good, that are right.

14 So, you can be a total jackass on
15 the board and if you and say no, I'm voting
16 against it I'm going to call you out and ask
17 you why. And if your answer is because I
18 don't like you, it's not going to hold water.

19 So, yeah, so I get things done one
20 way or another. And when I start off and ask
21 for people's cooperation and care, I even said
22 let's not make this about yourselves, your
23 political career or why ever you're here. Put
24 that aside for the people. Be selfless not
25 selfish.

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2 You know what they did? Dove right
3 into like you can't even vote. You can't be
4 here. Blah, blah, blah. Like idiot
5 children.

6 So yeah, if everybody by the way,
7 because I am a good Christian and I forgive,
8 if everybody wants to show up on Monday and
9 say let's get down to fixing it I'll tell you
10 like I told them. They can have all the
11 credit and I'm out of here. The faster we fix
12 it the faster you're rid of me. So yeah, I
13 know how to get things done and I assure you I
14 will.

15 If we want to talk about the
16 hospital instead of this stuff, I'll tell you
17 everything right now. By the way, keep in
18 mind I only went to the hospital once and I
19 can talk to you about any part of that
20 hospital. Why it's broken. And I have a plan
21 to fix it sitting here today.

22 And, in fact, what no one wrote was
23 that the hospital has -- actually I take it
24 back. Newsday wrote, I quote Newsday, check
25 it out, Newsday wrote that in 2020 the

1 Full - 4-1-22
2 hospital had an operating deficit of \$20
3 million. You can put me under oath if you'd
4 like. But in the very first day I found 22
5 and a half million dollars roughly. It wasn't
6 billed. It wasn't collected. And at my press
7 conference that no one covered, the part where
8 Bruce Blakeman, county executive, brought me a
9 check for nearly \$13 million for a hospital
10 that was -- had a \$20 million operating
11 budget.

12 By the way, do you know the only
13 reason why I can say 2020? Because when I
14 walked in the door I was shocked that a
15 hospital system this big, their most recent
16 financial information was from November of
17 2021. November. It's April. How do you
18 operate a company like that? How do you
19 operate a business like that? That's
20 negligent. That's ridiculous.

21 So, yeah, it can be fixed. And
22 again, I'd love to talk about those things. I
23 can tell you where it was. This will let you
24 know how I operate and how smart I am and I
25 how I know what I'm doing. Frankly, it's

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 easy. So easy to fix the hospital because you
3 couldn't try harder to screw it up.

4 The first day I walk in and I say
5 all right, give me financials. We don't have
6 any. All right. Give me the budget. How do
7 you have a budget with no financials? We
8 don't have a budget either. I said can you
9 bring the CFO in? We don't have a CFO. I'm
10 like this is a joke. Are you kidding me? How
11 big is this institution? What are my revenue
12 streams? How do we make money? Tell me about
13 like the ER. Procedures. We have this. We
14 have that. We have a nursing home.

15 Oh yeah, we also have a contract
16 with the prison system. It's my first day.
17 Okay. So how much is this? How much is
18 that? How much is this? Because they still
19 had some finance people there that could
20 answer some questions. They didn't have
21 oversight by the way. Which is why there was
22 an arrest last week from someone in the
23 finance department. How do you have an arrest
24 in the finance department? Because you have
25 no checks and balances. No one's got a

1 Full - 4-1-22
2 budget. No one knows where the money is or
3 where it's supposed to be. So how easy is it
4 to steal \$120 million. Embezzle \$120
5 million. Real easy. I have no boss. There's
6 no CFO. They have no budget. So, sure, you
7 can wire money out of here.

8 So, again, I see why people are
9 really upset about me walking in the door.
10 So, by the way, keep in mind too it's my first
11 day. So, it goes like this it. We're not
12 sure. There's a contract with the prison. I
13 said can someone go find out? Hour later or
14 whatever it was. Uh, uh, uh. What? By the
15 time I peeled the onion what I found was is
16 that -- and I got excuses like, you know --
17 and by the way Curran couldn't have fixed this
18 either. No one could until someone really
19 came in and grab the reigns. But they tell me
20 oh, like, Curran didn't sign something. She
21 was going to renegotiate. Whatever it was.
22 I'm like just give me the numbers.

23 And again, because they threw me
24 out the next day, I never went back, in my
25 recollection, which I will clarify and I'll

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 finish my job when you let me back in, my
3 recollection was on a rolling 12 months, in
4 other words, not just in '21 but between the
5 time they stopped paying in '21 until about
6 today it was about 22 and a half million
7 dollars. Which is why Bruce, probably Bruce
8 and his guys were able to run the numbers and
9 brought me a check at the press conference for
10 \$12.78 million. Which is probably through the
11 end of '21.

12 So, again, like what does that
13 say? I walked in the door. I ask good
14 questions. I got horrible answers.

15 I'll tell you some the other things
16 I asked. I said, you know, I'm coming in here
17 as the new chairman. And a lot of hospitals
18 survive based on contributions from the
19 community. People that deem financial gifts.
20 So, I wanted to know, coming in as chairman,
21 when there's something like a hospital that
22 has a philanthropic side to it it's common
23 knowledge -- the common term is give, get or
24 get off.

25 So, anyway, look, I came in. No

1 Full - 4-1-22
2 one had donated any money for the last two
3 years to the hospital. Not one board member.
4 I could be wrong but that's what I could
5 find. So not one board member gave one dollar
6 in the last two years. So I was trying to
7 triangulate like how much should I be giving.
8 If I'm going to be chairman I probably should
9 make a donation.

10 I also started asking for things
11 like their conflict of interest forms.
12 Because coming in I did my homework. I read
13 the bylaws and I read what was expected of me
14 and what my duties and responsibilities are.
15 Which made me think. Hey, everybody's talking
16 about corruption. Let me pull their conflict
17 of interest forms. The only couple that I got
18 before I left had nothing written down. Which
19 would be very interesting as we continue our
20 work.

21 So, look, I kind of ran on there
22 and everything but go ahead.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said a
24 lot Mr. Bruderman. I'm not too sure where you
25 were going with everything.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was going with
3 the hospital is a disaster and I'm showing you
4 how much I learned and how good I am at fixing
5 it.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:
7 Mr. Bruderman that wasn't my question. You've
8 invoked a couple of times that you're a
9 Christian. I am too. And the Christianity
10 that I follow, I don't think I would say and
11 stand by it if you want to get on the other
12 side of me I'm going to mow you down. That
13 doesn't sound like a very Christian remark.
14 Now, normally, we generally don't bring up
15 religion when we discuss government. But that
16 being said, you brought it up.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes, sir.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It doesn't
19 seem like a very Christian remark.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You
21 started out this thing by saying you're not
22 going to make it personal and you just did.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Hold on. I'm
24 happy to answer.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You can

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 answer all right. But you said you're not
3 going to make it personal --

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It's not
5 personal.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: -- the
7 first thing -- oh, you're talking about his
8 faith.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. I'm
10 bringing up in his faith that the Christianity
11 that I follow, I'm a Christian as well, and
12 the Christianity that I follow --

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What does
14 that have to do with him running the
15 hospital? If this is not personal.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
17 Officer, he brought that up.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: There's no
19 reason for you to talk about his faith. You
20 said you weren't going to make it personal.
21 Don't make it personal.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
23 Officer, I never brought up his faith. He
24 chose to bring that up.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He chose

1 Full - 4-1-22

2 to bring it up. You don't have to ask
3 questions about his faith or make points about
4 his faith it up.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So, now I
6 see the sideshow that's getting ready to begin
7 here because we're trying to get to the
8 fact --

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: No. I'm
10 going to keep you away from going personal.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. We're
12 trying to create a sideshow. Which I'm sure
13 that we're trying to create this enamor that
14 we don't want to focus on and Mr. Bruderman
15 we're going to try to create an assassination
16 of what I'm asking.

17 The bottom line is, if you don't
18 want to talk about it don't bring it up. I
19 was never going to bring up Christianity or
20 religion or anything along those lines until
21 Mr. Bruderman brought it up Mr. Presiding
22 Officer. So if you want to restrict what I'm
23 going to ask restrict what he's going to say.
24 That's where it comes from.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: I have a quick

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2 answer.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm not
4 going to restrict. If it's personal, I did
5 this while Republicans questioned Democratic
6 witnesses, the previous administration. I'm
7 going to do it here. If you get personal it's
8 not going to happen.

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: All right, but
10 I'd like to answer the question anyway. There
11 was a problem with the question I would like
12 to tell you about it.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're
14 going to tell me what's wrong with my
15 question?

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. I want to
17 address it. I want to answer it.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I
19 understand. Go ahead.

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: Again, you're
21 taking a quote out of a newspaper or somewhere
22 else. You said you didn't read the entire
23 transcript of listen to the whole thing.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you
25 didn't say it?

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no. Can I
3 finish?

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I let you
5 finish before when I asked --

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: You asked me
7 about why would I say such a thing if I'm a
8 Catholic or Christian.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I asked you
10 a direct question before --

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm answering it.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can I
13 finish? I asked you a very direct question
14 before and you went on for five minutes
15 explaining a whole bunch of other things,
16 which we plan to ask you about in terms of
17 what's wrong with the hospital. But you went
18 into a whole bunch of other things. So --

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was trying to
20 explain like getting a consensus and there's
21 different ways that you get there.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay, but
23 we need to understand -- so you're saying
24 either you said this or didn't say it. And if
25 you did say it, is this the best practice on a

1 Full - 4-1-22
2 very diverse board of people that make up all
3 different backgrounds and experiences and
4 qualifications, is this the best way to get
5 consensus? That's what I asked you. And then
6 you gave me a whole long-winded answer about a
7 whole bunch of other stuff. Which is your
8 prerogative. You're here. You're giving your
9 testimony. You're capable of doing that.

10 But that being said, that doesn't
11 get us to where we want to go. The bottom
12 line is where we want to go, we want a
13 hospital that functions, that is good for our
14 patients, that is good for our residents and
15 good for our employees and good for our
16 workers. That's what we want.

17 I want to get into asking you about
18 the service lines at the hospital. I want to
19 get into asking you about Medicaid part C. I
20 want to ask you all those things in terms of
21 how you --

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: I want to answer
23 it.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: -- and your
25 understanding of that. But I can't get to

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2 that if I can't even get a straight answer out
3 of you in regards to your mow down comment.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm trying to
5 answer it. Can I answer it?

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Are you
7 going to answer it directly?

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: Are you going to
9 answer it for me or can I answer it?

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No. I'm
11 asking you, Mr. Bruderman, without elaborating
12 on a whole bunch of stuff that we didn't ask
13 you, can you answer this question directly?

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: I promised myself
15 I would come with love today. If you need a
16 hug I'll give you one and I love you.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
18 Mr. Bruderman.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: And I'll love you
20 after no matter what you do to me.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I love the
22 residents of Nassau County.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: You can kick me
24 down and I'll still love you.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I love the

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2 residents of Nassau County but thank you. But
3 if you could answer my question I'd appreciate
4 it.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: If I may. What
6 you're quoting, and it's not your fault, was a
7 portion out of context. And yes, I had a poor
8 choice of words because I'm a funny guy and
9 I'm a little bit of a maverick. And it was a
10 slang term. Again, the people frankly that
11 were there were acting like such lunatics,
12 that felt like I had to step down to their
13 level. Which my wife yelled at me for. But I
14 lost my cool. The reason I lost my cool was
15 because I love a community in particular. I
16 love people and want to help people.

17 When you get to a place in life you
18 can afford to just do good stuff. I don't
19 know about other people but for me I don't go
20 to bed at night saying hey, I got more money.
21 I go to bed at night being like I made an
22 impact. I made their lives better. I helped
23 them. I get high on it. I love it.

24 So, I'm impassioned about the urban
25 crisis. Not Black people or Hispanic people

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2 or White people or this person or whatever.
3 It's people in need. Poor people. That
4 didn't maybe have the opportunities that I
5 had. So I want to give back. I want to help
6 them. I want to uplift every person on the
7 planet. I want to take away every person's
8 suffering and I do in my own way quietly.

9 In this case I want to answer your
10 question. I used that language incorrectly
11 because I stepped down to a level that I never
12 thought I would be at.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you
14 misspoke?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. But what I
16 said was -- I used the wrong terms. But what
17 I meant was is that I would not relent and I
18 would push aside and push through resistance
19 for the punch line of that mow down was, I
20 will mow anyone down that impedes the progress
21 of fixing this hospital. I will mow down
22 anyone that is not going to protect this
23 community and leave these jobs and these
24 people physically at risk. That's what I was
25 willing to mow people down for.

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2 By the way, I'll go get my lawn
3 mower and run them over if you'd like. But I
4 just meant it in a different way. It was for
5 the people not for me. Again, Newsday wrote,
6 you brought the topic up, Newsday wrote
7 Matthew Bruderman mow down whatever. By the
8 way, I've learned something. You can teach me
9 a trick. Dot, dot, dot, I will be chairman.
10 You think I need this freaking job? Come to
11 my house. In fact, I invite you to. Because
12 you know what? I want to fill you with my
13 love and I want you to feel my love. I want
14 to work with you. I want to work with
15 everybody to fix this community. So yeah, I
16 said I will mow people down that got in the
17 way of fixing the hospital. But it was a poor
18 choice of words.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So we're
20 not here to chastise you over your comment. I
21 just want to make sure I understand your
22 comment because your comment, in my opinion,
23 is in conflict of your past practices of
24 running a very successful financial firm.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: There's different

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2 ways to do it. Sometimes with force.

3 Sometimes we use force in business believe it
4 or not.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But you
6 answered my question when I asked you earlier
7 have you built consensus in building a
8 financial firm --

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I have, yes.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: -- that has
11 developed -- not a lot of things exist for 150
12 years that's not successful.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: You know my
14 great, great grandfather came here 150 years
15 before it was a nation and my great
16 grandfathers fought in the Revolutionary War.
17 Fought in the Civil War for the north and my
18 grandfather died serving in World War II. And
19 I'm here, just like they served, I'm serving.
20 So, keep it coming.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We thank
22 your forefathers for their service.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I said
25 before is that consensus that has been built

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2 doesn't transcend to what your comments were.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: I disagree but
4 okay.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You can
6 disagree but obviously even your comments just
7 now --

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I fixed the
9 hospital the first day. Why are we still even
10 talking about it?

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Why are we
12 even here?

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't know.
14 Give me the keys and I'll fix it.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh, you
16 will fix it.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no. It's
18 done. I found 22 and a half. But someone's
19 got to shake down Blakeman for the other \$10
20 million.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How do you
22 plan to fix the --

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I gave him a lot
24 of money. Did you see that in the papers?
25 He's gonna listen.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I
3 understand what you're saying but there are
4 structural problems which we will get into.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: I do love you by
6 the way.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There's
8 structural deficit issues as well as there are
9 one-shots which you may be looking at too as
10 well.

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no. I'll
12 talk about all of them. I'll tell you exactly
13 how to fix it right now. Don't forget, I was
14 there for a day. That's pretty damn good.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: One day, I
16 got it. So, from that standpoint, I want to
17 get into the next level of -- before we get
18 even get into your ideas, this body, this
19 legislative body actually we hold things in
20 terms of character to a very high standard.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: Me too.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Not saying
23 that we are coming to conclusions on your
24 character based off of Newsday's comments, but
25 we have to ask the very difficult questions in

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2 regards to your character, in regard to those
3 comments. I can tell you your comment in
4 regards to good racism I don't think I've ever
5 seen that in my 20 years in office.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Me neither.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So you
8 never said it?

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I totally said
10 it.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm not too
12 sure why you would say me neither.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: I can't believe I
14 said it and I didn't even know what the hell I
15 was saying and I didn't realize how much of a
16 situation it created. I'd love to explain it
17 if you'd like.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yeah. What
19 did you mean by good racism? I'm just
20 curious. What does that mean to you.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: Again, I'm not a
22 good public speaker. I feel myself actually
23 getting better as I do this. I'm not a good
24 public speaker. It was a storm of, again,
25 like I've never been in those situations. It

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2 was like, I don't want to say it but I will, a
3 shit show. So, I was like grasping at words
4 and trying to make a point.

5 What I meant by good racism was I
6 thought that racism meant making a decision or
7 treating someone differently based on race.
8 So, to me -- by the way, I Googled it, the
9 current version. Racism is a negative
10 connotation. And I didn't mean anything
11 harmful or negative by saying that. Again, I
12 was like under fire in a disastrous
13 situation. I'm trying, actually, to defend
14 Dr. Boutin is how I stepped on that electrical
15 wire. What I meant by good racism was, you
16 can make decisions based on race for a good
17 reason. I'll give you one.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.
19 Bruderman, you're trying to explain --

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let him
21 finish.

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: Can I finish?
23 I'm explaining good racism, aren't I? I want
24 to say how.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Your

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2 clarification is almost as offensive as the
3 comment of racism.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: So why don't you
5 let me finish? Again, no one wants to hear
6 what I have to say. They just want the piece
7 they want to shoot me with.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's go
9 down this path.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: We can get the
11 cross. I'll climb up on it.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's go
13 down this path.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Let him --
15 Mr. Bruderman --

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's go
17 down this path.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: Can I please
19 answer?

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Go ahead
21 and answer.

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: To me, I used the
23 wrong word. I didn't mean to say anything
24 that was harmful or disrespectful or
25 negative. What I was trying to say is that

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2 people can make decisions based on race for
3 good reasons and obviously bad reasons. In my
4 head, the bad reasons are discrimination and a
5 lot of other terrible things.

6 But in a good sense that you might
7 make a decision based on race is what like
8 President Biden did in appointing Ms. Brown
9 Jackson, the first black female justice.

10 And so what I was trying to say is
11 that there are reasons, which I would love to
12 expand upon, reasons for making decisions
13 based on race that can be good or bad. And
14 so --

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So are you
16 trying --

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Will you
18 stop? Hold on a second.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: Go ahead. I'll
20 be fine.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.
22 Bruderman, are you trying to parallel --

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Your
24 microphone is off. Your microphone is off.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sorry.

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2 Presiding Officer, are you trying to
3 parallel --

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Your
5 microphone is off.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Are you
7 turning it off?

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I am.
9 Here's how this is going to work.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No, no.
11 You're not going to stand up to those
12 comments? He's going to create a parallel to
13 Judge Jackson and the appointment of the
14 president to good racism?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Wait Mr.
17 Bruderman.

18 You have two sets of standards.
19 Did you notice earlier when you started to
20 interrupt one of his questions how affronted
21 he got? Oh, my goodness. You can't interrupt
22 me. I'm the minority leader. I'm Kevan
23 Abrahams.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I didn't
25 say anything to that magnitude.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Now if you
3 say something and you're explaining your
4 answer and he won't let you finish.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: He only wants
6 only the part that sounds racist.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Kevan, I
8 have the chair. This is not how this is going
9 to work. You're going to ask him a question.
10 He's going to finish.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
12 Officer, you're trying to tell me that there's
13 anything that anyone can say from that floor
14 we're going to accept and allow him to
15 finish? Especially when they say something as
16 offensive.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We're
18 going to let him finish.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: Oh my God.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Every
21 other person that comes before this body --

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Oh, so you
23 can pretty much say anything disparaging about
24 anyone?

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: There's nothing

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2 disparaging. You're making an assumption
3 here.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Now we're
5 going to do that.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Hold on. Can I
7 finish?

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have
9 heard -- Mr. Bruderman -- we have heard some
10 pretty noxious stuff coming from that podium
11 about us and they never said a word.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: No but I have to
13 answer. Hold on. Gentlemen, gentlemen.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Now
15 they're up on their high horses. My goodness.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: We need love. We
17 need love. We need love.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I've
19 heard --

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This is
21 how this is going to work.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:
23 Mr. Presiding Officer you're wrong.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: You guys are
25 nuts.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And I'm
3 looking at my colleague Legislator Howard
4 Kopel. Someone made a very offensive comment.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: One time.
6 Oh my goodness. How many times --

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: When have
8 you done it? You haven't done it once.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I've done
10 it multiple times during the Curran
11 administration.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You haven't
13 done it.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here's the
15 story. The bottom line is I am the chair. I
16 have the floor. You don't have the floor.
17 This is how this works. You ask questions.
18 He answers the questions. He gets his full
19 and fair opportunity to answer. You can ask
20 your next question. You're not going to
21 interrupt him. It doesn't work that way
22 here. Go ahead. Continue with your
23 questions.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're not
25 going to accept --

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If you
3 interrupt him --

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're not
5 going to accept that you're going to try to
6 dictate to us what we should hear and what's
7 allowed here.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's the
9 way democracy works my friend.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No.
11 Democracy allows -- it does not allow to be
12 dictated to you.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: This is
14 how democracy works.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You are
16 dictating to us what we should deemed as
17 offensive.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: When the
19 majority of the legislature --

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: So let me
21 continue to explain myself.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: When the
23 majority of the legislature chooses a chair,
24 all democracy, the chair has the right to
25 dictate the calm in the chambers.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And I have
3 a right to basically --

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You have a
5 right to ask questions. You don't have a
6 right to interrupt witnesses or I will stop
7 you.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
9 Officer, we all have the right --

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You don't
11 have a right to interrupt witnesses.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
13 officer, we all have the right when this
14 legislature is disrespected by saying
15 something as offensive as what he just said --

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He did not
17 disrespect the legislature. It's ridiculous.

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes, he
19 has.

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: Mr. Abrahams, put
21 aside -- listen, go with love. Put aside your
22 own agenda Mr. Abrahams.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The
24 parallel to make between --

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: Let me finish.

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2 Let me finish.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: No, no,
4 no. Wait. Before you finish, Mr. Bruderman,
5 here's how it works. Legislators are going to
6 ask you questions. You have a right to finish
7 what you're saying.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I very much
9 appreciate that.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: When they
11 interrupt you I'm going to stop them. Could
12 be them. It could be our side. It doesn't
13 matter.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's your role.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Let's be
16 clear from the outset. You're going to
17 interrupt me because you're trying to push
18 through your candidate of choice.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. He wants me
20 to finish what you asked me.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're not
22 going to do anything that's going to disparage
23 Mr. Bruderman.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: You're trying to
25 make me look like a racist. Can I tell you

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2 why I even went there? You don't care that I
3 love everybody. You don't want me to explain
4 why I said it?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You're
6 trying to create an atmosphere for the person
7 that you want to vote for by --

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was protecting
9 Dr. Boutin. Do you want to know what I
10 doing. Do you know why I went there?

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.
12 Bruderman, let me say this. The bottom line
13 is very clear.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: Whatever you want
15 to say is clear.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There is no
17 universe, no universe, where good racism is
18 seen as a positive thing.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I got it. Done.
20 I agree. I got it. What else? I agree. You
21 are right.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You got
23 it?

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: I started to
25 saying I Googled the definition after and I

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2 realized I was a jackass for saying it.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

4 Bruderman --

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: I didn't know

6 what it meant.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

8 Bruderman, that's not --

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I Googled it.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

11 Bruderman, I understand --

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: I told you what I

13 was thinking not my words. Judge me on my

14 actions not my words.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

16 Bruderman, we're glad that you have that

17 epiphany now. But the bottom line is you want

18 to run a hospital that serves in a very

19 diverse county and you didn't even know the

20 proper definition of racism. How can you

21 serve in that capacity?

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: Can I explain

23 myself and finish my answer?

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No sir.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Wait,

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2 wait, wait. No, no, no. There you go.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: You're trying to
4 paint me being a racist. What is this?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I just
6 struck a nerve.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You don't
8 want him to explain.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How can he
10 serve in the capacity as chairman of the
11 hospital?

12 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Can I say
13 something?

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: I said I thought
15 racism meant making a decision about someone.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We're
17 taking a break.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, no. I want
19 to read something from Dr. Martin Luther King
20 Mr. Abrahams. Can I read something that Dr.
21 Martin Luther King said?

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Don't
23 even. Mr. Bruderman, you want to be able to
24 serve in the capacity of --

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: You just want to

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2 call me a racist. Get the cross out. Go
3 ahead. Ask Ricky. Why don't we bring up
4 Ricky? Don't ask me about me. Why don't you
5 ask Ricky and John about me.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.
7 Bruderman -- why don't you let me finish?

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.
9 Bruderman --

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Why are you
11 torturing me like this and making me sound
12 like a racist?

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.
14 Bruderman, no one's saying that --

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: I said I'm
16 bringing love. You're bringing darts. Shoot
17 me. Shoot me. I'll take all the darts for
18 the community.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay.
20 That's your playbook. Play to audience.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I love the
22 community. What have you done for the
23 African-American community yourself?

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.
25 Bruderman --

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: Huh? What have
3 you done?

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yeah.
5 Okay.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes. Stop it
7 right now. It's wrong. You're being
8 divisive. You're creating racism and you're
9 wrong. And I don't care if you're
10 African-American. You're doing the wrong
11 thing. I'm bringing love. I want to uplift
12 that community and you want to push me out.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm
14 calling a recess.

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: I have a lot of
16 power and goodness to bring and you're not
17 chasing me away. I am not a racist and I want
18 to read what Dr. Martin Luther King said.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I have a
20 problem with the fact that you're muting my
21 micro but you're not muting his.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I can't.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Dr. Martin Luther
24 King said --

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:

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2 Mr. Bruderman, I'm calling a recess.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: I have a dream --

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.

5 Bruderman, I'm calling a recess.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: -- that my four
7 little children.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.

9 Bruderman --

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: -- will one day
11 live in a nation where they will not be judged
12 by the color of their skin.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.

14 Bruderman --

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: -- but by the
16 content of their character.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.

18 Bruderman.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Mr.

20 Bruderman, we're not going to allow you to
21 invoke Martin Luther King.

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: Really? Why?
23 Because I'm white?

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We're
25 calling a recess.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We're not
3 going to let you get away with something that
4 you said good racism is like saying good
5 cancer. The good tumor. You can't get away
6 with it.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I remember
8 way back when we started we weren't going to
9 make this personal.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There's
11 good cancer now? Really.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Folks,
13 you're not on the record. We are going into
14 recess.

15 (Meeting was recessed at 11:28
16 a.m.)

17 (Meeting reconvened at 11:48 a.m.)

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We are
19 back in session. Minority Leader you have the
20 floor.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
22 Officer, I'm going to allow for my colleagues
23 to ask questions of Mr. Bruderman and I'm
24 going to reserve my comments and questions for
25 a later point in time.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Who from
3 the Minority wants to go? Right down the
4 aisle.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Good
6 afternoon.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Hi.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We
9 have a few mutual associates let's put it that
10 way. I want to start off by, first of all,
11 acknowledging that I'm happy that half of the
12 paid employees of Nassau County have returned
13 to do their jobs. There were people here from
14 Parks, from TPVA and you said you are a
15 financial conservative, I say I'm a financial
16 conservative. The tens of thousands of
17 dollars that were wasted here in that one hour
18 is just the wrong precedent.

19 If you would join with me in asking
20 anyone else that's on the payroll -- we
21 understand your support, he's going to get
22 appointed -- I would really love for you to go
23 back to work. It would just make me feel
24 better as a fiduciary responsibility of this
25 county, and I do have the right to say that, I

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2 really think it's time. We got your point.
3 I'm glad that you support him. We got it.
4 But I would love for the doctors and nurses
5 especially to go return to our patients. Can
6 you back me up on that?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yeah. I mean,
8 again, I'm actually not chairman right now so
9 I can't even tell them what to do.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But
11 as a person, I think as a fiduciary --
12 conservative financial --

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: Fiscally
14 responsible person.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
16 Fiscally responsible. Which I really believe
17 I am. I would really appreciate anyone who
18 has not clocked out. We understand you have
19 your support but we would really appreciate
20 going back and serve the community.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, to
22 answer your question, to me, as a financial
23 advisor, I think going back to the hospital
24 that's paying them would be a good idea. But
25 personally they may want to stay here to help

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2 ensure that they keep their jobs. I'm not
3 telling them what to do.

4 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
5 think that their point is made. We have
6 doctors and nurses. We had -- actually a lot
7 of them left, which I'm very grateful for.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I think that's
9 good. I think if they need to get back to
10 work they should. Can we talk about the
11 hospital?

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Let
13 me just say a couple of things.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sure. Please.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
16 Again, I know of you. I respect the business
17 mind, I do. I happen to have a lot of respect
18 for the business world. I think a lot of us
19 were in the private sector before we came here
20 and there are certain things that the private
21 sector does that we try to bring into the
22 government. But government's a little
23 different because when you are going to run a
24 big department such as the hospital you're
25 acting on behalf of the county. Okay? We're

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2 liable for what you say and do. And I get
3 your personality. I get what maybe you might
4 consider humor in your mind.

5 But in this world we spend so much
6 money on sensitivity training in this county.
7 We just went through two years of real changes
8 for the better in so many ways to be sensitive
9 to everyone's feelings. Even calling people,
10 in my opinion, less than professional names
11 that are on the board. It just sets a tone
12 that I'm afraid not only is it the wrong tone
13 socially, and I don't want to get in religion,
14 but morally correct. Financially we could be
15 responsible for your miss, you know, mistakes
16 in choosing the words, in choosing the name
17 calling, in choosing the tactics. Which might
18 be acceptable, which probably shouldn't be in
19 my opinion, on Wall Street. But when you're
20 working for a public sector, especially the
21 hospital, you could be sued and guess who's
22 going to pay for it?

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'll be much more
24 careful about the choice of words now. I
25 learned a valuable lesson today.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

3 Look, you're going to be appointed. These
4 guys are going to vote for you. It's a done
5 deal. What we want to do is just what you
6 just said. You're going to represent a county
7 that we love. I used to work in the private
8 sector. We all made more money in the private
9 sector than we do here. It's a love for this
10 county. It keeps us going. It puts us in
11 this position.

12 So, I want you to -- the fact that
13 you just said that is a big movement in my
14 mind and I appreciate it. I think there might
15 be a little bit more room for improvement
16 there but it's a step in the right direction.
17 Again, it's not just you now. It's not just
18 you now with a whole bunch of money --

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm learning
20 that. I'm learning that.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: It's
22 all great. You were lucky. You picked your
23 parents well. But you are dealing with
24 everyone in our community and you need to
25 respect everyone.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm going to be
3 much more careful about my choice of words. I
4 learned a valuable lesson stepping into this
5 environment.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
7 want to tell you one thing. I'm not bringing
8 up religion in a bad way but pride is a tough
9 thing. I know you're very proud of the
10 accomplishments you've had. And I'm sure
11 monetarily and everything else sounds like you
12 love -- I respect the fact that you have a
13 wonderful family and you're proud. But pride
14 is always the one thing that we got to keep in
15 check sometimes because pride can cause you to
16 say things that you think you're entitled to
17 say not thinking the person that is receiving
18 them and it could be the wrong way.

19 So, again, I'm happy to hear you
20 say that. I know you're going to be
21 appointed. We want the hospital to be saved
22 yes. Financially, yes. We approved the \$12
23 million. And I'll tell you something, Laura
24 Curran lost the election in the November. So
25 the fact that there hasn't been any payments

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2 in four months is Bruce Blakeman's fault.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: It's not four
4 months.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
6 Three months.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: It's more.

8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
9 Since November.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, it's not
11 since November. They don't have financials
12 since November. So they have no idea what
13 they're operating because they don't have any
14 financial results.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
16 Let's be clear. It's because there's a change
17 of administration. It does take a few months.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. I'm talking
19 like, I mean, I don't have it in front of me,
20 but from what I understand it's like nine
21 months of 2021.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
23 can't see that being possible.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: Certainly six.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We

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2 also approved the jail contract. You're a
3 separate entity but we keep an eye. We keep a
4 close eye.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: Somebody didn't
6 look too closely.

7 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We
8 know about the jail contract. Other people
9 are going to address the other avenues of
10 revenue. But again, when you're criticizing
11 not have a report for four months and there's
12 a new administration for three of those four
13 months it's really not fair to the new
14 administration. That's my only point.

15 I do want you to take the good of
16 the private sector and use it here. The good
17 is transparency and the good is keeping an eye
18 on every dollar.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: Amen.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But
21 being sensitive to the fact that you screw up
22 we have to pay. And as a legislator you're
23 making me nervous because I can see dollar
24 signs. I've seen it before.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: I will make the

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2 hospital a lot of money and I will be very
3 fiscally responsible and I have a passion for
4 the community that we're talking about. I'll
5 be much, much more careful. Again, I'm
6 untrained. I don't analyze -- I'm going to be
7 much more careful about how I choose my
8 words. But I can tell you that my heart is
9 good and that I really love people, everyone,
10 and I'm trying to do the right thing.

11 Again, I've asked everybody judge
12 me on my actions and not my words. I'm
13 working on my words. I've learned a valuable
14 lesson of how bad words can distract from good
15 things. In trying to get some good things
16 done I'm going to be super careful. And
17 you'll see.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
19 grew up in a political family. My father was
20 the last republican mayor in Glen Cove. I was
21 told as a kid you have less rights than anyone
22 else. Because whatever you say is going to
23 represent the government and the family. And
24 you know what? I tell my kids the same
25 thing. You have less rights because I'm

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2 connected with the government. My father's
3 connected with the government.

4 Even the position you're getting
5 you think, yeah, I'm giving a great gift to
6 Nassau County. We're giving you a huge gift
7 if we give this to you because we're giving
8 you our trust in a very important thing. Just
9 respect that and represent it well. Because
10 one or two of those comments that you make
11 could cost a lot more money than the money
12 you're going to save. It could. Lawsuits are
13 crazy now. Believe me, one payout could wipe
14 out all the good you're trying to do. So
15 don't let that happen.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: I will be very,
17 very careful.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
19 Bynoe.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
21 Presiding Officer. Mr. Bruderman, I got to
22 tell you I'm exhausted and I'm saddened.

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm sorry.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm saddened
25 by the antics that I witnessed here in this

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2 chamber this morning. We are sitting here
3 talking about the lifeblood of this county and
4 an institution that serves this county, the
5 greater region I would say because even folks
6 from Suffolk come here to Nassau for care at
7 NUMC. One of the best trauma hospitals in the
8 area.

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes ma'am.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm saddened
11 this morning that we'd be sitting here and
12 what I saw here this morning and what I
13 witnessed and heard on that tape, on the
14 digital copy of that public session of the
15 meeting, is troubling to me that you would
16 even be here this morning. You may have done
17 wonderful work in the places you have served,
18 but I can't imagine that this morning we'd be
19 here, after what we all witnessed in that
20 space in that hospital, when you were in that
21 board meeting. It lack, to me, it lacked even
22 the concept of having a work space where there
23 was an environment set for business to take
24 place.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: I agree.

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It was a place
3 where there was lack of control, decorum. It
4 was a space where workplace violence -- you
5 would have failed miserably in that space.

6 Listen, we're all human and we all
7 have erred in our time. But I'm going to go
8 further then because not only did I think it
9 was not the right leadership image that we as
10 a body should be voting on today in that
11 moment, I think what you did when they had the
12 press conference and you came out and you were
13 so angry at the press because you alleged that
14 they twisted your words that you couldn't
15 handle yourself in a way that allowed you to
16 be representative --I'm speaking -- to be
17 representative of somebody who would be in
18 leadership of the hospital. You turned your
19 back on the press.

20 I argue that morning you turned
21 your back on the good people of Nassau County
22 because you were angry because you, and you
23 admit it today, you used the words good racism
24 and bad racism. And I'm going to tell you, I
25 don't think you could ever, it's clear to me,

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2 clear that up for me in a way that I can
3 reconcile to what you said.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sorry about that.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The fact that
6 you now come here in this space and say you
7 looked up the word racism. You had to look it
8 up.

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: They change.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No. Racism
11 doesn't change. May change forms.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: Definition.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No. I'm
14 speaking. It may change forms but racism
15 doesn't change. It's hate at its core. It
16 doesn't change.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Which I'm
18 against.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm speaking.
20 I'm going to ask you to stop speaking over me.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sorry.

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Because the
23 same rules apparently don't apply when I'm
24 asking. The antics that you have displayed in
25 the short span of time leaves me with no doubt

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2 that you're not the right man for this time.
3 Not only because I'm concerned about your
4 professionalism but because I'm concerned
5 about where we are as a country. The
6 divisiveness in this country. And the mere
7 fact that your appointment would create such
8 divisiveness that they would think in good
9 conscious that they would send down employees
10 of this county to heckle this body as we
11 speak, as we question you, as we vet you is
12 concerning to me. I think you are not the man
13 for this time. Okay? I don't think you're
14 the man for this institution nor for this
15 time.

16 You, Mr. Bruderman, I don't doubt
17 you speak of love and you seem to be
18 humorous. But this is not a time for humor.
19 This wasn't a time to bait the rest of your
20 supporters to make this a sideshow. This was
21 an opportunity to see if maybe it was a lapse
22 of just judgement when you made those
23 comments. And I'm going to say right here
24 definitively it was not a lapse of judgement.
25 It's deep-seated. Because even in this space

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2 you couldn't hold yourself together.

3 I don't know how in good conscious
4 we could consider you. In my eyes, you have
5 wasted your time coming here today because you
6 didn't come here with the serious work and
7 with a serious nature of doing the good work
8 and unraveling all of what has occurred from
9 the time you stepped foot in that hospital
10 that one day. That one day has led us here in
11 a space that I'm saddened to be in.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
13 Solages.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
15 very much Presiding Officer. Good afternoon
16 sir. How are you doing today?

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Good afternoon.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Continuing
19 the line of questioning from my colleague, I'm
20 going to ask you a series of questions. I'm
21 going to ask you to answer just yes or no.
22 Keep this focused. Okay? Yes or no. Is
23 there such a thing as good racism?

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: No.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Wait,

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2 wait, wait. This is not an interrogation.

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking
4 him questions. I'm entitled to ask him
5 questions. You're not a judge yet.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Hold on.
7 Hold on. Hold on.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Do not
9 interrupt please.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He's
11 allowed to answer in as many as words as he
12 wants. You do not have to say yes or no.
13 This is not a courtroom. You're not being
14 interrogated. Go ahead Mr. Solages.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Excuse me.
16 I'm a lawyer. I can't help it. Who said
17 that?

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: Honestly, could
19 we have some love here and talk about the
20 hospital?

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: One second.
22 Please. Who said it? You're not man enough
23 to say it? You're a coward. Please. I was
24 interrupted. Let me continue. Thank you very
25 much.

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2 Is there such a thing as good
3 racism, yes or no sir?

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't think I
5 should be sitting here and we should be
6 talking about divisive things like racism. I
7 think if you want to come and meet me --

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is there
9 such a thing sir --

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Why don't you
11 come have a coffee with me?

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is there
13 such a thing as good anti-Semitism? Yes or
14 no.

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: This is like some
16 guys are putting me on the cross.

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So there is
18 a good racism but there isn't good
19 anti-Semitism?

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: Do you want to
21 hear what's in my heart? What's in my heart?
22 Do you want to hear what I think about
23 racism?

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking a
25 simple question.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not going to
3 answer any questions about racism. I'm not a
4 racist. I love everyone.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking
6 you a question.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: And I invite
8 everyone that wants to talk about racism to
9 meet me for coffee and spend some time. But
10 this is just divisive.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Xenophobia.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: This is very
13 divisive.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking
15 you simple questions, right? You said before
16 that you learned to ask questions. So, I'm
17 asking you a question. Yes or no, is there
18 such a thing as good racism.

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: This is
20 shameful.

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking
22 you a question. You're placing your own
23 judgement.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: We should do the
25 work of the hospital.

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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Is there
3 such a thing as good racism?

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I didn't come
5 here to get questioned about racism.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You said no
7 before. Why don't you just repeat your
8 answer?

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I came here to
10 talk about my qualifications --

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes or no
12 sir.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: -- and the
14 hospital.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: He's not
16 answering the question.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not answering
18 questions about racism.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: He's
20 allowed to answer the questions.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not answering
22 racism questions. I'm not a racist and I'm
23 not going to have you paint me one.

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Answer the
25 question then.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not answering
3 it.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Okay.
5 Before you could but now you won't.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Is your name
7 Corry? Is that spelled --

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Are you
9 mispronouncing the cultural heritage of my
10 name by mispronouncing my name?

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm asking you
12 how to pronounce your name.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Carrie
14 Solages. I know you're educated enough to say
15 the accent on the E. Carrie Solages. Please
16 say it.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Carrie?

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes. Carrie
19 Solages.

20 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm being
21 respectful in asking you how to pronounce your
22 name.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No, you're
24 not. You mispronounced my name. That's like
25 calling me boy.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: Oh my God. This
3 is so wrong.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Come on
5 Carrie.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Answer the
7 question.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: My opening
9 statement was I knew I would be hung here.
10 People would want to put me on the cross.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: If you
12 cannot pronounce that then how could you be --

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: Here I carry my
14 cross and I'm doing it for the community. I'm
15 carrying my cross for the community. You're
16 not chasing me away. If I'm not in the
17 hospital I am going to uplift Hempstead. I am
18 coming into Hempstead and I am uplifting that
19 community not just the hospital. I am going
20 to bring in jobs and help people and you can't
21 stop my shine.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm going to
23 ask simple questions.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: Go ahead. Think
25 about yourself. Not yourself for a second.

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2 Think about your community. Think about our
3 community.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm asking
5 simple questions.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Think about
7 what's good for the community and love. Stop
8 spreading more hate. Stop being racist. Stop
9 it.

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Stop
11 accusing me. Just stop accusing me.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: Talk about the
13 hospital. You should love your fellow man.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You're not
15 here to be the DA. You're here to be the head
16 of the medical center. I'm asking you simple
17 questions.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. I'm not
19 going to allow people to do things based on
20 race and throw this all around. Me or anyone
21 else. I'm here to serve a community.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Not here to
23 cross-examine him. He doesn't have to answer
24 yes or no.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you.

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2 Stick to real estate.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL:

4 Mr. Bruderman --

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: This is
6 embarrassing for this whole court or whatever
7 you are. I'm here to fix a hospital.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What is a
9 service line.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: You guys should
11 be ashamed of yourselves.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No. You
13 should be ashamed of yourself. Don't you dare
14 say that to me.

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, when
16 people find out who I am as a man and what I
17 do for the poor community and people in need
18 you're going to embarrass yourself. You're
19 going to ruin your own political career.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Mr.
21 Bruderman --

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm a loving man
23 here trying to help.

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Do you know
25 the service lines of the medical center? I'm

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2 asking you a question pertinent to your job.

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: Ask me a
4 question.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What are the
6 multiple service lines of the medical center?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Do you mean like
8 modalities such as like physical therapy,
9 orthopaedics?

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes. What
11 are the multiple service lines?

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, I was
13 in my seat for one day and again, of course, I
14 know.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You're there
16 for a time and --

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: This is
18 funny.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What are the
20 service lines for the medical center sir?

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: The hospital has
22 the number one, it's a level one trauma
23 center. In fact, I don't know if everyone
24 knows that, but as far as I knew if the
25 president of the United States was shot --

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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It's my
3 understanding that's not a service line.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Why don't
5 you let him finish?

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: All right.
7 But he's saying incorrect information.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If he's
9 correct, incorrect he's allowed to.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: I asked you, are
11 you talking about modalities?

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What are the
13 service lines.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: Do you know what
15 a modality is?

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What are the
17 revenue service lines? For example, when my
18 children were born we went to the Cohen's
19 Children's Medical Center because they're
20 known for having provided the best services.
21 What are the service lines for this medical
22 center?

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I can tell you
24 what I know. So coming in I know that there
25 is the best trauma center on Long Island.

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2 It's a wonderful trauma center that I'm told
3 if the president was shot he would go there.
4 We have operating rooms --

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How about
6 for children?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm sorry?

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How about
9 for children?

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just let
11 him finish.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: What are you
13 asking me? Yes, they treat children, yes.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: When
15 children experience trauma are they sent to
16 the medical center or do they go to the other
17 hospital?

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't know that
19 yet. That's why I have Dr. Boutin. Dr.
20 Boutin's a brilliant physician. He's my guy.
21 Dr. Boutin probably has every answer. I'm not
22 there yet. I'm not in medicine.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: He's my guy
24 too, all right.

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: All right good.

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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Now tell me,
3 you said that we fixed already and that you
4 identified \$22 million in accounts receivable.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: No, they weren't
6 accounts receivables. Nobody even billed.

7 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How would
8 you address that problem sir?

9 MR. BRUDERMAN: I would bill and
10 I would collect.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: How would
12 you create oversight to do that sir?

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: The first thing
14 you do in any organization of any size bigger
15 than a deli would be to hire a chief financial
16 officer, which the hospital doesn't have. I'd
17 run a search to find the best candidates in
18 the country, and I would bring them in and
19 have them build out a financial team that has
20 simple checks and balances or complicated
21 checks and balances and oversight. Which
22 would have easily prevented, and I can tell
23 you myself, the person that was just arrested
24 for embezzlement would never have existed in
25 any organization that I have and probably 99

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2 percent of the organizations in the country
3 because there are clearly checks and balances
4 where you have one person prepares something
5 and the other person does the checks and
6 balances. So that way it takes two or three
7 people to do a crime. Which is much harder to
8 do. So I would prepare the wire for the
9 person leaving. Then the other person would
10 check the paperwork. And then another person
11 would actually initiate the wire with all the
12 signatures on it. So clearly, and I haven't
13 dug in there because again I was there for one
14 day, if you had a CFO and you had good
15 oversight that never would have happened. It
16 would have been very difficult for that to
17 have happened.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
19 for answering the question sir. Tell me, if
20 in the position you do discover and find
21 examples of waste and fraud and perhaps
22 criminality would you refer that to the
23 inspector general or the district attorney
24 office? What would you do?

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: Again, in

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2 government, I'm not sure exactly what that --
3 I would think we would have an obligation to
4 report it to the general counsel of the
5 hospital. Who then in turn would probably
6 bring it to the district attorney. But I'm
7 not exactly sure. I really haven't had
8 anybody arrested yet.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: In this body
10 when we learned of examples of waste and fraud
11 we, in fact, and I thank the minority leader,
12 led a charge for the creation of the inspector
13 general. And I see that there are some
14 members of that department are here and I'm
15 asking that if you do discover that that you
16 please use the resources of that office.
17 Because that office was very successful in
18 helping to find waste and fraud that led to
19 federal prosecutions. So, I'm asking to
20 please use the resources at your disposal.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I absolutely
22 will. And I can tell you that I am, based on
23 everything I heard, looking very carefully at
24 fraud. One of my initiatives in my own notes
25 of what I intend to do is I'll also go out and

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2 source every single contract in the hospital
3 and make sure, again, through my resources,
4 which are pretty vast and relationships, I
5 would go out to a lot of different
6 institutions. I would get multiple bids. As
7 many as I could. Make sure that they were the
8 cheapest.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Lowest bid;
10 is that correct?

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: Of course.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Not the
13 politically connected bid; is that correct?

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm not
15 politically connected. No. I can assure you
16 and look I'd love to have you come in there.
17 I want to fix this place. Everything that I
18 do will be public. And I am going to rip
19 through. I already have -- the first day I
20 went home with the food service contracts.
21 I'm going to look through every penny there.
22 You know why? This is where I benefit because
23 I get to show off. I get to show that in less
24 than a year I'm going to fix it. So, why
25 don't you guys let me have like nine months

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2 and see where I'm at. If you like it, pat me
3 on the back. If you don't, put the next clown
4 in who's ran this thing for the last 40 years.

5 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Again, I
6 appreciate these statements and it goes back
7 to what my colleague from Glen Cove said. We
8 have to be very careful with name calling here
9 because, unlike business, here in government
10 we hold ourselves to a standard and we must be
11 held accountable. If you're in an official
12 capacity sir and you make such statements the
13 county could be sued. And we all know from
14 our previous executive sessions we can't
15 afford to be sued anymore. We can't. So
16 you're --

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I didn't say that
18 about a person.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: With all due
20 respect, your reckless tongue will get us in
21 problems. In trouble.

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm going to work
23 hard at it. I'm not doing this too long. I'm
24 working.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: There is a

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2 level of decorum that I, as a legislator, and
3 colleagues in government engage in and we have
4 to carry that decorum. Yes, as a nation we
5 all have seen the decorum go out the window.
6 And I'm not going to blame anyone in
7 particular, Trump, but we have to carry
8 ourselves with a level of decorum. I went to
9 Georgetown University School of Foreign
10 Service and there is a level of decorum that
11 you must not --

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: My dad went to
13 Georgetown too. They would never let me in.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So, can you
15 please forward it to us, a copy of your
16 resume?

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sure.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'd
19 appreciate that. I'm not going to stick on
20 the whole good racism comment but let's go
21 back to the comment of mow down. As a
22 Christian, fellow Christian, we have to be
23 careful in certain language. What did you
24 mean by mow down? I would be very fearful to
25 work with someone who said hey, I'm going to

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2 mow you down. So what did you mean by that
3 sir?

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: I wanted to say I
5 was going to get my lawn mower but.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: That's even
7 more frightening sir.

8 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm kidding.
9 What I meant was getting that when I was
10 talking about getting the hospital into a
11 fiscally sound situation I was talking about
12 the community at large and my intention and
13 efforts to effect change, real change. And
14 that if people got in the way of that and
15 impeded that, kind of like they impeded my
16 coming on to the board, that I was going to
17 push and assert an agenda that's responsible.

18 And that, for example, what I meant
19 specifically is if there were 15 board members
20 and we have an outstanding solution, like we
21 got a food service company that cut our food
22 service bill in half, and because people are
23 so divisive and politically driven or whatever
24 crazy things are going on, they might vote all
25 against cutting the food in half and maybe I

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2 stumbled across somebody's pal that had the
3 contract.

4 What I was trying to say was, hey,
5 if I'm bringing good, logical things here and
6 this seems to be I'll use the word
7 dysfunctional, again, dysfunction can be from
8 neglect or negligence or bad behavior and
9 people can be dysfunctional intentionally for
10 nefarious reasons.

11 So I was just saying, look, I'm in
12 here and I'm going to get this job done. And
13 again, my opening statements to the board were
14 I want to work with all of you and we'll all
15 get the credit. But, and again, yes, in
16 business and in life sometimes you have to be
17 aggressive.

18 Just like this whole room
19 degraded. It degraded in here to a place that
20 none of us should be. Just like you say the
21 decorum but we had none in this room. The
22 same thing happened. I had people on Zoom
23 yelling at each other. Screaming. I actually
24 don't live in that. I live in an environment
25 where people are allowed to speak and things

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2 get done. And like I've offered many times
3 when people are talking to me about racism or
4 everything else, I get it out of that
5 situation. Say, hey, if you really want to
6 know what's going on sit down with me. Let's
7 talk about it. That is how you fix things.

8 So, the mow down thing was, I was
9 going to fight for the community and fight for
10 the employees and fight to fix it and if
11 people were going to be divisive, difficult or
12 just get in the way I wasn't going to tolerate
13 it.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood
15 sir. But do you understand how the comment
16 mow down could be led to the connotation that
17 you're going to impose physical violence on
18 someone or you're going to do an unlawful
19 firing. Which all could lead us once again,
20 as fiduciaries of Nassau County, in a very
21 difficult financial situation. But yet you
22 defined yourself as a fiscal conservative. So
23 do you understand how your behavior and your
24 self-defined fiscal conservative mind set is
25 actually in conflict? Do you understand that

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2 sir?

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: You know what I
4 understand? All people have weaknesses and
5 strengths. I've been made aware through this
6 process. I always say too that there is
7 always a silver lining. God works in
8 mysterious ways. God put me here for a
9 reason. And some of my biggest faults and
10 problems, and some of the biggest mistakes
11 that I've made I've learned the most from. So
12 maybe part of the reason I was put here was so
13 I'm more careful about what I say and the
14 choosing of words. Because you know what? I
15 do kind of live in my own ecosystem and I am
16 outside of that and it's different.

17 So, I think I have to learn, which
18 I've already learned. Again, I got to change
19 bad habits. But I think my choice of words
20 and the way that I acted wasn't always
21 appropriate and I'm going to be much more
22 careful. And I think that's one of my
23 weaknesses. I get excited for people and I
24 get excited to do good and excited to help.
25 And I need to make sure I'm careful about

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2 keeping that excitement in check and being
3 careful about the words I choose.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood.

5 Thank you. I'm all for second chances as
6 well. You can ask commissioner Capece, who is
7 right behind you. I voted for his
8 appointment. I believe in second chances as
9 well. So, I respect that.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Thank you.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But please,
12 I'm not done yet counselor.

13 Secondly, my colleague from Glen
14 Cove also made a good statement about
15 sensitivity training. Would you consider the
16 opportunity of having some sensitivity
17 training?

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: I would do it
19 myself. Heck yeah. I'll even pay for it.
20 But honestly, if you have resource for that I
21 would love to have sensitivity training. I'm
22 obviously like a little weak there.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: In addition,
24 I would appreciate that there are many
25 workers. I'm Haitian-American and one of the

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2 first fields that immigrants from Haiti work
3 their way up to rise up the ladder in America
4 was the medical field. Many Haitian-American
5 doctors like Mr. Boutin --

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: Is your name
7 French origin.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: One second
9 sir. Please.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sorry.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Many
12 professionals in the Haitian-American
13 community are in the medical field. Like
14 Mr. Boutin.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: So, it is
16 very important --

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Dr. Boutin.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm not
19 asking you to learn French but it's very
20 important to learn French names. If you had
21 called Mr. Anthony Button instead of Boutin
22 that would be a problem, right?

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: I wasn't sure how
24 to pronounce his name either. I am very aware
25 of the Haitian community and the French

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2 origins.

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: But then
4 again you mispronounced my name.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: I didn't know you
6 were Haitian. But again, I was just trying
7 to --

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: If you know
9 many people in the Haitian-American you would
10 have known at least my name could be of French
11 background with the accent on it.

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: There's no
13 accent.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: On there I
15 understand that. But if you haven't done your
16 research sir, I am Haitian-American and there
17 are many Haitian-Americans in Nassau County.
18 I'm asking you if you're walking through the
19 hallways of the medical center just consider
20 that they could be Haitian-American and to not
21 mispronounce their name. Is that fair?

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, I
23 didn't want to mispronounce your name by
24 accident which people do to me all the time.
25 So I wanted to be super polite and ask you how

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2 to pronounce your name rather than butcher
3 it. People call me Bruderman.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You did
5 butcher it and mow down it initially so I'm
6 asking you to just ask questions.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Butcher what?
8 I'm sorry?

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You
10 butchered my name before.

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: I asked you how
12 to say it.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No. You
14 said your name is Corry?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: Well, I asked. I
16 asked you. Anyway, look, I apologize.

17 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I forgive
18 you. Furthermore, you mentioned that you
19 fixed it already. Again, that sounds nice but
20 what does it really mean? What specific
21 policy recommendations did you have in black
22 and white in writing rather than just spout
23 off something that sounds nice?

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: I can read you my
25 notes if you'd like.

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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Please do
3 sir. Because I'm very concerned about the
4 medical center. I need to see a plan. I
5 don't want to see the antics. I need to see a
6 plan sir.

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'd rather be
8 living my beautiful, wonderful life with my
9 beautiful, wonderful family.

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Sir --

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: And I want to be
12 successful.

13 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I want to
14 make a lot of money as well. So I don't need
15 all this stuff as well.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm working for
17 free.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I understand
19 that sir but I'm asking you sir what is your
20 plan?

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm just telling
22 you I want to be successful.

23 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: What is your
24 plan?

25 MR. BRUDERMAN: You made a

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2 comment.

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: And then you
4 started talking about your beautiful life and
5 your wake boarding.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. You said you
7 wanted to be successful and I said I do too
8 because I don't want to come here in vain. I
9 want to be successful. I'll read you some of
10 the points. Please, take into account that I
11 was there for one day. But already in one
12 day, and this is not a fait accompli, right,
13 French, this is not set in stone. This is my
14 honest and transparent and potentially not
15 right because I haven't been there long enough
16 to fully be sure, certain, but to answer your
17 question in one day what did I learn and what
18 do I think I would do. Again, unqualified. I
19 have to qualify it with data which is what I
20 do. With black and white. With research. I
21 have to talk to people. Get more numbers,
22 more information, and evaluate a lot of
23 different angles before I can recommend a
24 decision. But on the surface in the first day
25 these are some of the things I think I have to

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2 consider undertaking.

3 I would hire a chief financial
4 officer that was highly qualified. Someone
5 that worked in a hospital system. That
6 understands the uniqueness of a hospital in
7 billing, collections and third-party payers.
8 For people that don't know what that means,
9 it's you can get paid from the government for
10 things like Medicaid, Medicare. You can get
11 paid by commercial payers like Oxford. You
12 can have cash pay. You can have no pay. But
13 someone that understands that.

14 Also, when you're in health care
15 there are billing codes. So depending on the
16 payor, the third party that's going to pay it,
17 you have to have different billing codes based
18 on what the procedure is. That's a very
19 tricky thing to do. So, you really got to
20 make sure you do it right. So, what I would
21 do is really bring in the best possible person
22 we could attract.

23 I want to make a point here. With
24 the craziness and suggestions of corruption in
25 the newspaper and the fighting and even what

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2 went on here today or went on with my -- I
3 need my sensitivity training -- my board
4 meeting, think about this. If you really care
5 about the hospital, I recruit people all the
6 time. How easy is it to get someone to quit
7 their job at like the number one health care
8 company and come work for NUMC? Do you know
9 how hard that is? How could I as the chairman
10 or Dr. Boutin as CEO say yeah, come work with
11 us. It's safe. It's good. People always
12 say, when you're hiring someone, you're backed
13 by private equity. You have the money. This
14 hospital has been in and out of -- it's going
15 to be closed down. On Monday the state's
16 going to vote on taking it over. The paper is
17 saying corruption and this and that.

18 So what I want to bring, besides a
19 CFO, is that stability. Where people will
20 actually come and work there that are highest
21 caliber. So I'm going to go and do that. Or
22 at least try.

23 The other thing that I would do is
24 I would -- I already spoke to Dr. Boutin about
25 it, again, in the first day and he agreed. I

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2 recognize that a CEO in a company is like the
3 gas pedal. And a CMO in medical business,
4 which is a chief medical officer, or in like a
5 financial firm a chief compliance officer, a
6 CMO is the brake. It's the person that says
7 hey, are we treating the patient too much?
8 Can we just fix it with physical therapy? Do
9 we have to cut him? If they have physical
10 therapy, how many is too many treatments? Is
11 the industry standard somewhere around eight
12 to 12 and we're treating a patient 40 times.
13 Or are we treating a patient three times and
14 they're not getting sufficient good care.
15 They need to be treated more times to be
16 successful.

17 A CMO is like the cop. He's like
18 internal affairs. They're risk averse
19 people. They're different than a CEO. Even
20 like if you met one. You want someone that
21 isn't a big risk taker. That's covered
22 about -- to your points -- about the liability
23 of someone like me and how I speak. You want
24 them to be really careful about that.

25 What I discussed with Dr. Boutin

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2 was that he is the CEO. The gas pedal. In my
3 opinion I don't think he should be CMO. And
4 then also I understand and I don't have it
5 qualified but I believe he sees patients as
6 well. So if he's CEO and seeing patients
7 that's totally fine. But how do you sort of
8 regulate or oversee yourself?

9 For that reason, he totally
10 agreed. He explained how he ended up being
11 CMO because they lost the other one. Probably
12 because of all the bad press and people are
13 worried about working there. So, in any case,
14 I would hire a CFO to put in fiscal
15 responsibility. I would bring in a CMO to
16 make sure that we have the right level of care
17 without being too aggressive.

18 I'm uncertain about who we have as
19 COO. So I would evaluate that position. I
20 would cancel any bogus contracts. Contracts
21 that I found -- I would look to find any
22 contracts that I thought look like highly
23 irregular or really priced out of the market.

24 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Like the
25 Armor contract?

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm sorry?

3 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Never mind.

4 Go ahead.

5 MR. BRUDERMAN: Like for an
6 example. Like if I put something out to bid
7 and there's a contract that's saying we're
8 paying five times the price that the market
9 is, I would root out and figure out why is
10 that contract like that? How did that
11 happen? Again, as you can tell, I'm not
12 worried about taking hits. I would really dig
13 it out. And even if there was corruption or
14 there was nefarious stuff or political
15 whatever, again, I have a job to be successful
16 here and maintain my image and deliver what I
17 said I would do. It's not about politics.
18 For me I would root it out, Republican,
19 Democrat, this, that, if I find something I'm
20 going to try to get rid of it.

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Absolutely.
22 It's not about Republican or Democrats it's
23 about doing the right thing. If I may, I look
24 forward to seeing your plan. I have two more
25 questions. Then I'm going to wrap it up.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: By the way, I
3 have another long list here. Again, I
4 encourage anybody that wants to talk to me. I
5 really want to fix the hospital.

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Please
7 forward me that list please. Two more
8 questions.

9 I've talked to our EMT
10 professionals. I think they're the best and
11 the brightest that we have here in the
12 northeast. And they tell me that when a child
13 suffers trauma they don't go to NUMC, they go
14 to like another hospital. I would like to ask
15 you, respectfully, how do we get more
16 treatment for children in trauma at NUMC?

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't know.
18 And I'll just again speak very candidly. I
19 think that NUMC would do a lot more
20 business -- again, I can't speak as medically
21 about the trauma center for children. But
22 what I can speak to, and again we would have
23 look at that, what I can speak to is, I know
24 in the community as I've poked around and say
25 hey, I'm thinking about doing this, that it's

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2 got a really bad reputation. And to me --
3 which I think unfair because it's an amazing
4 hospital, amazing doctors and nurses and
5 whatever. So to me, part of this, me pushing
6 an agenda here and fixing it, is that I feel
7 like the hospital deficiencies have been in
8 the board and politics and the management.
9 But I think the health care is excellent.

10 So, when the people aren't bringing
11 children there I worry on the surface that
12 maybe they're saying hey, that place has a bad
13 reputation. I'm not taking my child there.

14 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: My
15 question --

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: Parents get to
17 make the choice of where their child goes.
18 But if we're in an accident and we're close by
19 they're probably just bring us here. There's
20 probably a lot of parents saying like hey,
21 don't bring Billy there.

22 Again, I don't know, unqualified,
23 but that may be the point. But I would
24 certainly get to the bottom of that. In fact,
25 I want to bring a lot more business into the

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2 hospital. There's a lot of space there that
3 can be utilized to generate more revenue.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Understood.

5 Last question then a comment. I mentioned our
6 EMT professionals, our hard-working CSEA
7 employees. What do you foresee as your
8 relationship with the unions that work with
9 the hospital?

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Anybody, the
11 unions, anything else, like I said, I came
12 here to get beat up because I don't care. I
13 can take it. So far the unions seem to be
14 receptive because I think I can deliver what
15 unions usually want and that is good, fair
16 compensation in a community that I care about
17 and jobs. I know I can increase jobs not
18 decrease jobs.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: However, you
20 say you're a fiscal conservative. Say if you
21 see a contract with the union as not being
22 fiscally conservative what would you do?

23 MR. BRUDERMAN: Sit down with
24 them and fix it.

25 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Lastly, as a

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2 lawyer in law school we learned that there's a
3 rule and an exception. We as humans have a
4 rule where we reduce people's lives to an ugly
5 moment. You've seen some people here today
6 try to reduce your fabulous, beautiful life to
7 an ugly moment. But the exception to that,
8 right, to every rule there's an exception, the
9 exception to that is getting to know that
10 person. Do you believe in that rule and
11 exception?

12 MR. BRUDERMAN: You know, I want
13 to be careful to like answer a trick
14 question.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It's not a
16 trick question. That was a softball.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: Look, I think
18 everybody, like I said, if you get to know my
19 heart and you get to know my heart and I don't
20 hate you. In fact, even Kevan, you know, you
21 guys are trying to do a job. And there's a
22 lot of crappy stuff in the press. I believe
23 you guys are impassioned about your
24 community. I would actually be on your side
25 being as hard on me as you are. You're

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2 protecting your constituents. You're
3 protecting your community.

4 And to your point I think where you
5 were going frankly, is that you're going to
6 realize that I am an exception. That I love
7 people. I want to uplift the community. And
8 even though I'm a fiscal conservative
9 Republican, I don't give a shit about
10 Republicans.

11 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Sir, decorum
12 please.

13 MR. BRUDERMAN: I gotta get out
14 of that. I'm sorry. You're getting me
15 sensitivity training though.

16 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Yes, we are.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'll pay for it
18 at my expense at your expense. I promise.

19 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
20 very much. No more questions Presiding
21 Officer.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
23 Drucker.

24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I'm a little
25 exhausted to be honest with you.

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2 MR. BRUDERMAN: Me too.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I want to
4 thank you because what you have enabled us, or
5 what you have done for us in past two and a
6 half hours, you've really given us a chance to
7 get to know you. You may not think we got to
8 know you but we got to know you pretty well.
9 We got to see all of your sides. We got to
10 see your anger, we got to see your kindness,
11 we got to see your sense of humor, we got to
12 see your serious side. And even though it was
13 done in a rather raucous type of forum here,
14 it served a purpose. I thank you for that
15 because that's really what we wanted to do
16 here. We wanted to get to learn more about
17 you so that we had a better understanding of
18 what we're doing. What type of person we're
19 putting in that very, very important
20 leadership position.

21 I've been a lawyer for more than 35
22 years. I have a lot of my colleagues and
23 friends here on the dais here are lawyers
24 too. One of the things in law is you learn
25 early on that compromise is the only way to

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2 go. If you want to take out the hammer every
3 single time it's not always going to be the
4 best result. And we've learned through years
5 of practice that you work with your adversary,
6 you work with your team, you work with
7 organizations and you come up with a
8 consensus. You come up with ideas. You work
9 together. That's how you progress.

10 In leadership positions, more so
11 than anything else, you need to be able to
12 rely on other people to provide you with
13 different perspectives. Different
14 viewpoints. Different ideas.

15 And, you know, one of the things
16 that has struck me today about you is you may
17 be a little resistant to that and that
18 concerns me. Because I don't think anyone in
19 this room today could doubt for one second
20 that you are a man that's chock full of
21 confidence. Chock full of self-esteem.
22 Positivity about yourself. Which is great.
23 That's certainly something that's needed for a
24 leadership.

25 But I also am someone who believes

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2 strongly in humility. I believe in being
3 humble. I believe in making others, lifting
4 up others who may not be the same as you but
5 you lift them up to make them feel that
6 they're the same as you if not better.

7 One of the things that I noticed,
8 for example, when any of us assumes a new
9 position, even if we have a very experienced
10 background like yourself, you know, when you
11 assume a new position day one, you're there
12 for one day, at least in my experience as a
13 lawyer for many years, I was also a trustee on
14 the Nassau Community college board. I see my
15 friend Eddie Powers here. We worked
16 together. Maybe we have different political
17 affiliations. But when I came in I didn't
18 know a lot about college education. But I was
19 smart. I was smart enough to learn. But I
20 relied on other people. So it struck me that
21 your first day at those meetings you walked in
22 there right off the bat saying I'm the
23 smartest man in this room.

24 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's not true.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: It seemed to

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2 me what we've heard and what we've heard today
3 is that you talked about you felt bad because
4 you had to go down to their level. I didn't
5 like the phraseology there. You went down to
6 their level. What kind of level is that?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Like it degraded
8 here. Same thing. I think we should all be
9 embarrassed about how this degraded in this
10 chamber. Same thing. It fell apart. Like
11 everyone. And I was included in it.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But you used
13 words I went down to their level. So that
14 they were beneath you.

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: No. I went in
16 there offering partnership and communication
17 and working together and I was met with an
18 attack. That's not true. In fact, I've said
19 time and again, the people here that have
20 challenged me, and like I said right out of
21 the gate, I respect what they're doing. I
22 have no malice. And I want to work with
23 them. So that way they're sure about for
24 their constituents that I'm not a Republican.
25 I'm not running for office. I'm here to fix

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2 the hospital.

3 So, if people really care they can
4 fight with politicians or whatever else and
5 they can be politicians. But I'm here to fix
6 the hospital and I'm here to uplift that
7 community.

8 I'm going to be announcing things
9 in the coming weeks that I've been working on
10 before the pandemic that you've never seen in
11 Nassau County. So, you're going to see what
12 I'm bringing to Nassau County's people that
13 need help and need to be uplifted and you're
14 going to go oh, my God, I had no idea.

15 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Let's stop
16 there.

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: So, I'm going to
18 work with everyone. I can't do a thing by
19 myself. And I am humble but not when I'm
20 being attacked. And when I'm being attacked
21 and I'm defensive it's because I'm concerned
22 that if I fail a lot of people in the
23 community, 70 percent of which roughly
24 identify as people of color, that need that
25 hospital and as importantly need those jobs.

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2 So I'm defensive because I'm trying
3 to get that done. And people aren't
4 challenging me based on fact. They're
5 challenging me based on nonsense and that's
6 frustrating to me.

7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I don't want
8 to go back over the language that you used
9 about I'm going to mow you down. You did try
10 to explain it by saying I have a vision for
11 how this hospital should go and if you're
12 going to impede my ideas, if you're going to
13 stand in the way of what I think the path that
14 we should have I'm going to mow you down. I
15 understand you regret using those terms. But
16 the point is this --

17 MR. BRUDERMAN: It's not what I
18 said either.

19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: The point is
20 this. You said, even today, you said I don't
21 want people to be an impediment to my --

22 MR. BRUDERMAN: Not my, our. The
23 hospital's. I said here today I would work
24 with people. I need those people. But we
25 fought over like crazy things about choice of

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2 words and this and that and the seat that I
3 was sitting in. And I was just begging people
4 to say let's start pulling out contracts and
5 figuring out if we're paying too much and
6 let's fix it.

7 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: My question
8 to you is, do you equate someone who has a
9 different vision, a different idea of how the
10 hospital should go --

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: That's how I do
12 everything.

13 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Can I finish
14 my question?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: Please.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That's
17 really been the problem I would say all this
18 morning. Let us finish our questions. That
19 ensure a much smoother dialogue. I assure
20 you.

21 So, you said if there are people
22 who have a different view, a different
23 viewpoint, a different philosophy than yours
24 on how the hospital should go, the path it
25 should take, do you interpret that as they're

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2 an obstacle to you and you want to just
3 obliterate them? Or do you feel there's a
4 possibility that you could work with them and
5 reach some sort of compromise on it? It's not
6 one way or the other. It's not my way or the
7 highway. As much as you've made it seem today
8 that that's the way you work. It's my way or
9 the highway.

10 MR. BRUDERMAN: Is there a
11 question?

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I asked that
13 question.

14 MR. BRUDERMAN: What's the
15 question?

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Do you think
17 that there are people who have a different
18 viewpoint than you on the path that you
19 perceive the hospital to be, are they
20 obstacles and impediments to you and you're
21 going to not work with them? Or do you feel
22 there's room for compromise? There's an
23 ability as a leader that we're trying to put
24 you that you can work with people and reach
25 maybe a result that's not exactly in line with

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2 the way you wanted it? It might be a little
3 different. It might be a variation.

4 MR. BRUDERMAN: Can I speak now?

5 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Yes.

6 MR. BRUDERMAN: I don't actually
7 do anything. Other people do. What I am, I
8 am a very good negotiator. They say proof is
9 in the pudding. I've done many, many deals.
10 I've bought and sold many companies and I have
11 many employees. The only way I ever do
12 anything and the only thing that I am is
13 everything that other people have told me,
14 given me, taught me. What I am good at is
15 building an accord. Listening deeply to what
16 people are telling me. Understanding them.

17 I am most known in my circles by
18 friends and business people, my super power is
19 empathy. And to have empathy is to feel what
20 the other person feels. I feel it at a level
21 that's unnatural. That's why I'm a bleeding
22 heart liberal. That's why I want to help
23 every person.

24 They say my biggest downside,
25 besides my inability to publicly speak and not

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2 put my foot in my mouth, is that I try to help
3 everybody.

4 So, yes, like I said from the
5 people that were most aggressive with me, I
6 forgive their aggressive behavior. I'm sorry
7 for mine. And I want to meet them right away
8 to talk about what do they know. All these
9 people in the hospital know everything about
10 the hospital. So, if I speak to them all and
11 I listen to them all, listen intently, then I
12 can help come up with solutions to fix it.
13 And I won't be fixing anything.

14 So, yes, I'm very empathetic and I
15 can make any deal happen. And I can be your
16 friend and your friend and your friend and we
17 can do amazing things. And while I let you do
18 something wrong, like I said, my mow down was
19 hey, this is an institution with a reputation
20 for corruption and wrongdoing. I haven't seen
21 it really. I'm there a day.

22 But if I find corruption or
23 exploitation to me it's robbing the
24 community. It's robbing people that don't
25 have another place to go. No, I'm not done.

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2 There's 4,000 jobs in this
3 community. Those 4,000 jobs support 4,000
4 probably families. I'm a business person.
5 I'm an economist. It's not that easy to get
6 4,000 more jobs. I'm trying to uplift
7 Hempstead and Uniondale and these
8 communities. I want to help. Because I know
9 I can help. And I want to help the hospital.

10 This hospital goes away you can't
11 get 4,000 jobs that fast. And yes, doctors
12 and nurses and stuff will find some. But
13 there will be time. But the lowest paid
14 people are going to be the most challenged.
15 That's my sense of urgency. That's my concern
16 of risk is that those people lose those jobs.

17 As much as people want the health
18 care, I want the jobs. Because I am
19 empathetic and I know what it's like. Again,
20 no one knows me. I put my way through
21 school. I didn't eat for three days. How do
22 you like that? You guys should know who
23 you're talking to. I wouldn't take money from
24 my family. I built my own fortune and I
25 didn't eat for three days. I know what it's

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2 like.

3 I was a busboy. I was a valet car
4 parker. When I got on to Wall Street I went
5 to school full time. I waited tables in New
6 Jersey while I went to Rutgers. I came back
7 to Long Island and worked at tending bar in
8 Publicans. In the mornings I got up and did
9 what they call two loops, which is carry golf
10 clubs, two 18 holes in a row. And I worked at
11 Publicans again at night. Did it again on
12 Sunday. Drove back to New Jersey and put
13 myself through school. So I know what it's
14 like to not eat.

15 I have friends that worked next to
16 me as busboys and waiters. I don't treat
17 myself or think as any different from anybody
18 based on race, color, how much money you
19 have. If you met anybody that knows me
20 they're tell you themselves. I don't need
21 to.

22 So for me, yes, I understand that
23 if those 4,000 jobs are lost it's not so easy
24 to get a paycheck. What good is help if you
25 can't buy food.

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2 So, I'm here with a passion.

3 That's why I said I'm not a dumb man. You're
4 wrong if that's what you're thinking. So, I
5 came in here knowing I was putting myself at
6 risk. Frankly, the people that are, whether
7 it's Democratic or this or whatever it is, the
8 people that don't want to see me appointed or
9 don't want to, you know, or want to see
10 New York take over on Monday or whatever, if
11 you really care about your constituents and
12 you really care about your fellow man, people
13 with children, grandparents, I'm your guy.

14 You can hold me accountable. But
15 you've got to give me the bat and let me hit
16 the ball. My heart is as pure as they come.
17 My mission is as pure as they come. My
18 passion is as pure as they come. My words are
19 terrible. See I didn't say a bad word that
20 time. But I'm willing to learn and I'm
21 willing to work with people. And I know the
22 hospital can be fixed.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I don't
24 think anyone here ever for moment thought that
25 you were dumb. The question is, do you think

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2 you're the smartest person in the room?

3 MR. BRUDERMAN: No.

4 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: You're
5 familiar with the demographics that make up
6 the patients at NUMC, right?

7 MR. BRUDERMAN: Yes, sir.

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So you talk
9 a lot about how independently wealthy you
10 are. You have no worries about supporting
11 your family. You only want to help people.
12 Are you aware of the health care disparities
13 in the Black and Brown communities and can you
14 describe them?

15 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'm looking to
16 equalize and uplift the community that you're
17 talking about.

18 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: How?

19 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'll give you
20 some examples. And again, like Dr. Boutin and
21 all the other brilliant people around the
22 hospital and all the other relationships, like
23 giving you a specific answer on that. Like
24 one of the things I think is really core is
25 that you can't get good food. One of my

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2 missions that I haven't figured out yet is
3 when you want good health, right, I think in
4 the poorer communities it's really the food
5 options aren't fantastic. There's a lot of
6 fast food. Cheap, sugar-filled things that
7 are inexpensive. So, I think that's one thing
8 I think that helps with that situation.

9 And again, the whole reason I'm
10 here is because what's so amazing about NUMC
11 is that you can go there without worrying
12 about the ability to pay. So, like that's my
13 passion. That's it right there, is making
14 sure that that community -- and again, to me,
15 I really don't see race. I don't see
16 religion. I don't care if you have purple
17 hair. I'm weird. So, like, I don't judge
18 people on their appearance.

19 Like I was trying to say with Dr.
20 Martin Luther King before, who would love to
21 hear his words come out of my mouth and have
22 them said many, many times over and over, that
23 this community it's not about even race. It's
24 about how they identify.

25 It's a poor community generally

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2 that doesn't have a lot of other options and
3 they can't get good care. So I want to work
4 with smarter people than me to help give --
5 this gentleman went to Georgetown. Georgetown
6 wouldn't even think about me. But you know
7 what I did? I learned what I know. Somehow
8 or another from a gift of God I'm really good
9 at one thing and that's business and that's
10 making things work. That's the proof in the
11 pudding.

12

13 All I'm saying is I want the
14 opportunity to do it. And again, my mission
15 is pure. I want to help people that can't
16 help themselves. And that's why I'm fighting
17 like hell and risking my otherwise anonymous
18 reputation because I want to help that
19 community. I don't need kickbacks and I don't
20 need to be a politician. I don't need to be
21 someone. I can do it purely for passion for
22 those people. And I'm your guy. And if you
23 want to help those people I'm your guy.

24

25 And yes, sometimes I'll fight like
hell. But I'm impassioned about that
community and it needs that hospital and it

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2 needs those jobs and I'm going to fight,
3 fight, fight. Like I said, if I'm not
4 chairman I'm still on the board. If I'm not
5 on the board I'm your favorite community
6 activist.

7 So, we're going to make sure people
8 have great health care and great food and
9 great medicine and jobs.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I'm done.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other
12 legislators would like to ask questions? Why
13 don't we go to public comment. Sorry.
14 Legislator Walker.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I just had
16 one quick question. I don't necessary expect
17 you to have the answer to this but NUMC has a
18 state-of-the-art cath lab. But unfortunately
19 the state did not certify the cath lab there.
20 Many people could use it. Many people that
21 don't have insurance and have to go to the
22 hospital because that's the hospital that they
23 would go to. But many of us that do have
24 insurance and have to utilize the cath lab and
25 it's closer and it's in our vicinity. Instead

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2 we're going to other places. And I can tell
3 in some of those other places it wasn't the
4 best place to be either. I mean, their
5 equipment might have been spectacular but
6 where it was located, even within the
7 hospital, wasn't the best.

8 So, like I said, I don't expect you
9 to know this answer but would you fight very
10 hard to make sure that NUMC gets that
11 certification and would have another thing
12 that would be wonderful, besides the burn unit
13 and the trauma center and every other aspect
14 that the hospital serves, but that would be a
15 tremendous asset to the hospital. And I can't
16 even comprehend why the state would not have
17 certified that.

18 MR. BRUDERMAN: To answer your
19 question, I was aware of the cath lab and I'm
20 aware of other great opportunities for the
21 hospital. I want to make another thing
22 clear. Again, I'm not here to make friends.
23 I'm not here to make political friends. I
24 don't care what the newspaper writes other
25 than them impeding my ability to say this

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2 hospital and save these jobs. That upsets
3 me. But that aside, they can write whatever
4 they want all day. Just let me be chairman.
5 Let me make moves. Let me make this hospital
6 better.

7 So that aside, I do look at it and
8 I say there is too much politics in it. I
9 think about it. I go, right now I know the
10 hospital 23 percent of the billings are not
11 collected.

12 So, I'm a business guy. We open up
13 a deli. Does a million dollars a year in
14 revenue. You try to put ten percent to the
15 bottom line. So \$100,000. So ten percent is
16 a good goal in the business world. A 20
17 percent margin to the bottom line, 20 percent
18 profit line margin, is very difficult. So if
19 you have an institution that 23 percent of
20 your revenue is never paid then it's very
21 difficult to try to survive.

22 But in the hospital's case those
23 people are mostly American. There are some
24 illegal immigrants and there's mechanisms for
25 that including the fact that they don't have

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2 pay. But a big chunk of that I think you can
3 sign people up for Medicare and Medicaid and
4 you can fill that gap.

5 I think that other people know that
6 too. So if you think about it, if 20 percent
7 of the billings are never collected, but I
8 think it can get down a lot lower, into the
9 single digits. Let's say it's just 20. Where
10 does the other 80 percent of service go if the
11 hospital goes away? People there's just not
12 going to have hip surgery. They're not going
13 to do whatever procedure. They're going to go
14 somewhere else.

15 So, to me, with all the politics
16 and the hospitals, I was asked by Dr. Gersey
17 to sit on the board of Saint Francis Hospital
18 years ago. I said no. They don't need my
19 money. They don't need my help. Now I sit
20 here today and I signed up to help out because
21 I think this hospital does.

22 So, I think there's a lot of things
23 that, again, I'm going to push like heck on
24 where I'm not going to say okay to the county
25 and this to you guys, you're going to have to

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2 pay your bills. And to the state you're going
3 to have to pay your bills. And federal
4 government you got to pay your bills. If we
5 need a cath lab or we need this or we need
6 that I'm going to beat their brains in.
7 Republican or Democrat. You know why?
8 Because I don't have to run.

9 And I don't care what the papers
10 say because I don't have to be nice to the
11 papers because I don't need them to say nice
12 things about me because I'm not running for
13 anything.

14 Yeah, I'll fight like hell for that
15 cath lab and everything else. I'm going to
16 load the hospital up with so much revenue and
17 we're going to turn it so fast. And as you
18 can tell I'm not afraid to go out in the
19 public and fight like hell for what I believe
20 in.

21 So, if people think stuffs going to
22 happen in a back room because -- it's not
23 happening. Like I said to Bruce, you sure you
24 want me? because you're letting the genie out
25 of the bottle. So, I don't care if you're a

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2 Republican or a Democrat I'm coming. I'm
3 going to make sure everybody's paying. I'm
4 going to make sure no one's stealing. And I'm
5 going to make this the best institution Long
6 Island's ever seen.

7 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I thank you
8 for that because we have amazing workers in
9 that hospital and we have a wonderful,
10 wonderful county that we need to make sure we
11 have services there available to everyone. So
12 thank you.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Robert
14 Harris, CSEA, Nassau Health Care Corporation
15 chairman.

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: Thank you all.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
18 Mr. Bruderman. Appreciate it.

19 MR. HARRIS: Thank you for
20 allowing me to speak. I'm not the chairman
21 but if you want to give me that it would be in
22 conflict with Mr. Bruderman again.

23 My name is Rob Harris, CSEA local
24 830 vice president and A. Holly Patterson unit
25 president. And as a representative for and a

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2 community activist with some of you guys up
3 there know that I have spoken to some of you
4 guys. And I'm not even going to lie. I don't
5 even know what I was going to get up here to
6 say. I don't know this whole show. You know,
7 I thought I saw something when I saw Ketanji
8 Brown Jackson go through and here I see it
9 firsthand. I mean, we're here to fix an
10 underserved community. An unappreciated
11 community. An unfinanced community. And what
12 does the community find themselves? Under
13 attack. We have to stop that. We need to
14 stop the political jargon.

15 I view myself as a liberal
16 conservative. I'll let you guys figure that
17 out. So what I'm saying is, we talk about the
18 community, which I also have a vested interest
19 in because I live in it. We're talking about
20 a safety net hospital.

21 Now, the community which I live in
22 and everybody is concerned about who's going
23 to send it to hell? I've been with the
24 corporation for over 30 years and I don't
25 think I've seen one person of color in that

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2 position. So now we're concerned.

3 So, what I'm saying is let's put a
4 lot of this aside and get down to business.
5 Let's see who can fix it and give him a chance
6 to fix it because it hasn't been fixed to this
7 day. I'm going to get off this mic before my
8 time runs out and you all tell me I got to
9 leave. Thank you for giving me this time to
10 speak and I appreciate it.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have a
12 question from one of the legislators who's on
13 remote. Legislator Ford can you hear us?

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: Yes. Can you
15 hear me? I will be very brief because I think
16 Legislator Walker sort of touched on some of
17 the things that I wanted to say and even ask
18 Mr. Bruderman.

19 But for me, I just want to say I
20 was very happy to hear that he's looking to
21 increase revenue to our hospital as it is
22 much, much needed. I'm hoping that when he
23 looks at that in what areas he is going to do
24 that that he keeps in mind that we need to
25 provide more for our veterans. Especially in

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2 the light that Northport may be on a
3 proverbial like closing down of some of their
4 departments and reducing some of the services
5 to our veterans out in Suffolk.

6 Also the issue of our opioid
7 addiction. We need to make sure we find a
8 place to help a lot of these young people as
9 they go through this horrendous addiction. I
10 also have a concern even with the burn
11 center. And then I'm hoping that
12 Mr. Bruderman, if confirmed, he will then also
13 look to see how we can enhance health services
14 for women. But thank you very much.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
16 you. Dr. Anthony Boutin.

17 DR. BOUTIN: Good afternoon
18 everybody. My name is Anthony Boutin. I am
19 the CEO, the president of the hospital. I'm
20 also the chief medical officer and I still
21 work in the emergency department at least once
22 a month. I've been there for 15 years. I
23 grew up in the community and I always wanted
24 to be at the hospital.

25 I am here to support anybody who is

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2 willing to keep the hospital open. In my
3 short time in meeting with Mr. Bruderman he
4 has -- it's a positive step and a path where
5 we want to be able to go. So I'm here to
6 support him and all my colleagues that are
7 here.

8 We talked about pediatric trauma.
9 We had to make a decision at some point
10 whether to be a level one trauma center or a
11 pediatric trauma center. We couldn't do both
12 at the same time. With the resources that we
13 have we had to choose. And we were great at
14 being a level one trauma center, so we put our
15 resources in that. Which also means that even
16 if you're a kid and you get hurt, you show up
17 at our doorstep we're able to take care of
18 you. We may not be able to house you but
19 we're able to take care of you. The age is
20 from 13 and above. Anything below that we're
21 still able to take care of you but you got to
22 go to a pediatric hospital which is Cohen's.
23 Thank you.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
25 Rhoads.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Dr. Boutin,
3 if you wouldn't mind, one question with
4 respect to that. So, my understanding is the
5 decision was based on revenue, right? In
6 other words, the hospital simply didn't have
7 enough money to be able to sustain being both
8 a level one trauma center and a pediatric
9 trauma center.

10 DR. BOUTIN: So at some point
11 over the last several years the American
12 College of Surgeons and New York State changed
13 the rules and you had to go through a
14 verification process. So, you know our
15 finances. We're always struggling like all
16 the other public benefit corporations and the
17 safety net hospitals. We are great at
18 trauma. We were great at pediatric trauma at
19 some point. But the level of resources that
20 you needed had to be exactly parallel to what
21 we were doing already. You had to have
22 exactly the same team on the pediatric side.
23 Research. The volume and also the manpower
24 just on the pediatric side. We had eight to
25 12 adult traumatologists. You'd have to have

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2 the same amount on the pediatric side.
3 Something that we couldn't sustain and we
4 don't have the resources to be able to do
5 that.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So presumably
7 attempting to fix the hospital's finances
8 would enable you to revisit potentially that
9 decision?

10 DR. BOUTIN: Correct.

11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you Dr.
12 Boutin.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Sophia
14 Rubenstein.

15 MS. RUBENSTEIN: My name is
16 Sophia Rubenstein. I'm the president of the
17 medical staff at Nassau University Medical
18 Center and New Health. And I just wanted to
19 say that on behalf of the medical staff
20 officers and the physicians at large we're
21 really concerned about the hospital. We would
22 like to make sure that it does stay open and
23 we hope that Mr. Bruderman is able to fix the
24 finances that it desperately needs in order
25 for the hospital to stay open. And because of

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2 that we do support Mr. Bruderman as the
3 chairman of the board. Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:

5 Ms. Rubenstein.

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Dr.

7 Rubenstein, I just want to ask you a quick
8 question. I've heard it said a couple of
9 times. I keep hearing the narrative about
10 closed the hospital. Where have you heard
11 that? Which elected official? Which
12 legislation? Which newspaper has referenced
13 closing the hospital? I'm not trying to put
14 you on the spot. I'm just curious.

15 MS. RUBENSTEIN: It's the Long
16 Island newspapers that we all read and there
17 were a number of articles in the recent past
18 that addressed that. And more recently
19 probably one that we're talking about
20 involvement of the NIFA and different reports
21 that came out and at that time, I mean, again
22 from the newspapers that's what they report.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm just
24 curious. I haven't seen those reports.

25 MS. RUBENSTEIN: Again, we all

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2 read the same newspapers.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I have
4 seen, which I hate to say it, it's created a
5 false narrative, I've heard folks that are
6 against the state legislation. Which we
7 haven't opined on that at all. We haven't
8 talked about that today. Folks that are
9 against the state legislation have said that
10 the hospital is going to be closed. That I
11 have seen. They they're saying that the folks
12 that are for the state legislation they are
13 for closing the hospital. But that's just one
14 person saying something.

15 I read through the legislation. I
16 didn't see anything in there referencing the
17 hospital being closed. I haven't heard
18 anything from chairman Barsky of NIFA
19 representing that the hospital is going to be
20 closed. So, I'm not trying to put you on the
21 spot. You do your job. You do it well. We
22 are very appreciative of what you do. I was
23 just curious because I keep hearing that
24 narrative come up. I just wanted to pick the
25 brain of an average citizen.

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2 MS. RUBENSTEIN: Again, the
3 physicians are not really very political. We
4 just come to the hospital to do our job and to
5 save patients and help everyone that needs our
6 help. And again, we get the same information,
7 like I said, from the same newspapers that
8 publish those articles and at that time that
9 was discussed in the newspapers.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
11 so much. Appreciate you coming down today.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Grace
13 Ting.

14 DR. TING: My name is Dr. Grace
15 Ting. I'm a physician at Nassau University
16 Medical Center. I'm also the associate
17 director for the emergency department and
18 deputy chief medical officer.

19 Nassau University Medical Center is
20 the best trauma center in Nassau County. It
21 also I feel is the most diverse hospital in
22 Nassau County in terms of our employees and
23 the patients that we serve and we care for.

24 Before I begin, I want to let you
25 know that everyone here from the hospital,

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2 including myself, are here on our own times.
3 The county will not be charged for our time
4 here today.

5 I'm here in support of Mr. Matthew
6 Bruderman's nomination to the board of
7 directors and Nassau Health Care Corporation
8 for his expertise and passion for the survival
9 of the only safety net hospital in Nassau
10 County. The staff employees at the hospital
11 are eager and ready to work with the board of
12 directors in Nassau County and New York State
13 to fulfill our mission of quality health care
14 to all without regards to their ability to pay
15 and also education of our next generation of
16 health care workers.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
18 Ms. Ting.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
20 just want to say thank you for verifying that
21 everyone is using personal time. I know that
22 that's something that's public and I'm sure
23 you wouldn't say it without making sure
24 everyone here is using personal time. Again,
25 I think that that's very important because we

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2 want to obviously have your representation but
3 we don't want the public to feel we have a
4 room full of people that were still on the
5 clock. Thank you for the work you do.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Quan Brown
7 Thomas. Dr. Riggs.

8 DR. RIGGS: I'm Dr. John Riggs.
9 I promise to be brief because I tell my
10 residents all the time never miss a meal and
11 I'm starving right now. I promise to be
12 brief.

13 I've been at Nassau University
14 Medical Center for past seven years. I'm also
15 a fellow alumnus of Georgetown's. Appreciate
16 that. School of Foreign Service the best in
17 the country. I know that.

18 I'd just like to say that I hold
19 many hats at Nassau University Medical
20 Center. One of which is the deputy chief
21 medical officer along with Dr. Ting and Dr.
22 Pipia and we fully support Dr. Boutin in
23 everything he's done. I'd like to just say
24 two major accomplishments. There's many I
25 could talk about but the main thing is we just

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2 recently, in October, got accredited for three
3 years by the joint commission without any
4 major citations. Which is a huge
5 accomplishment for the limited resources that
6 we have.

7 And also, I challenge any hospital,
8 not only in New York but anywhere in the
9 country, that had a better response over the
10 last two years to the COVID surge and all the
11 problems that occurred and how many lives we
12 saved and it was all led through Dr. Boutin
13 and getting resources when we didn't have
14 any. It was amazing how we all came together
15 as a team and we worked together as a team.

16 Amongst my other many hats besides
17 that, I'm the safety officer of the hospital.
18 Which means all I care about mainly is patient
19 care and safety. And I know we can match
20 anybody anywhere when it comes to that. We
21 have some of the most qualified physicians
22 that take care of these patients and you
23 wonder why because we need the best physicians
24 to take care of problems which for many
25 hospitals in our area come to us that are so

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2 diverse and major complicated cases that they
3 don't want to deal with but we take them all.
4 No matter whether they can pay or not.

5 The other thing is, I'm also the
6 credentialing officer. When it comes to
7 credentialing, we make sure that we get the
8 best possible people coming. We vet
9 everybody. When it comes to that, I'm also in
10 charge of physician recruiting.

11 Now, the obstacles that we're
12 facing, and I really welcome Matt Bruderman,
13 who I've never even had a conversation with,
14 however, we welcome because we need
15 resources. Not just philanthropy, finances,
16 advertising. You name it. We've done some on
17 our own whatever we can. We made a lot of
18 major changes at the hospital to improve. I
19 welcome Matt Bruderman to come because I can
20 see he's passionate. May not be politically
21 correct all the time but I know he's
22 passionate and he cares and this is exactly
23 what we need to move forward for this
24 hospital. Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Ron

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2 Gurrieri, president of the CSEA.

3 MR. GURRIERI: Good afternoon.

4 Thank you Presiding Officer Nicoletto for
5 letting me speak today.

6 First of all, I've come here to
7 speak on behalf of Matt Bruderman. I have met
8 with him once and I saw the passion and the
9 fire in his belly for this job. I'm appalled
10 at what went on today. It was definitely an
11 S-H-I-T show. I didn't want to get in trouble
12 like you did.

13 He is definitely different than we
14 are. He's definitely different than I am. I
15 probably couldn't afford his shoes. But I
16 welcome him now at the medical center. We've
17 had many, and I've probably been there when
18 there have been ten to 15 CEOs because I've
19 been around a long time, 42 years in the
20 county, that have come and gone in the medical
21 center. I'm willing to give Mr. Bruderman a
22 chance to make that the best hospital on the
23 island and we're not far from it.

24 There are things that he shouldn't
25 have said. There are things that he said that

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2 were not right. That I do not agree with.
3 But I think it shouldn't have been used as a
4 time to rip him to shreds when he came here
5 looking to have a job at the hospital.

6 Siela, I thank you. You've always
7 been involved in the hospital. You've been
8 there before. I thank you for coming around
9 to the hospital.

10 Legislator Drucker, you've also
11 been at the hospital and come around. But
12 I've really never any of the other legislators
13 at the medical center. You might have been
14 there. I'm saying I have never seen you
15 there.

16 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, I think
17 that was disrespectful for you to talk about
18 the employees and the number of people that
19 were in this audience. You don't know whose
20 taking off today. You don't know who's using
21 their own time today to come here. And
22 because it got out of hand with -- ah, let me
23 finish.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'm
25 letting you finish.

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2 MR. GURRIERI: When it got out of
3 hand with people clapping and whatnot before
4 you took a chance to send people back to
5 work. Never in my 42 years in this county has
6 that ever happened. Never in my 28 years of
7 leadership in CSEA has a sitting legislator on
8 the other side of the aisle said that. Nobody
9 has ever said that. Now, you were the first.
10 Okay. So I'm taking it out on you being the
11 first. That is totally disrespectful for the
12 people to be here to come here and support the
13 hospital and to come and support Mr. Bruderman
14 or just to come and support you as
15 legislators.

16 Also, we should not forget about A.
17 Holly Patterson Nursing Home. I'm glad vice
18 president Harris came up to speak about it.
19 It's a world class nursing home. We cannot
20 forget about that and Mr. Bruderman will also
21 be in charge of that.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Can
23 I respond? Are you finished?

24 MR. GURRIERI: I am now.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: As

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2 you know, I consider you someone that I've
3 respected and my request was that we noted
4 that they were here and there were people from
5 DPW and parks and things like that that I felt
6 if they were on the clock, and I thought my
7 financially conservative possible candidate he
8 totally agreed with me. That at this point --
9 if you added up the hours of people sitting
10 here and judges from traffic court playing on
11 his phone the whole time, the bottom line is
12 this is taxpayer money. This isn't your
13 money. It's not my money. Yes, we got their
14 message. But we have a fiduciary
15 responsibility. I'm really shocked at you
16 right now for a number of reasons. But the
17 number one reason is --.

18 MR. GURRIERI: Go for it. Tell
19 me. Why are you shocked at me?

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
21 understand the position you're in let's leave
22 it at that. But I think that you normally do
23 respect the fact that we don't own this
24 money. This isn't my company. It's not your
25 company. It's taxpayers' money. I will go

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2 after and I will say what I think if I see any
3 waste. In my opinion, having paid employees
4 come down here that have absolutely nothing to
5 do with the hospital is a waste of taxpayers'
6 money. And look, you're not responsible for
7 the finances of the county, I get it. But I
8 am. So if I feel that way I will say it and
9 if you think you're ashamed of me, I can tell
10 you something right now, I'm not going to use
11 that word, but I'm not happy with a couple of
12 things that I'm seeing today also.

13 MR. GURRIERI: You have every
14 right to say that but you don't know who was
15 in the audience on their time off, on their
16 coffee break, on their lunch break or what
17 they were doing on their phone. I just found
18 it disrespectful for a legislator, like I
19 said, in 42 years, and I've been here at all
20 the legislative meetings, when they were board
21 of supervisors, I've never seen that happen
22 before.

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: You
24 know what? I'm also pretty conservative
25 financially. I respect taxpayers' money. And

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2 I didn't call out anyone. I said if anyone is
3 still on the clock -- it was their decision,
4 I'm not going to look at our, I'm not going to
5 look up -- although it's available to us --
6 I'm not going to look up who's on their time
7 or not today.

8 But the bottom line is, I don't
9 like to see waste. In my mind, we got that
10 they support him and so did he. Those are his
11 new friends. But his new friends are
12 costing -- if anyone was costing the county
13 money at that point it's a waste. And I will
14 absolutely do what I can in this forum or any
15 other forum to try to protect taxpayers'
16 money. When you're responsible for our budget
17 we'll we have a conversation.

18 MR. GURRIERI: I just found it
19 odd first time in a long time. Fine.

20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: What
21 did you say you were, a rebel? There are a
22 few of us possibly.

23 MR. GURRIERI: I have nothing
24 else. Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just a

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2 quick thing Ron and Ron, you and I have known
3 each other for years. Probably 20 some odd
4 years. The only exception I take with what
5 you said is that things that Mr. Bruderman has
6 said publicly we shouldn't ask him about it
7 today. Quite frankly, I never knew of
8 Mr. Bruderman. Never knew him before March
9 6th when the county executive announced who he
10 was. I didn't know who he was. Never heard
11 of his firm. Never heard of him. I have no
12 personally vendetta against him or anyone
13 else.

14 That being said, when you say
15 things in the public record for a public
16 institution that is taxpayer related I have a
17 fiduciary responsibility to ask you what you
18 meant by that. Now, I'm sorry that things
19 turned to the way things did. But
20 unfortunately that was the case. But it
21 sounded like to me -- just correct me if I'm
22 wrong -- it sounded like to me you were saying
23 to us that we shouldn't have asked those
24 questions about what he said.

25 MR. GURRIERI: No. Not at all.

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2 I said the things that he said were totally
3 100 percent wrong.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I heard you
5 say that part.

6 MR. GURRIERI: But I just think
7 we went very, very, my opinion, very far
8 afield in talking to Mr. Bruderman. And I
9 have been here for other commissioners. I've
10 been around for other people that were put on
11 at the hospital and I didn't think we didn't
12 get so in-depth with the other candidates.
13 Now, I'm not saying you did the wrong thing.
14 I'm just saying, in my opinion, I think you
15 just might have gone too far.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The only
17 thing I would say, Ron, you and I are
18 friends. The only thing I would say is that I
19 don't think any other candidate that was
20 seeking a board position has put themselves in
21 a position of saying things as public that
22 would in a Newsday paper.

23 MR. GURRIERI: I agree with you.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But we'll
25 still be friends.

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2 MR. GURRIERI: Anybody else?

3 Thank you.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
5 Ron. Vincent Pinkney.

6 MR. PINKNEY: Good afternoon. My
7 name is Vincent Pinkney, chief diversity
8 officer at Nassau County Medical Center. I've
9 been living in the county for 54 years. I'm
10 54 years old. I've been working at Nassau
11 County Medical Center for 27 years. This is
12 the first time I'm here to support
13 Mr. Bruderman. It's the first I've seen a
14 chairman that came into office that really
15 wanted to support our hospital, that really
16 wanted to do something for our hospital.

17 So, in my humble opinion, I'm
18 asking you to give him an opportunity, like we
19 always do, to improve our hospital. Thank
20 you.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:
22 Mr. Pinkney, did you say you were 54 years
23 old? Could you just tell us what your diet
24 is. Nina Gavan.

25 MS. GAVAN: My name is Nina

1

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2

Gavan. I am the CSEA unit president of NUMC.

3

When I talk about the hospital, I've been

4

there since 1987, so I get very impassioned.

5

Sometimes I get a little worked up about it.

6

Really what I'm upset about today was the

7

process. It doesn't really have anything to

8

do with Matt per se. We have so many hard

9

working men and women. I'm a nurse first

10

before I was a unit president. Like I said,

11

I've been there for over 30 years. And I know

12

politics has a role in our funding like you

13

said, but the current CEO, Dr. Boutin, is

14

doing that work. He is watchdogging all of

15

our funding and making sure things are done

16

the right way. We need to give him the chance

17

to let Matt do the work that he is able to do

18

for us.

19

The overreach of government at this

20

time has trickled down to the state and county

21

level. And now Monday we have more of that

22

coming from them trying to double the board.

23

Which is another big problem. That has to

24

stop. There's big overreach going on here.

25

And instead of reaching across the aisle to

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2 help each other we're doing it just to tip
3 power. It's not the right thing. We don't
4 need a bigger board of directors. We need to
5 let the ones that are there be accountable and
6 do the work that they're supposed to be doing.

7 And I do believe that Matt can
8 start that fire in them to get that going and
9 we need to give him a chance to do it. And
10 CSEA will be there watching over that. Should
11 things be getting done the wrong way or things
12 are not going the way, you know, for the
13 employees that we think it should be going
14 then there will be a different fight and
15 argument and we'll sit down at the table
16 together and work it out.

17 But at this time we need to give
18 him the appropriate time and we need to give
19 him a chance to work with us. I want to move
20 forward and I know that's going to happen
21 anyway. And we need to support the officials
22 that the constituents elected and let them do
23 their work and let they them put their picks
24 in place and not try to overreach and tip the
25 board to another direction.

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2 I know sometimes people do speak
3 the wrong way and I've been guilty of it
4 myself many times. You have to judge people
5 on what they do for you. Let's see what Matt
6 does for us. Dr. Boutin is the perfect person
7 to lead us and we will all be watching and
8 keeping a close eye. So thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank
10 you. Legislator Gaylor had a question.

11 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you
12 Presiding Officer. Just a quick question for
13 Mr. Bruderman. As most of you know, I'm a
14 retired lieutenant colonel from the United
15 States Army. Our veterans. We have a veteran
16 service agency that's housed within the
17 hospital. I don't know if you had an
18 opportunity to visit there yet. I hope you
19 do. I would just ask that you give it a
20 careful evaluation. I think that there's much
21 room for improvement in the facilities in
22 which this agency is housed. And I would hope
23 that we could possibly do something to make it
24 an even better place for our veterans to
25 attend.

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2 Second point I'd like to just bring
3 up is that, as was mentioned previously by a
4 fellow legislator, in the news there's been
5 discussions about downsizing the capabilities
6 at Northport VA medical center. I would ask
7 that you look towards the future. And maybe
8 not something that could be done within a year
9 but something that can be surely started by
10 you within the first year, is a partnership
11 with the federal government to move to our
12 facility some of those VA clinics or treatment
13 facilities and better possibly utilize some of
14 the vacant spaces within our hospital system
15 to better accommodate all veterans that live
16 in Nassau.

17 So, I'm just asking you to consider
18 those two points. I wish you well in the
19 future and if you'd like to comment. If not,
20 I understand. Thank you.

21 MR. BRUDERMAN: I'll just quickly
22 comment and say that, like I said, my family
23 is very patriotic. We've served this country
24 in war. I'm indebted and grateful genuinely
25 for our armed forces, for the police, everyone

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2 that serves and I think it could be an
3 opportunity. Again, I don't know enough yet
4 but we have excess space in our physical
5 plant. I did hear rumors about the VA in
6 Northport, and I think that would an
7 outstanding use of that space. It would be
8 great to give back to our amazing veterans
9 that have served us and treat them right and
10 give them an outstanding facility to go to.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Dr. Steven
12 Lev.

13 DR. LEV: Hi. My name is Steven
14 Lev. I want to thank all of you for giving me
15 this opportunity to speak before you. I
16 currently hold the position of the chair of
17 radiology at Nassau University Medical
18 Center. I just want to address the Honorable
19 Mr. Abrahams. You mentioned before something
20 about you heard the hospital was in bad
21 financial shape or imminently going to close.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can I just
23 correct you. It's not that I've heard, I've
24 known.

25 DR. LEV: I have what's probably

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2 called some institutional knowledge because
3 I've been at the hospital for 27 years. I'm
4 58 years old. That's almost half of my life.
5 I left the hospital in 2004 under rumors that
6 were in all the newspapers that the hospital
7 imminently about to close. A lot of us left
8 at that time. They were actually laying off
9 doctors and nurses at that time. I came back,
10 together with a lot of my coworkers. Within a
11 year I came back to NUMC because that's my
12 home and that's I believe where I could do the
13 best good.

14 I've seen during the 27 years a lot
15 of changes in our hospital. A lot of board
16 changes. A lot of leadership changes. Then
17 every couple of years the whole cycle starts
18 again.

19 Upon listening to what Mr.
20 Bruderman had to say at some of the
21 introductory meetings we've had, I'm very
22 impressed that finally we have somebody with a
23 solid background in business and finance and I
24 think he's the person who could help ensure
25 our survival and help us to continue our

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2 fundamental core mission. Which is to be
3 available for people in the community of every
4 race, every economic status and to serve that
5 people. That's why we're a safety net
6 hospital.

7 I also want to let everybody know
8 is that I think we ranked in the top 20
9 nationwide for safety net hospitals. To me
10 that's too low. I think we can be number
11 one. I want to be given the opportunity for
12 that. All the doctors here, look around, are
13 from ethnically diverse backgrounds and we are
14 here because we choose to be here. We're all
15 from the top best schools in the nation. We
16 want to be here. We have a mission to serve,
17 and I want to give Mr. Bruderman a chance to
18 allow us to do that. Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
20 Dr. Lev. Dr. Paul Pipia.

21 DR. PIPIA: Good afternoon.
22 Couple of things. I'm here in support of
23 Mr. Bruderman because I'm happy to see that
24 someone is willing to take and put on their
25 asbestos suit and get burned. I was on the

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2 board of trustees for the hospital for eight
3 years. Three of us those under Bruce
4 Blakeman. Three of those under Judy Jacobs.
5 The intimidation that came as board member who
6 worked in the hospital was tremendous. I had
7 one chairman of the board of trustees who said
8 he was going to beat the crap out of me
9 knowing that I have a disability.

10 In 2018 I was back at the hospital
11 again. I found that the county, under a
12 democratic county executive, owed us \$48
13 million. And when I said that they needed to
14 pay and I also pointed out that a vendor
15 hospital was supposed to be sending \$850,000
16 employees to our hospital weren't doing it, I
17 was told by that chairman, and he was also a
18 democrat, that I should look the other way and
19 screamed at the top of his lungs. You know
20 what happened? After so much intimidation I
21 stepped down.

22 Let me tell you this. In this
23 hospital if you have somebody who wants to
24 take their time and not be afraid, not have to
25 worry about the intimidation then I think you

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2 got the right guy. I had 28 years in health
3 care. My 28 years I've always served in an
4 underserved hospital. 15 of them at NUMC. 13
5 of them at Downstate in Brooklyn.

6 The problem is there are things out
7 there that we can take advantage of. One of
8 our competitor hospitals their budget for
9 supplies is \$7 billion. Our entire budget is
10 \$600 million and we got to get supplies out of
11 that as well.

12 The employees are underpaid in our
13 hospital. Yet they come to work every day.
14 And the reason why is because there's a law
15 that exists that we could get the same rate of
16 pay as other people but nobody else wants to
17 let us to do that.

18 Our nearest competitor get three
19 times the price for every procedure they do in
20 comparison to what we get. So, if you went to
21 the grocery store and paid \$6 for a gallon of
22 milk and the guy behind you got it for \$2 I
23 think you'd be upset.

24 Just the last thing is, the NIFA
25 consultant, Marcellus Alvarez, was a place

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2 that went around to our competitor hospitals
3 and said if we close the hospital could you
4 keep it afloat? And they said yes. Just make
5 sure they take care of the psychiatric
6 patients. I think that's about all I can
7 actually say now.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Dr. Pipia.

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Sorry Dr.
10 Pipia. My understanding was at some point in
11 time, and perhaps this is something that
12 Mr. Bruderman, if he's appointed, that
13 Mr. Bruderman can look into. My understanding
14 was that the hospital at one point in time had
15 a relationship with Northwell for the purpose
16 of being able to get those rates. And to be
17 honest, and this is my own fault, I have no
18 idea what happened to that relationship, but
19 it sounds as though it no longer exists.

20 DR. PIPIA: I'm not fully in
21 charge of the hospital. One of the deputy
22 medical doctors. I also run the rehab
23 department and I also run the neurology
24 department. Northwell declined to do it
25 because, to the best of my understanding, they

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2 felt there was an antitrust involved that
3 could hurt them. But the law clearly states
4 and it names our hospital that we should get
5 it. In fact, also, they have the person who
6 sits on the committee that decides who gets
7 cath labs and that's why we don't have a cath
8 lab when other hospitals of lesser, in my
9 opinion, lesser abilities have a cath lab.

10 Let me tell this. And the chairman
11 of the board of trustees that came after the
12 one that was so much on the intimidation
13 method for me, he contacted the Department of
14 Health and he said that we didn't need the
15 cath lab. And he did that without informing
16 the other board members and he made that as a
17 unilateral decision.

18 And I know that because I serve in
19 a lot of capacities in the New York State
20 Medical Society. I was president of the
21 Nassau County Medical Society in 2006. I'm
22 currently the vice president of the state
23 medical society and in two months I will be
24 the president-elect of the New York City
25 Medical Society. I've met so many people up

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2 in Albany and they were the ones who called up
3 and told me who did it.

4 We can get this stuff. We can do a
5 good job. We just need somebody to help us
6 get out of the way. If he's going to take the
7 heat for it I'm happy to have him on there and
8 I think everybody else should too.

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thanks Dr.
10 Pipia.

11 MR. BRUDERMAN: I was in
12 possession of a contract with Northwell. I
13 think it was maybe two and a half years old.
14 But again, when I was going through all the
15 paper work I did see something and people
16 within the hospital commented on that. So,
17 something there exists. I intend on looking
18 at it and we'll figure out how that can be
19 helpful or not or whatever. But you're right
20 there was something there and it's still there
21 so I'll take a look at it.

22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you so
23 much.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Paul
25 Occhiogrosso.

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2 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: I'm here for
3 Mr. Bruderman. I just want to clarify a
4 couple of things real quick. The EMT comment,
5 how they don't want to bring them to our
6 hospital. My daughter suffers from
7 Bradycardia. And when she had an episode
8 where do you think they brought her? NUMC.
9 Dr. Boutin took care of here.

10 The other thing too is, we went to
11 that precious Cohen's and we were pushed out
12 the door. This was a month ago. She got a
13 pacemaker and they pushed her out the door to
14 save their revenue and their pocket. That's
15 your precious Cohen's. So now that we got
16 that clarified.

17 The second thing is, I think you
18 guys should be ashamed of the way you abused
19 this man. You're all supposed to be helping
20 the minority community and you don't do it.
21 You would get the cath lab for us wouldn't
22 you? You would get us ambulances. Why does
23 Northwell ambulance contracted in Hempstead?
24 Why isn't it NUMC? I think our hospital is a
25 little closer. Can you answer that?

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2 Instead of asking what he can do
3 for the hospital why don't you ask yourselves
4 what can we do to help you do things for the
5 hospital. Those are questions I got for you.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Are you
7 done with your time?

8 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: No. You can
9 ask a question.

10 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Sir, I'm
11 very sympathetic to the condition that your
12 daughter has. My daughter was born two months
13 premature and I was in the middle of a primary
14 and I spent the last month there at the
15 hospital. And I just saw firsthand what they
16 do for premature children, my daughter.
17 Again, I'm very sympathetic. Again, if you
18 took those comments in the wrong way. But I
19 want you to understand that I was just told
20 that information by EMT professionals and I
21 relied upon that.

22 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: Well, you were
23 informed incorrectly. As long as I corrected
24 you with that. The other thing too is my
25 niece is an EMT. The way it works is, anyone

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2 who doesn't have cardiac problems goes to
3 NUMC. If there's cardiac issues they have no
4 choice but to bring them somewhere else.
5 Why? Because we don't have a cath lab.
6 Something anyone up there can do.

7 The next thing is, I really
8 appreciate, because I've never seen any one of
9 you at the board meetings. Excuse me. I've
10 seen Mr. McKevitt and I've seen Mr. Ferretti.
11 But as far as anyone else, I don't see you at
12 the board meetings. They happen monthly. Sit
13 there. Listen. Weigh in. You're sitting
14 here judging a hospital that you know nothing
15 about. You've never walked through the
16 doors. You don't know anything about the
17 people there. You're worried about our time.
18 You sit there and shake your head. But have
19 you traveled from Glen Cove down to East
20 Meadow and came in our hospital?

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I've
22 been in the hospital a number of times.

23 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: What happened
24 at the last board meeting? Where you there?
25 I didn't see you there. What about the time

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2 after that?

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The
4 bottom is line is we are connected with the
5 hospital.

6 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: You're not.
7 If you're not at the board meeting hearing
8 what's going on how are you connected with the
9 hospital? Explain that to me.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We
11 are of the financial responsibility. We're
12 connected with the county obviously. We did a
13 lot of work with the jail. We were very
14 involved with that.

15 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: I find that
16 hard to believe when I've been at every board
17 meeting for the last four years and I have not
18 seen anyone's face up there. Everyone that
19 drilled questions at this man I've never seen
20 any of your faces there. So explain that.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I'll
22 explain something to you and I want to give
23 you a compliment. Number one. I was happy
24 that you took over with the jail. I think
25 it's been a huge, huge improvement with the

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2 county. And I was very much involved with
3 that as my colleagues.

4 I had a very close friend whose
5 daughter's first communion dress caught on
6 fire and almost died and was in the burn unit
7 and I was there I don't know how many times.

8 Two months ago I had an uncle who
9 was in a nursing home with Parkinson's and
10 fell and hit his head and that's where he got
11 tremendous care.

12 I just want to say quickly on the
13 record, I understand that Mr. Bruderman thinks
14 he's going to come in and fix everything. But
15 I think that this hospital and the workers
16 that we have are amazing and what happened
17 during COVID was tremendous. I want to thank
18 each and every one of you from the bottom of
19 my heart. I lost a close relative. I know
20 what those last few hours are like. I do give
21 him -- listen, I wish him the best. I wish
22 that he does do all this. That was never my
23 concern.

24 My concern is the responsibility I
25 have. In a business world you're a risk

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2 because there's a possibility of a liability
3 which is him saying things that are not
4 acceptable. And they can hurt someone's
5 feelings and it can make someone feel
6 threatened and that is what I wanted to push
7 on today. Not once did I say I don't think
8 you're going to raise the money. Oh, I don't
9 think you're going to know how to -- I never
10 criticized him.

11 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: With all due
12 respect, that's the problem with the world
13 today is feelings. The man's ready to take
14 care of business.

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No,
16 it's not.

17 MR. OCCHIOGROSSO: We watched
18 chairman after chairman after chairman,
19 Northwell chairmans, Northwell picked
20 chairmans, fail our business. He's a
21 businessman. Let him take care of business.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
23 sir.

24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
25 Let's wish him the best.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator
3 Mazi Pilip wanted to comment.

4 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Can you hear
5 me? Hello everyone. First of all, I would
6 like to thank Mr. Bruderman for willing to
7 take the opportunity to fix the hospital.

8 For my colleagues for both sides.
9 Today we were out of control. Maybe I'm new
10 but it was very hard to watch it. I think we
11 have to be more respectful.

12 Then for my colleague Legislator
13 Solages, I don't think when somebody is
14 mispronouncing your name is always because
15 he's a racist. I don't think so. I don't
16 know if you remember when I first time joined
17 I didn't know how to pronounce three of my
18 colleagues' names. I couldn't pronounce the
19 last name. Not every time we have to be too
20 sensitive about little things.

21 I think it's time for us to see the
22 big picture. Here we have an opportunity, a
23 man who is willing to take his time to fix the
24 hospital. And we should care about our
25 community. How we can fix this hospital by

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2 providing the best care and really cutting the
3 health care cost. Let's give him an
4 opportunity. Let's see the big picture and
5 let's work together. Thank you.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
7 Mazi. That was the last slip that I
8 received. On behalf of the legislature, I
9 want to thank all of the employees of the
10 hospital who were here today to speak on this
11 issue. One of the things that gives us hope
12 for the future is your passion for the
13 hospital and your mission. So, thank you very
14 much for being here. We really appreciate
15 your time to be with us.

16 What we are going to do now is go
17 to a roll call vote. Legislators will be able
18 to make comments as the vote on the
19 nomination. You want to start Mr. Pulitzer?

20 MR. PULITZER: Thank you sir.
21 Deputy Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.
23 Let me just say that my background, thankfully
24 my family is in this wonderful country of just
25 about 100 years. Maybe a little bit more. We

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2 were not exposed at the time of the Holocaust
3 but I have my wife's family suffered greatly
4 and I've got some other relatives that did.
5 I'm very sensitive to any issues of
6 discrimination of any type.

7 A number of years ago when I
8 sponsored, well, I had a press conference on
9 the issue of a certain rock star who happened
10 to have been a vicious anti-semite and he was
11 performing at a county facility, my colleague
12 and good friend, Kevan, stood tall and proud
13 next to me and denounced the man in his
14 typically eloquent fashion. So, when Kevan
15 and some others who have shown some
16 sensitivity mentioned that or feel
17 uncomfortable about issues such as racism or
18 so forth I have to take it seriously and I
19 have to think about it. And I did.

20 The other thing that I'd like to
21 say about that is who among us hasn't
22 misspoken? I know that I'm not prone to be
23 politically correct all the time. As a matter
24 of fact, I don't even try to be politically
25 correct. Obviously we need to be careful

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2 though in what we say. We've got leaders at
3 the top of our government, both current and
4 previous, who are prone to saying things that
5 they ought not to say because they don't know
6 or they don't think or whatever the reason
7 is. It happens.

8 I've heard the back and forth
9 here. I'm prepared to accept Mr. Bruderman's
10 explanations. I believe that everyone on this
11 board here has got a good heart when it comes
12 to things like discrimination and hate. I
13 truly believe and I hope that there's not a
14 single racist over here. I don't believe that
15 that's the case. But we do have differences
16 of opinion.

17 I'm prepare to accept
18 Mr. Bruderman's explanations over here. I
19 don't believe he's a racist. I do believe
20 that perhaps he needs to be more careful when
21 he speaks and he said he will. I accept that
22 as well and I thank for that.

23 Now, moving over to the hospital.
24 This hospital, as has been mentioned by many
25 people, serves largely the minority

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2 community. It's a critical facility. And
3 it's in trouble and we know it's in trouble
4 and it's been in trouble for a long time. I
5 happen to be a lawyer but my background is
6 primarily been in business. But I've been
7 here also for a number of years. And I've
8 learned that when government does something
9 it's the nature of the beast that everything
10 costs twice as much, it takes three times as
11 long and doesn't get done right. It's just,
12 as I say, the nature of the beast.

13 I know in private business if you
14 run things that way you go broke. You're out
15 of business. The idea is to minimize costs
16 and maximize efficiency and deliver the
17 services so that your customers come back and
18 are happy and you do what you're supposed to
19 do. That's, I think, the methodology that has
20 to be applied to this hospital.

21 If that's the case and that's our
22 primary concern, I think that we're lucky that
23 we have a businessman who has been obviously
24 successful many years. Is willing to donate
25 his time and expertise ensuring that this

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2 critical facility doesn't go under. Let's be
3 clear about it. It could go under because
4 there's not unlimited money that's going to be
5 dumped into it. Again, that's the nature of
6 things.

7 For the foregoing reasons I vote to
8 confirm Mr. Bruderman.

9 MR. PULITZER: Alternate
10 Presiding Officer Denise Ford.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: I wish
12 Mr. Bruderman success in helping our hospital
13 and I urge him to consider his words before he
14 speaks. I hope he also keeps in mind that a
15 strong leader can still be compassionate and
16 soft at times. This hospital is very
17 important to all of us. I really hope that we
18 see that he fulfills his promises of bringing
19 more revenue and helping to build this
20 hospital to make it number one in the
21 country. So I vote yes.

22 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
23 Ms. Bynoe.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.
25 So, while I believe that Mr. Bruderman, while

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2 I have not attempted to characterize him as a
3 bad person because I do think he's done some
4 good in his time in serving in many different
5 capacities, I'm concerned about the hospital.
6 I'm concerned about the future of the
7 hospital.

8 My grandmother took her last breath
9 at A. Holly Patterson. My best friend, Tanya
10 Abrams, took her last breath at Nassau
11 University Medical Center about four years
12 ago. A young woman I missionaried with had a
13 horrific accident on a Fourth of July morning
14 and she is now wheelchair bound but I know she
15 would be dead if not for Nassau University
16 Medical Center and the wonderful care that
17 they provided to her. That's why this is
18 serious for me.

19 It's serious for me because there's
20 a tone and tenor that I think leadership is
21 reasonable for. They must set up an
22 environment of cultural competency and mutual
23 respect. I didn't judge Mr. Bruderman or
24 determine where I would stand in this vote
25 today just on one occasion. There were three

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2 that played out that resonate with me. It was
3 that public meeting at the hospital. It was
4 the behavior at that press conference and it
5 was the behavior here today. And for that
6 reason I question the ability to lead the
7 hospital, to serve its employees, the patients
8 and the residents of Nassau County in the most
9 appropriate way.

10 Do I believe that given his ability
11 to build businesses that he probably could do
12 a really good job at the hospital in making
13 sure that it could sustain? I believe that.
14 But I'm wondering at what cost. That's what
15 I'm left to question today. At what cost?
16 So, I have to say I vote no and it's a
17 resounding no. Thank you.

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
19 Legislator Carrie Solages.

20 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you
21 for saying my name correctly. Thank you very
22 much clerk.

23 Based on the testimony of numerous
24 medical professionals who appeared here today,
25 who made statements in favor of the nominee,

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2 these professionals who know more than me when
3 it comes to saving a life and they know more
4 than me when it comes to what's going on at
5 the medical center. And although I have not
6 attended a meeting, a board meeting, I do
7 check in regularly with Dr. Boutin and I do
8 find out from him what actually is going on.
9 It's hard to attend all these meetings when
10 you have a family.

11 Based on information that
12 Mr. Boutin has provided to me, I'm concerned
13 about the medical center. If the medical
14 center can gain a helping hand from an
15 individual who has access to philanthropy, who
16 has access to business acumen in which he's
17 shown clear abilities to turn businesses
18 around I would be foolish not to accept that
19 help.

20 For reasons I also stated when I
21 approved the appointment of Mr. Capece at the
22 consumer affairs office, in which I believe in
23 second chances, I would support this
24 nomination on the condition that he completes
25 anger management and also sensitivity training

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2 and also a cultural literacy course within 90
3 days. For those reasons I support
4 Mr. Bruderman thank you very much.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you
6 legislator. Legislator Debra Mule.

7 LEGISLATOR MULE: I've been on
8 this meeting remotely and I apologize for that
9 but I've listened to all the testimony. I've
10 listened to Mr. Bruderman and I also listened
11 to, as Legislator Solages mentioned, all the
12 testimony by the medical professionals.

13 But I have to say that I am deeply
14 concerned by -- it was the way Mr. Bruderman
15 talked about how he would be running things.
16 It sounded like a, well, and someone else
17 brought this up, I know all the answers and I
18 can fix it. I can do this in one year. And
19 on the one hand I applaud that very positive
20 attitude. On the other hand that concerns me
21 greatly because the people who have worked
22 there for so many years they definitely have
23 to be listened to and heard and different
24 ideas need to be heard.

25 I've learned this over the years

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2 that you come into something thinking I
3 definitely have all the answers and then you
4 hear from other people and you realize well,
5 wait a minute, I was missing a lot of
6 information about this or that. And I have
7 always valued listening to what other people
8 have to say.

9 So, I'm concerned about what I
10 heard about a lack of humility in what other
11 people have to say. So I'm concerned about
12 the way Mr. Bruderman will lead this.

13 Now, I know he will certainly --
14 the vote will be in his favor and I wish him
15 well and I hope that he has heard what has
16 been said here and will learn from it. But I
17 will be voting no. Thank you.

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
19 Legislator C. William Gaylor III. Bill, are
20 you on? We will come back to him. Legislator
21 John Giuffre.

22 LEGISLATOR GIUFFRE: My mother
23 was a patient at NUMC last year after
24 sustaining a fall in which she fractured her
25 femur in three places. She is a former

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2 operating room nurse and was a nurse for over
3 30 years. When it comes to health care
4 decisions, my sister and I let her make her
5 own decisions. When it came time for
6 rehabilitation she had a choice of where to go
7 and she chose NUMC and was in the service of
8 Dr. Paul Pipia.

9 My family and I personally, and
10 myself as a legislator, want NUMC to survive
11 and to thrive. And based on the
12 recommendations of the professional staff,
13 Dr. Boutin, Dr. Pipia, a number of other
14 people who came before us today, I am going to
15 go with those recommendations and vote to
16 confirm Matthew Bruderman on to the board of
17 directors. Thank you.

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
19 Legislator Mazi Melesa Pilip.

20 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Based on
21 Mr. Bruderman's experience and the support of
22 the community members who spoke in front of us
23 today I will vote yes. I also want to
24 recommend to Mr. Bruderman be more careful
25 when he chooses to say something because we

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2 have to be sensitive about our words.

3 And then my other recommendation
4 for the hospital, from my experience in health
5 care, I do believe by providing quality health
6 care we can prevent a lot of patients to come
7 back to hospital for small problems that can
8 be fixed by physicians in the community. By
9 providing more physicians in the community I
10 think we can take a lot of patients locally
11 without going to hospital and costing so much
12 money for the hospital.

13 I also agree that we have to have a
14 better system to collect money. At the end of
15 the day this is a business and we have to have
16 a better system to do that. Also by bringing
17 more service to the hospital, I think an
18 increase in the revenue and support the
19 hospital. Thank you. I will be voting yes
20 for him and wish him good luck.

21 MR. PULITZER: Thank you
22 legislator. Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
24 have to say that I was curious to meet you
25 today, and I heard from both sides of the

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2 aisle when they read those comments and it was
3 a lot of concern. My main question to you in
4 my mind was we all make mistakes. We all say
5 the wrong things. But did you feel remorse
6 and did you realize the impact of your
7 statements?

8 Honestly, I'm leaving here without
9 a true answer. But I know you're going to be
10 appointed and I hope not only morally but also
11 because we have a financial responsibility, if
12 you were going to be in charge of Winthrop we
13 would have no say and good luck. But if you
14 mess up it's our money, taxpayer money that's
15 going to have to be responsible for any of
16 these, what I hope you realize now, are
17 hurtful, damaging comments.

18 If in one instance when you're
19 about to say something something flashes in
20 your mind that Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton or
21 anyone else said that makes you stop and think
22 before you say anything, text anything, email
23 anything, do you want it to be in Newsday.
24 It's not a criticism to you, it's like an
25 education and that's what I'm hoping. You get

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2 that sense of pause.

3 But speaking to the hospital
4 members, I will tell you I also have a child
5 with a life-threatening condition. I've been
6 dealing with it for 22 years. I've been to
7 many hospitals with her in the state and out.
8 And the work that you do I couldn't do. I
9 don't know how you got through COVID. You
10 have a power that I respect and you have a
11 calling. We not only want you to succeed we
12 need you to succeed.

13 I want to thank you again and I
14 also want to say, Mr. Bruderman, prove us
15 wrong. Do a good job and we will appreciate
16 it. And again, maybe today wasn't a total
17 waste because I think that little light will
18 go off and hopefully it will avoid any risks
19 that I foresee. I vote no.

20 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Let's
21 go back to Legislator C. William Gaylor III.

22 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you
23 very much. I apologize. That was a technical
24 difficulty on my end. Although I was there, I
25 could hear you, you couldn't hear me.

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2 The bottom line, things in life
3 sometimes we come across as less than
4 desirable or less than we want to be portrayed
5 or sometimes we say things in the heat of the
6 moment that we don't necessarily mean or we
7 conduct ourselves in a way where we can be
8 argumentative. I know I'm guilty of that.
9 Sometimes we become very passionate. But we
10 learn as we go along. What I heard today is
11 somebody who is willing to learn and takes
12 those steps to avoid any misstatements in the
13 future.

14 More importantly, what I've learned
15 today is we have before us a businessman who's
16 sole focus seems to be making this a better
17 hospital for all of the constituents and all
18 of the residents of Nassau County and all of
19 those people that pass through Nassau County
20 and find themselves in need of some medical
21 attention.

22 What we've heard today is a
23 community of health care professionals that
24 work at the hospital step up forward and say
25 let's give him a chance. Let's give him a

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2 chance to turn around what's been a failing or
3 perceived as a failing hospital for many
4 years.

5 What I also heard today is somebody
6 who's going to make a commitment to our
7 veterans community and relook the veteran
8 service agency and its location. And
9 hopefully we can move that into a better
10 location and also possibly partner with the
11 federal government to provide those necessary
12 medical services to all the veterans in Nassau
13 and Suffolk county that find themselves in
14 need of service closer to home because the
15 Northport VA medical center is shuttering some
16 of its services if it does not close down.

17 So, for all those reasons I'm a
18 resounding yes today in favor of this
19 nomination and his appointment. Thank you.

20 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
21 Legislator James Kennedy.

22 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Thank you
23 sir. I'm having trouble getting my video.
24 I'm just going to say it without video.

25 But the priority for me is this

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2 hospital and I believe Mr. Bruderman will be
3 the best person to help NUMC based upon his
4 past experience as well as the supporters
5 we've heard from today. So I would like to
6 thank Mr. Bruderman for giving up of his time
7 to help us along this path, which we very,
8 very desperately need. And I think that he
9 will be a great help in assisting throughout
10 the future. So I support Mr. Bruderman.

11 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
12 Legislator Thomas McKevitt.

13 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: My family
14 moved to East Meadow 50 years ago this month
15 and this hospital has always been an integral
16 part of our community. My grandfather died
17 there. My father was there for a heart
18 attack. My brother was there for trauma. I
19 can't imagine my community without it. And
20 obviously it's been through some very tough
21 times. So I encourage Mr. Bruderman to work
22 with the board, with the medical staff, with
23 the community to make sure this hospital not
24 only survive but thrives. I will be voting
25 yes.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Thank you sir.

3 Legislator Laura Schaefer.

4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I vote yes
5 in favor of Mr. Bruderman and I have no
6 further comment.

7 MR. PULITZER: Thank you ma'am.

8 Legislator John Ferretti.

9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you
10 Mr. Clerk. Mr. Bruderman, I'm the legislator
11 in the 15th Legislative District. Which
12 actually the medical center lies at the very
13 westerly part of my district. The vast
14 majority of my district is Levittown, which is
15 as blue collar as you can get. So, while we
16 both speak English, I think you and I kind of
17 speak a somewhat different version of
18 English.

19 But that being said, I did read the
20 comments in the paper and I think we can both
21 agree that they were wrong. You admitted as
22 much. You apologized for it and I appreciate
23 that. I also believe that people make
24 mistakes. They say things they don't mean or
25 they shouldn't have said. Just as we should

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2 judge them on what they say, we should judge
3 them on how they attempt to cure those
4 mistakes.

5 What we saw today was an education
6 on cancel culture. That's we saw today. It's
7 taking something, one thing you said, which
8 was wrong, forgetting everything else you've
9 done for the communities that you've live in
10 all your life and just taking that one thing
11 and harping on it.

12 And what we see so often with
13 cancel culture is the proponents of cancel
14 culture are the hypocrites of cancel culture.
15 We saw that today. People who that give
16 second chances to some people but not to
17 others. People who listen to -- who are
18 willing to caucus with people who made
19 mistakes in the past but are not willing to
20 take your misspoken statement and look at all
21 the good things you've done. That's a shame
22 because speaking to that example, the person
23 I'm referring to did a lot of good things just
24 like I hope you do. So what I would be asking
25 for when the vote comes -- obviously we're

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2 voting one by one -- just consistency. I
3 think that's important.

4 I came here today having read your
5 statements and also in the paper but also I
6 did watch the board meeting and I heard the
7 statements there as well. I came here today
8 with an open mind. Thinking that you need to
9 prove two things to me.

10 Number one, that you're not a
11 racist. And number two, that you can fix the
12 hospital. After today, I have no doubt that
13 you are not a racist. No doubt in my mind.
14 And there's no doubt in my mind that you can
15 fix this hospital.

16 So, I will be voting in the
17 affirmative and I thank you for your
18 testimony.

19 And just before we pass on, I'm
20 only pointing this out because there was so
21 much discussion on it, which is insane to me,
22 but with regard to the name tags, and I'm not
23 saying this to be smart or anything like that,
24 but perhaps we should change legislator your
25 name tag because there is an accent that we

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2 can put above, like Legislator Mule's has an
3 accent. So we could have possibly avoided
4 that entire line of questioning if your name
5 reflected the proper accent that your name
6 should have. Maybe we can look into that in
7 the future. Thank you.

8 MR. PULITZER: Thank you
9 legislator. Legislator Arnold Drucker.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Good
11 afternoon. Thank you very much. So, our
12 responsibility as legislators today is to put
13 in place the best candidate to fill this
14 important leadership position. That's it. I
15 don't profess to the know the financial
16 workings of the hospital, how it's best to
17 serve. I leave that to other people that are
18 a lot more qualified and smarter than I am.

19 But our job is to vet and pass
20 judgement on an applicant and that's what
21 we're doing today. All the other peripheral
22 stuff is irrelevant. Yes, we can debate the
23 words that were used by Mr. Bruderman until
24 the cows come home. The bottom line for me is
25 there are three reasons that I will vote in

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2 the negative.

3 One is I think Mr. Bruderman lacks
4 the necessary health care experience or
5 hospital administration that I would like to
6 see for someone to assume a position as
7 chairman of the hospital board. He has a
8 tremendous amount of experience in finance, in
9 owning a lot of businesses. And there's no
10 question he's probably very, very talented at
11 that. But if it was me and I want to pick
12 someone who leads this hospital I want someone
13 one who has more personal experience in
14 hospital administration and health care. So
15 he lacks that in my opinion.

16 Second, Mr. Bruderman has stated
17 many times that he is apolitical. He's just a
18 fiscal conservative. But, Mr. Bruderman, your
19 documented history of political support belies
20 that. And this hospital needs less political
21 polarization and not more of it. I for one
22 don't believe that Mr. Bruderman can present
23 the neutrality that I would like to see as the
24 chairman or on the board of the hospital.

25 Third is what concerns me is

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2 Mr. Bruderman's management style. I'll be
3 quite honest with you. I don't see, what he
4 has displayed today, I don't see the ability
5 to work in a cohesive, collaborative and
6 respectful way with other board members or
7 administrators. And that's troubling to me
8 because we need someone who's going to roll up
9 his sleeves and listen to others who have been
10 there on this board. You've heard many of
11 them speak today who's been there for many,
12 many years. Listen to them. Understand where
13 they're coming from. Learn and maybe adopt
14 some of their suggestions.

15 The way I see Mr. Bruderman's style
16 today is, no, I'm going to listen but then I'm
17 going to do things the way I want to do them.
18 And I don't think if that's what's really best
19 suited for this hospital.

20 Based on that I'm going to vote in
21 the negative. Thank you very much.

22 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.

23 Legislator Rose Marie Walker.

24 LEGISLATOR WALKER: First of all,
25 I just have to say that what took place here

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2 today, and I agree with Legislator Pilip, it's
3 an embarrassment really to all of us. I'm not
4 a confrontational person. I'd like us to get
5 along. I'm strong willed. I'm passionate
6 about things and I will work extremely hard to
7 fight for all those things. But again, like I
8 said, I think it's an embarrassment to all of
9 us. I hate for those looking, that were
10 watching today that they had to see a display
11 like that. I believe sometimes we can
12 probably all go to some type of sensitivity
13 training because we can all have our moments.
14 Sometimes we feel like we're pushed to that
15 point and we do have those moments.

16 Even as a parent sometimes we have
17 those moments. Or as a grandparent. Well,
18 not as a grandparent. Whatever the grandkids
19 do is okay. But again, I think that that's
20 something we can all learn by.

21 This hospital, although it's not in
22 my district, I abut the district also from my
23 home. I have the 17th Legislative District
24 but I live in Hicksville. I could be the
25 closest legislator in my home to the

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2 hospital. Legislator McKevitt and certainly
3 our other legislators are close by also in
4 Levittown.

5 Many, many times that I do sports
6 in our school district. I still do
7 supervision. I do the official book, the
8 official clock. I've driven in the back of an
9 ambulance with one of our kids who's gotten
10 hurt on a field and where are they taken?
11 They're taken to the medical center. Even
12 when we're at away games the same thing. And
13 always treated with such -- and that was even
14 way before I was an elected official. So it
15 wasn't like I was in the hospital so often at
16 that time.

17 But the care given at that
18 hospital, everyone who was in that hospital
19 totally amazing. Our fire fighters often go
20 there for treatment that they need or they're
21 with patients that they're bringing and how
22 they're treated there. Our police officers.
23 Just every aspect of that hospital. Everybody
24 works so hard. During COVID what they did,
25 and I said it over and over, whenever I had

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2 the chance we'd bring food to the hospital.
3 We'd do many different things during COVID.
4 But the staff in that hospital, the nurses,
5 everyone, the doctors.

6 You know, we always say they have
7 to kind of separate themselves from their
8 patients and that they can't get too
9 attached. But during COVID they became our
10 families. They were the ones that held up an
11 iPad that families could see their loved ones
12 taking their last breath. Or even though they
13 might not be able to hear -- their loved ones
14 might not be able to hear they were there for
15 them. So they became our families during that
16 time and they just did a tremendous job.

17 They made sure that our teachers in
18 our districts that they were able to get their
19 vaccines quickly so we could try to get them
20 back into our schools. Just so much they went
21 over and over and over and above. I cannot
22 thank them for that.

23 I truly believe that Mr. Bruderman
24 is going to do a lot to enhance our hospital.
25 I can hear that from everyone who's here from

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2 the hospital. He's going to make sure that
3 everything possible that we can do to improve
4 that hospital financially and even the
5 services that we have there, he's going to
6 work to make sure that that's happens. And I
7 am very happy to vote yes for him.

8 MR. PULITZER: Thank you ma'am.
9 Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

10 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Thank you
11 Mr. Pulitzer and I'm sorry I couldn't be in
12 person today to engage in the
13 cross-examination. But from what I've heard I
14 don't have confidence in Mr. Bruderman's
15 appointment so vote no.

16 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
17 Legislator Steven Rhoads.

18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.
19 The one thing that I know is that if the
20 hospital were to fail it will not be because
21 of the medicine. And that's the tragedy of
22 this. It's because of its organization.
23 Because of its leadership. And ultimately
24 that's the issue.

25 We look at the proposal that's

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going to apparently be voted on on Monday at the state legislature and we look back historically on the state's investment in trying to prevent the failure of the hospital. And we see that as recently as 2016 Senator Hannon was able to obtain grants that were used by NUMC for various improvements at the hospital to the tune of that last round \$24 million. And we know that since Senator Hannon is no longer there those grants have essentially dried up. The state's almost treated the hospital in many respects as if it doesn't even exist.

So, I find it curious that two months after, less than two months after a change in administration, when new appointments are going to be made, that all of a sudden now the state has taken the interest to the point where they want to pack the board so that they can control and essentially take over what happens at the hospital. I don't know what their intentions are. What I know is what history tells me, is that that hospital has essentially been abandoned by the

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2 state. And this hospital is too important to
3 our community. Is too important to our county
4 to allow it to fail.

5 Whether they intend, I have no
6 idea, whether they intend to close it.
7 Whether they intend to privatize it. Whether
8 they intend to take services away. Whatever
9 that intention is I think we should have on
10 behalf of our residents none of it.

11 That brings us to today. I think
12 we need leadership at that hospital that's
13 different from the leadership that we've had
14 before. I think that leadership is what
15 Mr. Bruderman provides. A background in
16 finance. Someone who has the passion for the
17 mission. Which is the important mission of
18 saving that hospital. Making sure that it has
19 the resources that it needs to be able to
20 serve underserved communities both as the only
21 level one trauma center in our area, with an
22 exceptional burn unit that treats our fire
23 fighters. I've been a volunteer fire fighter
24 for 30 years. We take patients to NUMC every
25 single day of the week. We're confident in

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2 the care that they receive but they need to
3 have the support financially to be able to do
4 that.

5 I believe that Mr. Bruderman has
6 the expertise and the passion for the mission
7 to make sure that we succeed in saving that
8 hospital. So that it cannot only sustain
9 itself but it can grow and become what it once
10 was. Not because of anything having to do
11 with the medicine but because of years of
12 mismanagement.

13 The one thing that I'm concerned
14 about, Mr. Bruderman, is that we have to make
15 sure that the passion for the mission that you
16 have, you have to make sure that -- you can't
17 allow yourself to be a distraction from the
18 passion and from the mission. I think some of
19 the feedback you've gotten today and some of
20 the feedback that you've heard, I know you
21 have taken that to heart and I know that you
22 are going to make sure that's not the case.

23 But I, as a legislator, am happy to
24 work collaboratively with you. I wish you the
25 best of success in your mission. And I truly

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2 hope and pray that you succeed because NUMC is
3 too important to all of us. I couldn't
4 imagine it not being there. I will vote in
5 the affirmative and congratulations.

6 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
7 Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you
9 Mike. I appreciate it.

10 I was listening to everyone speak
11 and I was trying to figure out what I wanted
12 to say and how I wanted to say it. I think
13 most importantly the folks up here and the
14 folks out there and the residents that we
15 serve all need this hospital to be able to
16 remain open. We talk about it as a safety net
17 but I think that's more of a terminology.
18 It's a lifeline for people.

19 If you go into cardiac arrest you
20 have four minutes to be resuscitated. I don't
21 know if Dr. Boutin can correct me on that, the
22 timing, but you have a very limited time
23 before you could permanently lose some of your
24 bodily functions.

25 This hospital serves a minority

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2 community that all of us care about. It's a
3 community that I represent. I've heard from
4 my colleagues in regards to some of the
5 commentary that went back and forth. And I
6 apologize for my part in that. Unfortunately,
7 some of my colleagues paint it as it was just
8 one person or one side. Which that's the
9 problem that occurs many a times on this body
10 is that we just blame one side. We're all a
11 part of it.

12 I said some things. Rich, I
13 apologize to you. Rich said some things and
14 then obviously Mr. Bruderman said some
15 things. Collectively we could have done a
16 better job.

17 But that being said, Mr. Bruderman,
18 I take your comments to be offensive. I never
19 would use the word racism and good in the same
20 parallel. I think from that standpoint it
21 sounds like to me you've walked back those
22 comments. But it's not just the walk backing
23 of the comments. And I've heard Mr. Ferretti
24 mention cancel culture. It would be one thing
25 if Mr. Bruderman evolved, if you evolved in

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2 your comment and you said it 20 years ago or
3 two years ago and you've been a changed
4 person. If you show and you demonstrated that
5 you don't really think that way and believe
6 those things or believed whatever you
7 believe.

8 There's no vindictive part on my
9 side. I can speak for myself. As I said
10 before, I didn't even know who you were before
11 March 6th. I had no idea. However, if you
12 are looking to represent this body, this
13 board, and eventually become the chairman, I
14 should know who you are and I should care what
15 you do and what you say. Those words do have
16 an impact.

17 That being said, when you can make
18 the reference of good racism, I'm not too sure
19 why you had to look up racism or Google it. I
20 would like to think that somebody that's going
21 to serve in the capacity that you are going to
22 serve in, serving a diverse, multicultural
23 multi-ethnic body, I'm sorry, community such
24 as Nassau County, that I'm not too sure you
25 would have look that term up. You should know

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2 it. You're getting ready to represent a
3 diverse population. And as it has been said
4 before, I'm not sure you're up for this task.

5 This is not a personal attack.
6 Like I said before, I've never met you.
7 However, I do hope and wish that you're
8 successful. And it's not for you per se or
9 even for the county executive or for this
10 body. It's important that you're successful
11 on behalf of the residents of this county and
12 the patients that need that hospital and the
13 patients that can't get to a Winthrop or a
14 South Nassau or a Northwell and they only have
15 the medical center. Those are the people that
16 reside all throughout this county and those
17 people need this to be successful.

18 However, with that being said, I'm
19 taking the position of voting against your
20 appointment. That's a big shocker to many in
21 the room. But I'm doing it for multiple
22 reasons. And I believe that words and actions
23 matter. Mr. Bruderman, your comments at the
24 recent board meeting were completely and
25 totally unsatisfying from my standpoint. Not

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2 someone that I would see becoming the top
3 position of the hospital. Your financial
4 experience definitely bodes well.

5 However, your comments and then
6 obviously some of the things that you
7 mentioned today just doesn't seem to me that
8 you're up to the task. But I hope and pray
9 that you become more comfortable and more
10 suitable and obviously choose your words
11 better going forward in the future. As I said
12 before, we would want to and continue to wish
13 you the best in that capacity but I will be
14 voting no on your appointment today. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. PULITZER: Thank you
17 legislator. Presiding Officer Richard
18 Nicoletto.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you
20 very much. First I want to say, Kevan, there
21 was no need for the apology. Things got a
22 little heated but you certainly didn't say
23 anything to offend me. However, since you
24 have apologized to me now I have to apologize
25 to you so that we're even. It's like favors.

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2 Got to make sure the favors are even. I was
3 apologizing.

4 In all seriousness, we get
5 passionate up here, we get heated and we go
6 back to the business of the legislature and we
7 leave and we're all friends as we have been
8 for years.

9 You start out from this
10 perspective. The mission of this hospital,
11 and we all agree on this, is absolutely
12 critical. You serve the underserved. The
13 uninsured, the underinsured. You serve those
14 who have economic disadvantages. You largely
15 serve the minority populations of our county
16 and you provide services to our first
17 responders in many ways.

18 The hospital has struggled for
19 years. It has been mismanaged. That has
20 threatened that very mission. Even more so,
21 it's threatened the wonderful work that our
22 health care professionals are doing there. It
23 has to change.

24 Now, Mr. Bruderman, you misspoke.
25 We all do. You came here expressing regret

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2 for your misspeaking. You explained what you
3 meant to say. I don't think you can do
4 anything more. You're a successful
5 businessman. You've done very well in life.
6 You have a particular set of skills that I
7 think we could very well use at the hospital.
8 You are committed to turning this around. I
9 say let's give you a chance. I vote aye.

10 MR. PULITZER: Mr. Nicoletto, the
11 vote reads 13 in the affirmative, six
12 negative.

13 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It
14 passes. Congratulations Mr. Bruderman. You
15 sure you want to say something?

16 MR. BRUDERMAN: All the smart
17 people. I am long-winded but I won't be. I
18 just want to thank everyone here and say,
19 look, I'm prepared. Grill me ten times harder
20 about my performance and hold me accountable
21 and watch me go and watch what this hospital
22 can do when it's got the right leadership.
23 I'm going to call in the outfield. We're
24 going to fix it.

25 I want to thank everyone,

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2 especially the people that gave me a hard time
3 today. But again, for their constituents and
4 because I gave them good reasons to. But I'm
5 going to work very hard for everybody and
6 we're going to fix the hospital. And I thank
7 you very much for your confidence and I have
8 taken everything to heart. Thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Motion to
10 adjourn. Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by
11 Legislator Walker. All in favor of adjourning
12 signify by saying aye. Those opposed?
13 Carries unanimously.

14 (Meeting was adjourned at 2:32
15 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

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

THAT the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this eighth day of
April 2022.

FRANK GRAY