

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
PRESIDING OFFICER

FULL LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
CHAIRWOMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

January 25, 2016  
1:09 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES  
516-747-7353

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

NORMA GONSALVES  
Chair

KEVAN ABRAHAMS  
Minority Leader

SIELA A. BYNOE

CARRIÉ SOLAGES

DENISE FORD

LAURA CURRAN (Not Present)

C. WILLIAM GAYLOR

HOWARD J. KOPEL

VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA

RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

ELLEN BIRNBAUM

DELIA DeRIGGI-WHITTON

JAMES KENNEDY

LAURA SCHAEFER

DENNIS DUNNE, SR.

JUDY JACOBS

ROSE MARIE WALKER

DONALD MACKENZIE

STEVEN RHOADS

WILLIAM MULLER  
Clerk of the Legislature

LIST OF SPEAKERS

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| RAY PFEIFER. . . . .       | 9  |
| JAMES CARVER . . . . .     | 14 |
| THOMAS KRUMPTER. . . . .   | 16 |
| ROBERT KELLERMAN . . . . . | 18 |
| JOANNE BORDEN. . . . .     | 22 |
| JOHN KENNY . . . . .       | 24 |
| DAVID HSING. . . . .       | 28 |
| BRIAN SULLIVAN . . . . .   | 30 |
| KEVIN McCAFFREY. . . . .   | 34 |
| LAURA FERONE . . . . .     | 39 |
| ALLISON MCCARTHY . . . . . | 45 |
| JIM WHALEN . . . . .       | 47 |
| LORETTA GRONLIE. . . . .   | 48 |
| PATRICK NICOLOSI . . . . . | 49 |
| JOHN TWEEDY. . . . .       | 54 |
| RICHARD O'KANE . . . . .   | 57 |
| ABIGAIL MURPHY . . . . .   | 60 |
| TERRI PATERNO. . . . .     | 62 |
| SUSAN ODDO . . . . .       | 65 |
| NANCY MONTENEGRO . . . . . | 66 |
| MATTHEW SEXTON . . . . .   | 66 |

LIST OF SPEAKERS (cont'd)

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| NADIA ORTIZ. . . . .        | 70  |
| JUDY SANFORD GUISE. . . . . | 79  |
| RALPH EKSTRAND. . . . .     | 85  |
| LISA LOCURTO. . . . .       | 90  |
| ANDY SEXTON . . . . .       | 94  |
| MATTHEW SEXTON. . . . .     | 94  |
| ANGELO GIRARDO. . . . .     | 98  |
| JOYCE STOWE . . . . .       | 100 |
| CHERYL LEE. . . . .         | 102 |
| TAMMIE WILLIAMS . . . . .   | 105 |
| JACK MCCLOY . . . . .       | 109 |
| JOHN BUDNICK. . . . .       | 112 |
| META MEREDAY. . . . .       | 114 |
| CRYSTAL BERGER. . . . .     | 119 |
| DAVID FOWLE . . . . .       | 123 |
| KRISTY FLOOD. . . . .       | 127 |

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Dunne,  
3 would you please lead us in the Pledge of  
4 Allegiance?

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

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Muller, would  
8 you please call the roll?

9 CLERK MULLER: Deputy Presiding Officer  
10 Nicolello?

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

12 CLERK MULLER: Alternate Deputy  
13 Presiding Officer Kopel?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Bynoe?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Solages?

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

19 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Ford?

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

21 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Curran?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Gaylor?

24 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

25 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Muscarella?

2 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

3 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Birnbaum?

4 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

5 CLERK MULLER: Legislator DeRiggi-

6 Whitton?

7 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Here.

8 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Kennedy?

9 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

10 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Schaefer?

11 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

12 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

13 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

14 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Jacobs?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Walker?

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

18 CLERK MULLER: Legislator MacKenzie?

19 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Present.

20 CLERK MULLER: Legislator Rhoads?

21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Here.

22 CLERK MULLER: Minority Leader Abrahams?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer

25 Gonsalves?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Bynoe is here.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

At this point in time, we have two points of personal privilege. I'm going to begin with Legislator Walker's point of personal privilege.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Presiding Officer, today I'm truly blessed to have a very, very special man as my point of personal privilege and someone to honor. Although this gentleman lives in my district, every district in Nassau County, as well as the entire state, this entire country, and beyond this country has benefitted from the work that this gentleman has done.

My honoree today is retired firefighter from the FDNY, Ray Pfeifer. Ray is a long-time friend of my family. I am truly blessed to call him my friend. But he's been a friend to so many more. I'm sure many of you have seen articles written about Ray. He received the key to the City not long ago. And before we came down here this afternoon, he received the key to the County, which was a little surprise to him.

Ray spent many, many years - I'm not

going to give the exact amount - in the fire department in the City, giving of himself day in and day out. On 9-11, Ray was there, and Ray spent months and months afterwards, working on the pile, doing all he could to find many of his friends or anything he could that would help the family of his friends.

Ray has fought day in and day out to make sure that his friends were not forgotten, that those we lost that day and those we continue to lose are remembered and still have people fighting for them.

Ray, himself, has been very, very sick but he hasn't let that get in his way. He's blessed by a tremendous wife, Karen, who works over in our Superior Officer's offices; she has worked there for many years. He's got an amazing son, Terrence, and a beautiful daughter, who I've had the pleasure of knowing since they were little, little children. To see the look in their eyes when they talk about their dad and know all he's fought for and how much he's fighting for personally would just bring tears to all of your eyes.

I could go on and on. I'm going to let Ray fill you in a little bit about all he's done over the past number of years, many years, and then we'll present him with a Citation. Then, Norma, I'd ask if we could all because, as I said, he happens to live in my district but he really belongs to all of us.

Ray, if you'd step up, please.

MR. PFEIFER: Thank you. This is -  
thank you. Thank you.

Standing here, I'm a poster boy for a Bill that was way overdue in Washington. Many, many, many people worked on this. I just happened to be at the place at the right time, at the wrong place, whatever.

Think about it right now, in this county, how many people are affected by 9-11. We're dying from the terrorists still, 14 years later we still are. This bill helped a lot of Nassau County police officers, a lot of residents. All 19 districts, there are thousands of people. 33,000 people are being treated right now under this bill. There's almost 80,000 people that are being monitored. This is going to go far beyond

this also, in regards to the military. They're going to use our study. It's the only study that we have so many people that we can help our military. So it goes way beyond.

All I did was go down and fight the politicians that wanted to fight us. You've got to remember, a lot of them didn't like us, still don't. So we went down and really lobbied it. It was a lot of people. A lot of people in this room made phone calls. I'm sure a lot of people helped us out here. And I want to thank everybody here.

My family, they've been with me the whole time helping me out and doing everything. Rose, a personal friend, has been with me since I've been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer in 2009. She's helped my family make sure everything was taken care of.

I love this county. I love where I grew up in Levittown. I live in Hicksville now. There's nothing like Nassau County, believe me.

Thank you so much. This is way over the top for one guy that's just the poster boy.

Thank you.

2           LEGISLATOR WALKER:     And I can tell you  
3 all that this is how Ray is every day, always  
4 with a smile on his face, no matter how tough the  
5 day is, always has a positive thing to say. You  
6 certainly helped me get through some tough times,  
7 Ray, and we're here for each other, and I know  
8 you've been here for so many.

9           On behalf of everyone in the 17th  
10 Legislative District, certainly everyone in all  
11 of our districts in all of Nassau County - I know  
12 my citation is a lot smaller than the county  
13 executive's and I don't have a key to give you,  
14 but there's a lot of love packed in this  
15 Citation.

16           MR. PFEIFER:   I know that.

17           LEGISLATOR WALKER:   So this is just a  
18 little something for you, just in remembrance of  
19 us saying thank you to you for all you've done  
20 for all of us.

21           MR. PFEIFER:   Thank you. I appreciate  
22 it.

23           LEGISLATOR WALKER:   God bless you  
24 always.

25           I'd ask the other legislators, if they'd

come down and join us. It's probably easier for you to come down than for us to get up there.

CLERK MULLER: And Legislator Jacobs and Minority Leader Abrahams are both there.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Ford would like to speak regarding Ray.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon, everybody. I would be remiss, from somebody who has a personal involvement with the fire department and the City of New York without recognizing Ray and all that he's done.

We all know how brave and what heroes are firefighters are, that they are the ones that run into danger. Nothing was so apparent of their true bravery than on 9-11, when so many knew when they were going up into the Towers that this probably would be the last call that they would ever answer, and they still went. Even after the Towers came down, how many hours and how many days, how many months our emergency personnel, especially our firefighters, our police, and our construction workers labored to try to bring closure to so many families. When we think of heroes, we think of police, we think of cops, and

fire fighters. But when you look at Ray, you know that his journey has proven that not only is he a hero fire fighter to all of us, but he's a hero to all of those emergency people that are now suffering. As he said, so many thousands are sick because of 9-11 and working on the pile down there.

Ray, I have to say I wish you luck in your treatment. I know that you are very special to all of us. I cannot underscore or say enough about the bravery both you and your wife are showing. I wish you, I really do, I wish you a lot of luck in the days ahead and the years. I'd like to see you once again at our parade for our waterfront warriors. You are always there supporting the military, as you support so many people.

I know that fighting for this Zagroda Bill took a lot out of you. I have to hope with all the love that you feel in this room and wherever you go that you get a lot of it put back into you, a lot of energy, because we're all pushing for you. We love you. Thank you for all that you do.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: As we have done since September, we have been privileged in recognizing top cops in Nassau County, and today is no exception. I'm going to call on President of the PBA, James Carver, to introduce today's top cop, Robert Kellener.

MR. CARVER: Good afternoon everybody. Happy New Year. I think it's the first full meeting of the year, unless I'm wrong again.

It's actually a great privilege to be here today with our top cops, but a bigger privilege to be standing next to Ray. I know having two brothers, City fire captains, I know all the stuff that you guys have been through. It takes a real man to sit there and know that he's fighting Washington, D.C., yet you stood up there and you did the right thing. On behalf of all my members that went on that day, I want to thank you too. Great job.

We're here today to honor top cops, as we do every month. It's a great thing. I thank you all for giving us the privilege of being able to talk about the great work that our police officers do. The commissioner and I are totally

on board with this.

Back on October 10, 2015, just imagine, three o'clock in the morning you're in your house, sleeping, and everything is nice. All of a sudden you hear somebody in your house and you call 9-11. That's what happened on that day. A female was home alone, hears something in the house, hears somebody burglarizing her house, calls 9-11, our police officers respond, quick fashion - and this is in Massapequa. They get there very quick. As soon as they get there, the bad guy runs out. Officer Kellerman, who was 29 years on the job, getting ready to retire, what does he do? Most people would sit there and say I got 90 days left. Maybe I'll take a slow run. Even though he put on a little weight over the years, he ran him down and he got this guy. And he got this guy. Thankfully he did. If you commit one burglary, you know you're going to commit a lot of burglaries in the neighborhood. And if he did that one, you know he's responsible for others.

Again, probably the most intrusive thing that you can do is break into a house while there

are people in there. At that point, you have no fear, if you're going to do that.

Again, the great work of Bobby Kellerman, again, with 90 days left in his career. He wasn't thinking about his retirement; he was thinking about keeping this neighborhood safe. Like all police officers, you sit there and say no crime should happen on my post when I'm working. And we all take it very personal; he did that day and he got his man. For that, we're honoring him as a top cop this month.

ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: I'd like to start by echo everybody's nice words about Ray. An important battle you're fighting, not only for yourself, but taking your time and taking care of all the men and women that responded to 9-11. On behalf of the men and women of the Nassau County Police Department, we do have a lot of them that were impacted that spent a lot of time there with you, thank you for all that you've done. It's truly heroic and it is humbling just standing here next to you. Thank you.

There is probably nothing more terrifying

than to have somebody break in your house.

That's your sanctum, where you live, where you feel a degree of safety and comfort. Probably the worst thing that could happen to somebody is that somebody breaks into the house. It's a truly terrifying experience.

Today, we have Police Officer Kellerman, who I had the opportunity to work with in the Fifth Precinct, once upon a time, who is working each and every day up until the day he retires. It makes it even a little more special. It just shows you the level of dedication of the men and women of this department. Truly heroic actions by Police Officer Kellerman. Congratulations.

I'd also just like to take a moment and thank this legislative body, who continues to recognize the members of this department and the great work they're doing day in and day out. The day doesn't go by that police officers in this department aren't doing a great job. So thank you for that.

Congratulations to Police Officer Kellerman. May you have a healthy and very long retirement.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Does Officer Kellerman want to say anything?

MR. CARVER: He trained me too. He was down in --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: He trained you too?

MR. CARVER: He didn't just work on the street. He also worked at the Firearm's Training Bureau for many years down there, teaching tactics and firearm's training. He was definitely one of the best that we had down there, down at the range. I want to thank you for taking care of - how many recruit classes that he went through the process with, teaching them the tactics needed to survive out there on the street. Thanks.

MR. KELLERMAN: I have nothing to say, except I enjoyed working for Nassau County. It was one of the best experiences I ever had. It was like a team. Everybody knows what to do and everything works out together. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Officer Kellerman, are you listening? All of us up here wish you a very long and happy retirement. And

every now and then I'm sure that James Carver would like to see you and talk about old times.

In the meantime, I have a citation from this body to present to you. I will bring it down there. Anybody who wants to join me, feel free to do so.

Now it's approximately 1:43 - am I correct, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK MULLER: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Since there are so many of you who wish to partake in our public comment session, I am going to extend the 30 minute public comment portion of the meeting to one hour.

I'm asking you thing; I know there are several of you who have put in slips and they're there. Chances are I can't get to all of you within that one hour. But we stay in our seats right after the Full Legislature meeting to listen to the concerns of the rest who have not had an opportunity.

We have one hour. I'm going to being by saying to you we have a three minute limit. I also would like you to understand that sometimes

we're tempted to engage in a back-and-forth session with the legislators, that takes from that one hour. I think in all fairness to all of you, who have been sitting here for a while, that you would like to be heard. Not all of you are here for the same reason. So I am going to begin calling those who have put in their slips early enough and are not going to be speaking on the issue of the casino. Remember, we'd like to get to most of you within that one hour and hopefully we will. If you engage in the procedure that I have just laid out to you. Hopefully, hopefully my colleagues on the dais will give you that opportunity to voice your concerns regarding the casino.

With any further ado.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer, I just want to inquire. During the public comment, the hour long public comment, our speakers who are here, who took the time out to come here in the cold weather to speak on the casino issue, are they allowed to speak during the one hour period of public comment.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I said if we

don't engage in a back-and-forth conversation with the individuals who have come here to voice their concerns regarding the casino, then we can get to a good portion of all of them. If not, guess what -

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I just wanted to make sure.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: If not, I did say, after the one hour we will go into the full legislature meeting and begin with the calendar and then come back and listen to the rest of the individuals who choose to remain and voice their concern.

In the meantime, I'd like to begin. The time is now --

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Just to clarify, are you beginning with the casino speakers?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm beginning with whomever gave me the first. I'm sure they're not going to occupy too much of the time.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Okay. Thank you very much, Presiding Officer.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Bill, what time is it?

CLERK MULLER: 1:45.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You got it. So  
at 2:45 --

CLERK MULLER: I will tell you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very  
much.

Joanne Borden.

MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon. On January  
20 the New York State Division of Human Rights  
started protecting transgender people from  
harmful discrimination, and that includes  
transgender people in Nassau County. That was a  
good and moral thing to do. And it was long  
overdue. An anti-discrimination law is important  
because many people live in constant fear of  
losing their job because they were born with a  
birth variation called transgenderism; a birth  
variation medical scientists say is not different  
than red hair or left handedness. Now it is time  
for this legislature to reaffirm their often  
publicly stated belief that Nassau County's Human  
Rights Commission will also clearly protect  
transgender people as the law does for race,  
religion and all others.

You need to conform to the state's ban on discrimination clearly, by passing the Gender Clarification Amendment. End the doubt that transgender people have regarding local protection. And, most important, most important, local employers will know local authorities will enforce the law.

State laws are important because their protection reaches rural areas. However, a state law is dictated by people preaching morality in a distant city. A local law involves your neighbors, people you pass in the street, who squeeze their wagons passed yours in the supermarket, telling you what is right and what is wrong. Nothing is more powerful than you, local people, reminding your constituents all harmful discrimination is wrong.

A message from local people always has a great impact on local people and raises the moral message to a higher level. We need the power of your voice to your constituents repeating it is morally wrong to discrimination against any of God's children.

Pass the Gender Clarification Law and

send a needed clear and powerful message that harmful discrimination will not be tolerated in Nassau County.

Thank you for listening.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: John Kenny.

MR. KENNY: Hello, members of the Legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. I'm John Kenny from Audrey Lane in East Rockaway. I live adjacent to the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant. And there are a number of items I'd just like to touch base with you on and make you aware of.

Obviously, in the paper there was a recent decision on the part of the federal government not to fund the ocean outfall, which would make treatment to a level of removal of nitrogen more problematic. This decision of not to allow an ocean outfall means that we're going to have to comply with an enhanced level of denitrofication, removal of that particular element that will cause blooms of algae and other issues in our western bays.

Now, you should realize that the local community in East Rockaway, Bay Park, Oceanside,

we're all environmentalists. We live by the water. You should also realize that there is untold economic loss from the continued minimal treatment of the effluent that goes into our western bays and directly into Reynolds's Channel, opposite the Magnolia Pier in Long Beach.

Having said that; We, as local constituents, local citizens, are also obviously concerned about the sewage treatment plant itself. Of course, over the years the sewage treatment plant, which was put into our community and occupied a very small footprint, has moved beyond that boundary. As each new federal mandate has come up and each new federal mandate has dictated, for instance, no more ocean dumping, we had to facilitate within the footprint of the plant, the 40 acres, a dewatering facility, a large facility. We also had, back in 1992, became the host of an in-house generation plant, which was left to wither and never really ran very well. Pre-Hurricane Sandy, the henhouse generators were not functioning and we had to endure many, many months unnecessarily

of auxiliary generators. We're happy to report - we went to a meeting with Deputy County Executive Rob Walker, Shilah Shah, the Commissioner of Public Works, and they are on board. They had representatives from PSE&G. They will, in fact, now be trying to facilitate the importation of power from Power Professionals, that's PSE&G, to the Bay Park facility in East Rockaway, Bay Park. That will allow the county to decommission those existing generators; that's a wonderful thing. We want to caution you. You should be aware that the DPW also told us at that meeting that they will now try to recapture and benefit from that methane, that is a natural byproduct of the sewage treatment process. It's currently being flared off from a location internal into the plant. But what they would like to do is they would like to put in some type of a power generation facility to capture that bit of energy. They still need a feeder cable coming in from PSE&G. When we heard this, we said that's great. We thought about it and said we have to be very careful.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have

expired, sir.

MR. KENNY: I'll just go on for another minute.

The county said when they put in their initial generators that they would run, they were the most efficient; they never ran right. So now we're getting new generators.

We also want to just call your attention to E-3 Generation Building, which they're siting right on Marjorie Lane, within 100 feet of the road. It's a 60 foot building, 150 by 150 footprint, with five diesel generators located on top.

At the meeting with Rob Walker, the Commissioner, we explained to them, hey, look, you've got 530 feet. Not to put it in somebody else's backyard, not to put it closer to whatever residents, but to site it back a little bit away from the road so it's not looming over our houses, so that when you have to start up these generators and run them, that they're not going to be impacting on us. They have to be run routinely, even if they're auxiliaries, if there is a power outage or they have to be tested.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Kenny, would you please wrap it up.

MR. KENNY: Okay. Thank you.

As always, what we want to say is we're dealing with the aftermath of Sandy. We're dealing with the aftermath of all the improvements, the construction issues at the plant. We just ask your cooperation, in terms of making sure that DPW does the right thing by us and makes some accommodation for us so we can continue to host this plant that is going to hopefully do a better job for the county and all of its residents.

I thank you for your time. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: David Hsing.

MR. HSING: Good evening, ma'am. Good afternoon, Legislators. My name is Colonel United States - Colonel David Hsing, United State Army, Retired. I'd like to speak to you about the contracting problem in Nassau County.

My suggestion to solve it is very easy: I'd like to see you adopt, word for word, the Federal Acquisition Regulation which the United States Government uses. It is a perfect thing.

It has been in existence for 50 years. It will solve all of your problems right away.

I know that you had gentlemen like Robert Catell, Stuart Rabinowitz, and Frank Zarb talk to the county about it. However, they have never been United States Government contracting officers. They have never held the allegiance and the Oath of Offices of government contracting officer, and they certainly haven't completed all the list of schools that's required before you can sign on the dotted line as a U.S. Government contracting officer. So my suggestion to you is you don't have to research the law, you don't have to write the law, you don't have to do anything except immediately adopt the law and, therefore, you will have a contracting process will get you everything from a pencil to a satellite.

As they told us in one of the classes - and I'll make it very simple - most of you would say this is a pencil; however, it is really a writing instrument, graphite, wood encased, septemubulm shape, yellow, six inches long with a rubber end. If you research and development

that, it will cost you \$24,000. If you go to Staples, it will cost you \$1.00. That's what the federal acquisition will regulate and mandate.

Thank you for your attention.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much, Mr. Hsing.

Brian Sullivan.

MR. SULLIVAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the legislature. A lot of familiar faces here. I'm a blast from the past. I was - for anybody that doesn't remember, I was the Vice President of the Correction Officer's Union for ten years - eight years, I was in the union for ten years, briefly the president up until about four years ago. I'm back. A lot of familiar faces. A lot of new faces up here. I apologize if I haven't touched based with you. We've had a heck of a transition in the last couple of weeks going in. I promise I will be in touch with every single one of you. I hope to meet with you individually. One or two of you I've met with. But I just wanted to formally introduce myself on the record.

To my right is Patrick McDevitt; he's the

First VP of the Union. He's going to be the legislative liaison. He's going to be the burrow under a lot of your saddles over here for most of the meetings. I'll be the itch. He'll be the burr.

Just to get going with a few things that I just wanted to touch base on. It's basically just an introduction.

The after effects of the freeze, I don't think it was adequately conveyed to the public and to the legislature and the county just how the wage freeze affected our members. I had at least 15 of my members go bankrupt during the freeze, people that were low on the steps that had to work three, four, and five other jobs. There was a lot of it that went into that. It didn't affect other employees of the county and unfortunately other employees of the county were laid off. A lot of people were hurting. A lot of people are still hurting.

Right now, going into this, my new term, we're in a honeymoon period with the county. We're getting along very well with everybody. Everything is wine and roses. I've had a couple

of very productive meetings with the county executive, the deputy county executive, and the sheriff. I certainly hope to see that continue. I have hopes that it will continue.

My board, my new board that came in, our top priority is security of that correctional facility. Security, security, security of the inmates and particularly, as the union, of my members. I want my guys to be safe. I want that to be a safe facility. And I certainly expect cooperation from the sheriff, the county executive, and the legislature to get just that done.

There's been a lot of cuts over the last four or five years. I joke with the sheriff that it's time to put his red pen away. We need to run a facility. I understand that the place has been cut. But we still have a lot of issues. We have weapons in the facility. We have that K-2 synthetic marijuana in the facility. Of course, the bottom issue is money. I want the tools. I want metal detectors. I want shakedowns. I want searches. It's going to need attention. Unfortunately, to run a facility like that, the

county jail is like the county's boat; it a hole in the ground you pour money into.

It would nice to get inmates in there from other jurisdictions that would pay us for the headcount - I'd be all for that - to help offset the costs of anything. But we need to pay attention to security here. You've seen all the things in the newspapers, Riker's Island, things like that. I'm sure everybody remembers me here. It's the same inmates that come back and forth. There are a lot of City inmates here that come out. You see the slashings and everything else in the City. There are slashings of inmates out here. If one of my officers gets slashed, you're going to hear me screaming from the rooftops that we need to get tighter on the security.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, sir.

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm going to wrap it right up.

A lot of other issues that we have. I'm hoping to get cooperation on. Legislator Ford, we worked in the past about getting body alarms done. Vests, training is of utmost importance.

There are a couple of other sensitive issues I spoke to the county executive about that I hope to - I'm not going to speak about here because they're sensitive issues.

Basically, you know, with the freeze, with the financial issues that have been on the county, I understand we've got to count beans. We've said that. I've stood at this legislature in front of Mr. Schmitt and legislatures in the past. We understand we've got to count beans, but there's also a human element that goes along with this. There is safety of the community, safety of the inmates, and my utmost concern is the safety of our officers at that correctional facility. We just need the tools. If you give us the tools, we'll do the job.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much, Mr. Sullivan.

Kevin McCaffrey.

I just want, before we get into the concerns of the communities regarding Belmont and the VLTs, I would like to address the issues as the VLTs and not casino. Mr. McCaffrey.

MR. MCCAFFREY: Thank you, Presiding Officer and Legislators. My name is Kevin McCaffrey. I'm here as a member of Teamsters Local 707 speaking on behalf of the hardworking men and women of OTB who are represented by Teamsters Local 707 and who will be working at the proposed VLT facility at Belmont.

I stand here in opposition to the resolution calling for the removal of any OTB directors who are not willing to come out publicly and make a commitment not to support the placement of a temporary or permanent facility for VLTs at Belmont or anywhere in Nassau County. But I do stand here in support of good paying jobs with medical and pension benefits for the current and future members of Teamsters Local 707 who will be working at that VLT facility. I am hopeful that these future jobs will also be made available, on a priority basis, to the residents of Elmont and Floral Park as well.

This is not just about jobs for any members. It's about good paying construction jobs for the building trades members, many who live in the surrounding community. It is more jobs

created by local businesses, who will benefit from the increased economic expansion and the communities surrounding Belmont. It's also about the increased revenue to the county, to support more services to the surrounding communities and additional revenues to share into the host communities of Elmont and Floral Park. We just stood up and heard many of the challenges that the county faces in public safety, such as the police, and also, as we just heard, from our corrections officers.

As a Suffolk County Legislator, I know full well the impact of the necessary for increased revenue to support the services in these times.

People will speak of the evils of gambling. But the facts of the matter is gambling will go on regardless of the placement of VLTs at Belmont. Less than ten miles away at Aqueduct the most successful VLT operation is in effect right now. It is revenue that would have gone to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or Connecticut.

Gambling is all around us, whether we want to admit it or not. You stand in line at

the stationery store, the Powerball fever almost took over Long Island. You see the millions and millions of dollars that are going to Draft King and Fan Dual right now in those operations. Who among us doesn't take a chance with a Super Bowl pool just to keep it interesting? Yes, currently at Belmont and for the last 148 years, gambling has been occurring at that very location.

These VLTs are projected to generate 10 to \$20 million for Nassau County; \$72 million to the state for school funding, and over 300 good paying permanent jobs, something every community could use.

Last year, as a Suffolk County Legislator, a similar bill was brought before us in opposition to the Medford VLT facility. I will say again as I said last year: I believe the adverse impact on the community is overstated, in terms of traffic, and also the other affects are being blown out of proportion. I believe at the end of the day this will only be a positive for these communities. But even so, if I wasn't completely convinced and I had a decision to make, rest assured, I will always err

on the side of creating good paying jobs and economic development for these communities; I ask you to do the same. I urge you to do what we did in Suffolk County last year and vote against this resolution.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Mr. McCaffrey.

Listen. Bill, I'm going to interject here for a minute.

I know how this issue is playing on the communities of Elmont and Floral Park. But we are here to listen to your concerns. And I want you to know that we understand your concerns.

The process has not begun. The process begins, really, when the site is defined as the site. According to State Law, an environmental impact study has to be done. And that impact study does include some of the concerns that you're going to raise here today.

I come from a very community leader, community activist base. I have to tell you that there were many facilities in my district that were very adverse to the residents of my

community. So know why it is important to listen to you, to hear your concerns so that they will be addressed in whatever follows.

The process has not begun as of yet. It begins with the state environmental impact study.

By the way, this does not - my comments subtract a few minutes from the - yes, I'm serious. I look at the clock too. Please, give respect to one another. You don't all have to agree, but you all really should be listening to one another. That's what I'm asking you to do today.

I'm going to begin with Laura Ferone, who I believe is part of the Floral Park-Bellerose School District.

Remember what I said, be respectful.

MS. FERONE: Thank you. Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Laura Ferone. I come here as president of the Floral Park-Bellerose School District Board of Education and as a trustee on the Sewanhaka Central High School District Board of Education. More importantly, I come here on behalf of the 930 elementary school students, grades pre-K through

six, who attend the Floral Park-Bellerose School, as well as the 1500 students, grade seven through 12, who attend Floral Park Memorial High School.

I am here to publicly state our strong opposition to the proposed VLT casino that is being contemplated being placed at Belmont Park. For those of you not familiar, the Floral Park-Bellerose Elementary School is located adjacent to the Belmont property, half a mile from the grandstand and separated by 1137 feet of chain link fencing. The grandstand is clearly visible from the school, literally within walking distance. We have grave concerns about the safety and welfare of our students should this proposal become a reality.

Statistics demonstrate that casinos increase crime and much of that crime often occurs outside the casino in the parking lot. We have concerns about what our students may witness, should this come to fruition. There are up to 300 children at a time playing at lunch, recess, and physical education during a given school day. Our play structure lies within eight feet of the fence. On weekends there can be up

to 1,000 children playing soccer and utilizing our school fields. We have many safety concerns about any activity that takes place on the opposite side of that fence.

Floral Park Memorial High School is located across the street from the Plainfield Avenue entrance to Belmont Park, known as Gate 8. This entrance is a direct route to the grandstand, just .6 miles from our school. Unlike many rumors that the gate is traditionally closed, I have lived in Floral Park for 27 years, it is open on a regular basis. Last week, I drove there myself and it took me under a minute and a half, door to door, from the high school to the grandstand, going the Belmont speed limit.

We are an open campus for seniors, and truly must agree that high school students and young adults should not be able to drive to a casino in under a minute and a half. I hate to think that our young, impressionable students could conceivably go to gamble during their lunch period. Again, this VLT casino proposal is too close a proximity to our school.

With regard to the proposed site.

Belmont Park is the fourth proposed site to date. Prior sites, as you are all aware, include Plainview Raceway, the Nassau Coliseum, and the Westbury-Fortunoff site. All were fiercely rejected by residents in each of those neighborhoods. The Coliseum was particularly rejected by Hofstra University because of the negative impact that such a venue would create around impressionable students; we agree completely. Our schools are in closer proximity to Belmont than Hofstra University is to the Coliseum.

We have heard the rhetoric that gambling is gambling and Belmont is a perfect location because there is already wagering there.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired.

MS. FERONE: I'm almost done.

As a nurse, I have another analogy. Advil and morphine are both pain medications, yet they both have very different side effects and very different long-lasting implications. I urge all of you to educate yourself about the real differences between VLT as a form of gambling,

it's analgesic nature, virtual around-the-clock access, and speed at which one can bet, more often ten times or more per minute, is a recipe for addiction. I hate to think that close proximity to a high school would only spell disaster.

In addition, residents throughout the county are voicing concerns. Maybe we need to change the conversation about how we can work better together to find real, long-term, positive solutions for Nassau County.

Our community and our children are worth more than \$20 million needed to close the budget deficit.

With regard to the anticipated revenue from this venture, I ask each of you to read New York State Comptroller's report on gaming from May 2014. Tom DiNapoli clearly states that at this point it is difficult to quantify new state revenue from new casinos due to market saturation, close proximities of casinos to one another, and shifting revenue. Aqueduct World Resorts, I remind you, is only ten miles from Belmont. Why would we gamble with our children?

Why would we gamble with our communities, especially in light of our own state comptroller's report? I urge you to read it.

I clearly understand the county's fiscal needs and challenges; school districts have faced many of these challenges and yet school districts across Nassau County have made it work.

I leave you with four lines of advice from the West Point cadet's prayer: Choose the heart of right instead of the easier wrong; never settle for a half truth when the whole truth can be found; let us come together, let us choose the harder right and find better solutions, long-term positive solutions for our county instead of a quick buck in a slot machine; let us take the time to vet the real facts about the real risks and the real revenue; let's demand that OTB provide real information instead of half-truths, pipe dreams, and fantasies about what this type of venue will really bring to a community.

I thank you for listening. I invite you all to please come visit our district where we can better show you our concerns. I look to changing the dialogue and working together for a

better Nassau County, one that I know we can be.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much, Ms. Ferone.

Alison McCarthy. Is there an Alison McCarthy here? Okay. Let's go.

Try to stay with the three minute limit, because it's still going to be one hour. So, please, try to stay within the three minute limit. Thank you very much.

MS. MCCARTHY: Thank you. My name is Alison McCarthy and this is Erin McCarthy. We live right next door to Floral Park Memorial High School, which you just heard about, across the street from the Belmont gate and, Erin, when she grows up, will be going to Floral Park-Bellerose School.

We live on Plainfield Avenue, which will be negatively impacted by the VLT casino. We urge you to vote against this VLT gaming parlor.

The traffic that comes through Plainfield is already high. With this gaming parlor right across the street from our home, it's going to be so much worse. Erin will have to cross

Plainfield Avenue in order to get to school. If you have this VLT gaming parlor open 24/7, the traffic is going to be much worse. You could have people coming out of the gaming parlor at 3:00 a.m., 4:00 a.m., 5:00 a.m. intoxicated and it could cause a lot of trouble for the children that are crossing the street to go to either Floral Park-Bellerose School or to the high school.

We have a lot of children walk passed our house to go to the high school. A lot of children have to cross Plainfield Avenue in order to go to the elementary school. It's really - the traffic disaster that would be caused by this gaming parlor would really negatively impact our town.

My husband and I work very hard in order to live in Floral Park. I work full time. I took off of work today to come and speak out against this gaming parlor. It means a lot to us to keep Floral Park a nice, safe town, and this gaming parlor would change all of that. Floral Park is a wonderful place to live. I grew up in Floral Park and now I recently bought a house

there. As I mentioned, my husband and I work very hard to live in this wonderful town. We urge you not to put a casino in our backyard. Please don't gamble with our future, the future of our children, and the safety of our town.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much, Ms. McCarthy.

Jim Whelan. Jim Whelan.

MR. WHELAN: Thank you for this opportunity. I'll be brief.

The process, as we all know, is not open to transparent and there was no input from the community. What I'd like to ask this great body of ladies and gentlemen to do is to take a good hard look at your OTB board, officers and directors.

I was able to find out that there was a \$5 million loan taken last year, obviously to keep it solvent. So, please, you have a fiduciary responsibility to take a look at who is serving on that board. Any organization that loses that kind of money, you want to gamble and make your \$20 million? You need to take a look at who is going to be in charge.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Mr. Whelan.

Richard, is it, Gruley? Is that correct? If it's not correct, please correct me. It looks like G-R - it's 163 Crocus Avenue. Please correct me. Pardon, I didn't hear you. Go ahead. You're in his place. You are now Richard. That's fine. But please tell us your name when you get up there.

MS. GRONLIE: I thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And your name is?

MS. GRONLIE: Loretta Gronali.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Oh. It's Gronali.

MS. GRONLIE: Gronlie, yes.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: G-R-O-N -

MS. GRONLIE: L-I-E.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Got it. Thank you.

MS. GRONLIE: We chose Nassau County as a place to live and raise our children for its way of life. We pay very heavily in taxes to live here. We balance our budgets in order to

pay all of our taxes and keep our home going; we ask that the county do the same.

VLTs and casinos at Belmont are ill-conceived, deleterious, and without conscientious; agreeing with this stance are our chambers of commerce, home school association, PTAs, village governments, civics, clergy. There are many businesses with no casino signs in their windows, they support us. Our police leadership has sited the additional crime, traffic, and rescue facilities that will be drained.

Across and adjacent from our schools, this is a very dangerous, ill-conceived motion.

Las Vegas was not built on winners. We're not going to have winners here. We are going to have people drawn to a very addictive habit.

Westbury, Plainview, Nassau Coliseum, and our sister Medford, none of us want casinos. It is time to introduce legislation prohibiting their erection in our communities.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Patrick Nicolosi.

MR. NICOLOSI: Good afternoon, ladies

and gentlemen of the legislature. Happy New Year. I'd just like to address a couple of issues.

We've seen - how many times have we bailed out Belmont? \$180 million I think. Wall Street. Banks. Okay. So now they're talking about OTB. We know the problems.

Ironically, what's coming out in the news lately, we see the Speaker of the Assembly, Hastees, connection to Jenting. We see - I did some checking on Carrie. I just wanted to tell you something. He served as the recording secretary of a coalition for standard development and we were working with the Shinnecock Indians and Michael Milk from Detroit to build a full-fledged casino at Belmont Racetrack. At no time was he in opposition, now all of a sudden he's in opposition.

If you check his campaign contribution, there's a company called LLC Raceway. One of the guys who bid on Belmont Racetrack, Steven Craiger, who has generously donated to Carrie and his sister. Again, the hypocrisy is ridiculous.

Also, the hypocrisy of the school board

president. Here is a picture of the Floral Park School - I know Ms. Gorella's (phonetic) family has gone to Sewanhaka and so has my family. 2,000 people protest in an auditorium that fits 300. Kids were there and all. Fire codes broken, school laws broken. When they allow the civic president to ask for a donation for lawn signs. Clearly, I don't pay taxes for my schools to be used in this manner. They never were. They just set a precedent, Mr. Muscarella. If you ever want to have a rally at Sewanhaka Central High School, by all means go there. They can't stop you no longer.

          This hypocrisy about gambling. I see no gambling. No gambling. Did anybody tell these people that gambling goes on at Belmont Racetrack? When people go there to bet on horses, that's gambling. When people go to grocery stores, gas stations, convenience stores to buy a lottery ticket or bet numbers, it's gambling. When I go to Floral Park to bet a Super Bowl pool illegally, it's gambling. People gambling.

          You talk about addiction. The number one

addiction in Long Island and every state right now is heroin, it's not gambling. We need revenue. Local 707 is here. We want jobs. The trade unions want jobs. Belmont Racetrack cannot operate 90 days a year. It's unconscionable.

At the track in Queens, which it seems like Mr. Carrie, the sister is supporting the revenue of Queens. They did a billion dollars since the inception. So the \$20 million is really a low-ball figure, and the schools can use the revenue and GYO can use the revenue, and Nassau County taxpayers can use jobs and revenue.

This is nonsense. People gamble. People are addicted to a lot of things: food, alcohol, tobacco.

I go to casinos, and I don't see any problem there. Recently, I was just in Atlantic City, the Tropicana. Across the street from the Tropicana is a day care center. Next to the Tropicana is a public school and a parochial school. Attached to Caesar's is a hospital.

In Queens, the high school was there before the casino came and no problems. Now, all of a sudden, they're talking about problems.

Commissioner Krumpter said it best:  
there will be no increase in crime. And I  
respect Commissioner Krumpter and the Nassau  
County Police Department. You know why? Because  
we have the finest police department in the  
world. Second, casinos have the best security in  
the world.

We want jobs. We want revenue. And you  
heard the officer who came up here complaining  
that they want revenue too. If they don't want  
to raise taxes, except Mr. Carrie had no problem  
raising his salary, then where are we going to get  
the revenue?

Every day the people of Nassau County  
leave this area to go to other counties and other  
states to gamble millions. We lose a billion  
dollars a year illegally, and Floral Park is part  
of it - people who bet on the Super Bowl and  
football games. The time is now. This is crazy.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes, sir.

MR. NICOLOSI: It's a racetrack where  
people gamble. People gamble. Look at this.

They're so concerned about their children  
- 2,000 people in an auditorium that fits 300

kids. I'm going to the school board and demanding both the president of the school board and Laura step off. This is unconscionable.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, sir.

MR. NICOLOSI: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: John Tweedy.  
John Tweedy.

MR. TWEEDY: Good afternoon, members of the legislature. My name is John Tweedy. I am a trustee in the Incorporated Village of Bellerose. I would just like to let you know that Bellerose has recently passed a resolution, and it goes like this: Whereas, the Incorporated Village of Bellerose has been a neighboring community of Belmont Park, along with the adjacent Village of Floral Park has enjoyed a peaceful, neighborly relationship with Belmont Park for over 90 years; and, whereas, the Village has supported and continues to support the continuation of Belmont Park as one of the world's premier thoroughbred horse facilities; and, whereas, however, on the issue of video lottery terminals, VLT slot machine casino at Belmont Park, the Village

hereby expresses its opposition; and, whereas, the residents of the Village of Bellerose pay close attention to its local civic matters, particularly to those involving the education of our children; and, whereas, the children of the residents of Bellerose Village attend the Floral Park-Bellerose Elementary School, which borders the proposed site for a VLT slot machine casino; and, whereas, by resolution unanimously adopted on December 14, 2015, the Floral Park-Bellerose School Board expressed its position that the placement of a VLT slot machine casino at Belmont would irreparably damage our communities, our quality of life, our children, and future generations; and, whereas the children of the residents of the Village also attend Floral Park Memorial High School, which is located across the street from an entrance to Belmont Park; and, whereas, we believe that a VLT slot machine casino at Belmont Park would have significant and harmful long-term effects on the quality of life in Bellerose Village and adjacent communities and would irreparably damage our communities, our quality of life, our children and future

generations;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Bellerose Village Board of Trustees requests our elected officials to oppose any project which would involve a proposed site for a VLT slot machine casino at Belmont Park. And we urge our constituents, their families, friends, and neighbors to write to their elected officials asking them to publicly state their strong and unbending opposition to a proposed site for a VLT slot machine casino in any form at Belmont Park. And we join in to support the position of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park and the Floral Park-Bellerose School of Education, Bellerose Board of Education, and will forward a copy of this resolution to elected officials and request that they oppose any such casino through public statements and through their votes to defeat any such proposal that comes before them.

On motion by Trustee Tweedy, seconded by Mayor Schreiber, the resolution was adopted unanimously by Bellerose Village.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Mr.

Tweedy.

Richard O'Kane. Richard O'Kane.

MR. O'KANE: Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to speak in front of this legislature today. I'm here to speak about the lottery terminals. I'm with the Nassau/Suffolk Building Trades. I represent 59,000 workers, many of whom live here in Nassau County. I went out of my way to talk to numerous people that belong to our building trades and there weren't too many negatives on their conversations.

What they are sick and tired of is the taxes that we pay and the utilities that we pay, the lack of opportunities that are existing now. We have a rate of 30 percent of our 19 and 30 year olds leaving Long Island. I want to know who is going to be putting out your fires, doing your snow plowing, things of that nature, taking care of, coaching your kids, amongst the many of many other things, your volunteer work and different organizations, if we continue on this pace.

We have out-of-town workers that are eating up a lot of our people that should have

these jobs. They're coming from at least a dozen states and now Canada to do the work, especially in our IDAs. That's part of the catalyst that's allowing these people to have to move to North Carolina and different places like that so they can make a half way decent living.

There is a statistic out there that 61 percent of America, not Nassau County or Suffolk County, 61 percent of America, if their car breaks down and they have a \$500 repair bill, they can't afford it. That's a disgrace. That's because we can't have jobs, a lot of people, and people don't give the jobs to the people that deserve them.

In New York, it's another statistic, living on Long Island costs 50 percent more than any other place in the country, any other place in the country, and yet the wages are only ten percent more. Then we have people competing for our jobs.

We are at 100 percent support of the lottery terminals because the venue is already existing and it's been there, as the gentleman said earlier, for 148 years.

I hear about crime, this and that, back and forth. As you witnesses here before with that retiring gentleman, we have the best of the best police department in Long Island, the state anywhere else. They are more than capable of taking care of business, should any arise. But I don't know where this crime business is coming from.

The cost of living is way out of control. We have 300 permanent jobs that I'm told that this will allow and hundreds of other construction jobs. I would respectfully request that you vote for this. It's a matter of conscience and - you're voting for your constituents too, by the way.

Remember, thousands of families, thousands - I'm not here for half a dozen people, I'm here for thousands of families that want to raise their people here, love it here, a lot of them live in Floral Park and everywhere else. They want to be able to make a living, that's what they're scared to death of, things like this happening, as well as Belmont. We'll get into that the next meeting.

The whole idea is that I'm asking for the thousands and thousands of families that are going to benefit from this to please support it. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Abigail Murphy.

MS. MURPHY: Good afternoon. My name is T. Abigail Murphy. I am an Episcopal Priest serving St. Elizabeth's in Floral Park and St. Thomas in Bellerose Village. Not seeing any of my brothers who are members of the Ecumenical Council of Floral Park, I believe that I can also speak for them as well because they have expressed similar concerns.

You've heard many of the things that I would already say, so I will keep this brief.

We often hear of people saying we want family values, we want safety for our youth, we want good programming for our youth. The fact of the matter is that if we have a casino in our area and in fact anywhere us, I believe, we will be having a very poor sort of example set for our young people. We know that having gambling amounts to a tax on the poor because they simply are looking for whatever way they can to make

ends meet. They all think - not all, but the ones that gamble and get into this as an addiction believe that somehow they are going to win; typically, they do not. So those who can least afford it are out there spending what little money they could to help their families.

In addition, we have intoxication - I saw that on the list over here - crime, addiction, safety, intoxication, noise, all of these things. Our young people are exposed to it. They are going to be exposed to it, there is no choice about that.

We already have an underage drinking problem - I can say this for a fact - in both of the villages that I serve, because I see it happening. I see it happening. We already have problems with other minor breaking the law. If they see this going on, they're going to follow suit and find that they can get away with it because it's small business. I urge you to not even consider allowing a casino in our area.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Conterelli? Jan Conterelli. 72 Elm, Floral Park. No? Okay.

Margaret Wickett. You're yielding it to?  
Okay. You still get three minutes, that's it.

MS. PATERNO: Hi, again. I'm back.  
I've had a little practice since the last time I  
was here. I actually spoke at the rally. I'm  
president of the Wednesday Mother's Club. I  
signed up for bagels, the occasion craft on a  
Wednesday. This has really become quite the  
endeavor for Floral Park and our moms.

One of the things I wanted to talk about  
was the overall response we have gotten in Floral  
Park. There has been made reference to this.  
We've made copies and distributed it to the  
legislators, and I hope that you would have a  
chance to read some of the things that we've  
gathered for you.

Your announcement was made on the fourth,  
and we have gone full court press and it's only  
going to intensify based on the feeling that  
we're getting from the members of Floral Park.

You can see here, we knocked the  
president off the front page of *Newsday*. He is  
practically - he's a sideline for a State of the  
Union address. Our little town of Floral Park,

the safest place to live. That's pretty impressive.

To your point about overcrowding. We utilized the street. We utilized the auditorium. I'm sure that school has quite enough to hold 2,000 people. But the fact is people came out. They spoke and they made themselves clear that they are against video slot casino in our town.

Please, just consider the traffic. Mr. Nicoletto, I know you know the area. Mr. Muscarella, I know you know the area as well. Plainfield Avenue is not the place for this. These kids get out of school. If somebody is gambling, drinking, they lose, they're out on the street. Where are these kids? They're coming home from school at three o'clock or, worse yet, they're going to school. They're going to school at eight o'clock, nine o'clock in the morning. If you have a bad night at gambling and you're drinking, it's not a good combination.

I have to tell you, even Hempstead Turnpike, it's downstate New York's, like, worse road, as it is right now. You all know that. We have a big problem. There have been so many

accidents and deaths on Hempstead Turnpike,  
that's one of the things to solve.

I speak to the union. Honestly, we are  
blue collared workers. We understand everyone  
wants jobs. We do. It's not a question of  
saying I don't understand your profession. I'm  
not being adversarial. I know I'm just  
addressing you. But there has to be a better  
solution to this. There has to be a place where  
we can get jobs and build something that means  
something.

You are our custodians. All of you are  
our custodians. You are to take care of this  
community and leave something for our children.  
Please, consider it. Consider the legacy you'll  
leave behind - a slot machine.

You're liking the gambling - I mean,  
horse racing, it's different. It just is  
different. They've been around for 148 years. A  
thoroughbred horse is a lot different than a slot  
machine, and you can see from a kid's face when  
they see that. There is not the same - anyway.

It's a park. It's a residential park in  
the middle of a residential neighborhood. So,

please.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Susan Oddo, O-D-D-O. Where are you?

MS. ODDO: Good afternoon. I am a shift manager at OTB. I'm full time. I've been working there for 19 years. I am recording secretary for Local 707.

We need - Nassau County needs the VLTs. We need to have the jobs that they create. We need the revenue.

I've worked in the parlors for 19 years. We don't have crime and drinking. We have regular blue collar people, regular workers who sit there and want to just let loose for a while and gamble on some horses.

Belmont is a racetrack that has gambling. They all go to machines, put their bets in, and get their tickets. This is not any different than going in and putting money in a slot machine. Same thing. You're betting on horses. You're betting on whether you'll win in the slots.

It's generating a lot of jobs. Nassau

needs this. They need the revenue. I go to Mohegan Sun. I go to Aqueduct. I'd rather spend my money in Nassau County.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Nancy Montenegro. I hope you're Nancy.

MS. MONTENEGRO: I am.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay, Nancy.

MS. MONTENEGRO: Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity. I'd like to pass my time on to Matthew Sexton.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Matthew, I've gotten a lot of e-mails from you.

MR. SEXTON: Thank you very much. It's unfortunate you didn't answer your phone last Wednesday when we called.

First, I'd like to address Nassau OTB with your signs saying you want your fair share. You've had a monopoly, and you cannot run your organization as a profit. You're \$51 million in the hole. Your behavior does not deserve a second chance at a proposed casino.

And to the members of the majority. First, I would like to thank Legislator Carrie

Solages for standing by the communities of Elmont, Floral Park, South Floral Park, and Bellerose.

And to you all on the majority, my grandfather fought World War II. He was a republican. It was in Normandy. He passed that down to my mother; my mother was a republican. I was a republican because of the values that that party used to instill. I'd like to let you know I'm no longer republican and I will no longer be voting for you because of this proposed casino at Belmont Park. That being said.

Legislator Muscarella, you represent my district and you are on the safety board. I've looked at the numbers of the 106th Precinct where the Aqueduct Casino is located. DWIs, starting in 2012, first full year of the casino, up over 100 percent. Crimes against women within the neighborhood up close to 50 percent; the reason being, because police resources are dragged away from the community to the casino. So my question to you, Legislator Muscarella, why are you for this casino when you're on the safety board here for the County of Nassau? How can you say that

crimes will not go up.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Sexton, will you please finish your statement?

MR. SEXTON: I asked a question.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes. But I asked you earlier on --

MR. SEXTON: My question was to Legislator Muscarella -

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Sexton --

MR. SEXTON: What did he come up with stating that crime will not go up?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Sexton, listen to me. In the beginning of this session I did say this was not going to be a question and answer period. We need to hear you. We do not want to have valuable time -- and I have several others -- taken away from the community. So please finish your statement.

MR. SEXTON: We tried specifically to hear from your office but you wouldn't answer your phone.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Because we are inundated.

MR. SEXTON: So if Legislator Muscarella

could please answer that question.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No, he cannot answer that question because he's taking away valuable time from the rest of the people who are here waiting.

MR. SEXTON: Then let me address the majority then.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Please continue -

MR. SEXTON: Your civic duty is to represent the residents of Nassau County.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Our job is to listen to you.

MR. SEXTON: Then please listen and stop cutting me off.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Finish your statement.

MR. SEXTON: Your responsibility, civic duty is to represent the people, it's not to represent the party that you're representing that also represents Nassau OTB. Your job is to do the right thing.

Gentleman, like my grandfather, who fought to make sure that this country was a great place and passed those values down along to me,

would be disgusted with the way the majority party is behaving right now.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much, Mr. Sexton.

MR. SEXTON: Here, right here is a copy of the petition signed by over 2,000 people with their comments. At your convenience, since you don't seem to want to do anything when it comes to listening to us, please review it. It's now on the record.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much.

Maryann Salenchey (phonetic). Maryann Salenchey. Did I say it right? 23 Aspen Street. Hold on. We need to assist her. Nadia. Hold on. There is a mic on this side. Nadia Ortiz, is it?

MS. ORTIZ: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Nadia.

MS. ORTIZ: Good afternoon. My name is Nadia Ortiz, and I am resident of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park. I am president of the Hillcrest Civic Association and am an organizer of the grassroots movement No

Casino at Belmont Park.

On December 29, 2015, Nassau OTB announced its plans to install 1,000 video lottery terminals at Belmont Park in Elmont. By December 30 our movement began the fight to oppose any and all plans by Nassau OTB. The idea of facilitating year-round gambling, 20 hours a day, less than one mile from children at an elementary school and a high school is unconscionable.

For every crime that occurs on the property of the casino during school hours, there is a risk that our children would have to be put on lockdown until the situation is deemed safe by local authorities. To expect Floral Park and surrounding communities to embrace the idea that video gambling would improve our neighborhood is insulting and disrespectful.

We have allowed you to take pictures with our children to advance your political career. We voted you into office with the idea that we would be fairly represented in all matters regarding our safety and improving our quality of life through local government. We have been

betrayed.

Residents have come out over and over again, in overwhelming numbers through a rally, online petition, e-mails, phone calls, postal mail, faxes, tweets, and Facebook posts to proclaims our very clear opposition to the Nassau OTB plans. The opposition far outweighs the proponents, yet you turn a blind eye to us. This path of exhibited behavior can only lead one to believe that there must be backroom deals or agreements far more powerful than us.

Ms. Gonsalves, Ms. Ford, Mr. Daler, Mr. Kopel, Mr. Muscarella, Mr. Muscarella, Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Schaefer, Ms. June, Ms. Walker, Mr. McKenzie, and Mr. Rhoads, I would like to remind you the definition of democracy because clearly it has fallen from your vocabulary. A democracy is a government by the people, that would be all of us sitting here. It is a form of government in which supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents, that would be you, through a system of representation. Clearly, democracy is not evidenced.

Given the series of events that have played out thus far, perhaps we need to redefine the form of government that is actually taking place. Is it totalitarian? This is the political concept that the citizens should be totally subject to an absolute state authority. Is it an oligarchy? A government in which control is exercised by a small group of individuals whose authority generally is based on wealth or power for corrupt and selfish purposes. You decide.

Finally, Presiding Officer, I call on you to sign the resolution recommending that the legislature declare an emergency right now and immediately vote on the removal of the OTB board. I call on you to sign the resolution now.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, ma'am.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer, may I?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer, I have taken the opportunity -

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me. Okay.

There are many times in which I wanted to speak and my colleagues also wanted to speak. Right now I'm listening to them out there. But at the same time, Mr. Mueller, have we reached the hour?

CLERK MULLER: We added three minutes on, so we have until 1:53. We have seven more minutes.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: With all due respect -

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: With all due respect, I'm not going to take it away. You want to speak after, fine. I want to hear from them.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Will I be allowed to speak as soon as the public comment is over? Will I be allowed to speak?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: After public comment, that's another story.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: That's another story.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Judy -

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Because she raised the resolution in which I submitted asking for an emergency --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: to be considered,  
I'm asking you, Presiding Officer -

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You are out of  
order, Mr. Solages.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Madam Presiding  
Officer, I am respectfully asking that you  
consider the --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I held my tongue  
and I'm asking you to hold yours.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: piece of  
legislation that I submitted. If you do not,  
then I ask all of the colleagues of the  
legislature to take an up or down vote. The same  
piece of legislation --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
Solages, you know the process.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer,  
if you're saying I'm out of order --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Do you have 13  
signatures to go for an emergency?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: The Charter, under  
Section 6(1)(a) allows me --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're asking me

for an emergency and I don't want to take away --

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: to ask for an up or  
down vote on this piece of legislation, very  
similar to the piece of legislation submitted by  
Seila Bynoe, in which Laura Schaefer decided to  
support.

CLERK MULLER: We have six more minutes.  
We have time for two more speakers if we get one  
on now.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You need three  
more.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: We have seven  
signatures supporting this, and I believe we have  
three other persons that would support it just as  
Laura Schaefer supported it -

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
Solages, Legislator Ford wanted to comment, I  
wanted to comment, and so did others and I did  
not take away time. I am sorry. You need 13  
signatures.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I am taking the  
liberty of submitting this legislation. In  
addition, Your Honor, Presiding Officer -

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You don't have

the votes to establish the emergency. Ladies and gentlemen -

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You do not know that unless you take a vote, Presiding Officer.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: it takes 13.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer, you do not know that unless you take a vote.

We have seven people here, as well as Laura Schaefer who signed on to support the OTB removal --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's not a proxy.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: when it happened with Carle Place and Westbury. I see no reason why she would not support it here. We have also Legislator Muscarella, Legislator Nicoletto. We have many constituents here who would like to know how they would vote on this.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Guess what?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It is within your power to make this decision. You have the power and discretion.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on. I will call two more speakers and after that we will go

2 into the calendar. And let me tell you ladies  
3 and gentlemen, there is no devious plan on our  
4 part. It takes 13 votes - excuse me, 13  
5 signatures in order to advance -

6 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer -

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me. I  
8 have the floor.

9 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It takes ten.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No, it doesn't.  
11 You don't know the process.

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: The law says ten.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You don't know  
14 the process.

15 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: The law says ten.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Maybe you haven't  
17 been here long enough. Sorry.

18 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I will not resort  
19 to the personal attacks here.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I am telling you  
21 that you need --

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I am operating by  
23 virtue -

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I am telling you  
25 that you need - ladies and gentlemen -

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: that if you do not consider, I can ask for an up or down vote.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Judy Sanford Guise.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Can we make a call for the motion?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. She has the floor.

MS. SANFORD GUISE: I would much rather have you vote. However, since you're clearly not going to - I traveled over two hours and three buses this morning from North Valley Stream. I live with the traffic of people who bail off the Cross Island Parkway on a regular day, not when it's going to be a daily race day.

My last visit here was on the bus line cuts, and at that time I had an immediate reaction to Legislator Nicoletto's response to Mayor Tweedy of Floral Park. He opined that the majority of those using these addictive terminals - he didn't use the word addictive, I am - would be older women. You threw that out. As an older woman, who doesn't gamble, I have to object to the idea of it being considered acceptable by

Nassau County to exploit older women and men, as well as younger people, with addictions in the name of generating revenue that apparently in itself to Nassau County is questionable. Along with the evidence of decreasing revenue at other venues, I've been rather shocked to learn about the deleterious effects of these machines. They're not gambling. It's not like you go to a race and you have a little respite time to get the endorphins to go away when you've lost your money or whatever. It's sitting in front of a machine with a card in it and just going, going, and going. All gambling is not just gambling, nor should our quality of life be less important than a patronage jobs program and even a building jobs program.

Nassau County public policy shouldn't be trying to facilitate the addictive diseases of gambling, especially using machines to be deliberately addictive. I found that shocking that the machines are set up to take more and more and more of your money. And the related addictions of alcohol and smoking. It's a horrible public policy for us to be setting in

our name and in our communities. If you don't stop this foolhardy selfish proposal, I think you are obligated to announce, in advance, your commitment and the amounts of increased funding that you are going to commit to the human services programs that are already here struggling with insufficient funding to help people, serve people with addictions.

Thank you. And vote.

CLERK MULLER: We are done. We did an hour of public comment.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's done?

CLERK MULLER: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Public comment is now over. I'm going to explain something to you if you're willing to listen, and obviously some of you are not.

I can advance legislation if I have the votes in which to do it. An emergency resolution that has been proposed by Legislator Solages requires 13 signatures in order to advance it as an emergency resolution. It does not have 13 signatures; therefore, it's not being advanced.

Thank you very much.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer,  
to my understanding it requires ten votes. In  
addition, I would inquire why it did not pass.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Because there are  
no ten votes.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: To my  
understanding, a formal proxy or any sort of vote  
has not been done. Can you please take that?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I am not going to  
enter into a debate with you, Mr. Solages. I will  
simply tell you that to advance an emergency  
resolution requires 13 signatures; we don't have  
it.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer -

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And you don't  
have ten either.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Respectfully, I  
renew my motion for you to consider a resolution  
for an emergency.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. I'm going to  
--

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: You can recommend  
the emergency yourself with your discretion.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: First of all, I

apologize. I still have several people who have submitted slips. If you would like to stay until the end of the legislative session, I'm willing to continue the public comment, as I said earlier. I have about maybe ten more individuals. I did get through a number. I cannot get to these until after the full legislative session. Therefore, let me say something to you.

Listen to me and listen to me carefully. This is not over for you, on both sides of the chamber today. There are things that need to be done before it becomes what you are fearful of or what you want. I am telling you right now, the process has not yet begun.

I'm going to say that, hang in there, voice your concerns, and I think you need to voice them to the proper authority which is not us but the New York State Gaming Commission.

Thank you very much.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer, rather than extending the fear and anxiety, I respectfully ask you to end the issue here. You can decide to do so for your discretion,

Presiding Officer, by asking for a clear up or down vote on this issue. Last time we did this we did not know that Laura Schaefer would vote against that. The public has every right to know how we stand on this issue.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm sorry. It's over. We're going to the full legislature now. That's it. You can argue all you want. Let me tell you something. This has not - this has been ongoing for years and it's very strange, very strange that when a full service casino was contemplated for Belmont I didn't hear any clamor from Nassau County, and that goes back to 2011, people. 2011.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: I'm a legislator now. I could tell you, Presiding Officer, that the public has a right to know where we would stand on this issue.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I would like to have a chance to move on. Those of you who want to stay, please do.

Let's go. We're going to the calendar.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Presiding Officer, can we finish the public comment? These people

have waited for a very long time.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I exceeded an hour and ten minutes. I think I've been more than generous. That's it. I'm not saying we're not going to sit here and listen. We will stay.

We're going to go out of order on the calendar and go to Item 22.

Item 22 is Resolution Number 11, a resolution to confirm the county executive's appointment upon the recommendation of the Presiding Officer of Ralph Ekstrand to replace Francis X. Murray to the Taxi and Limousine Board pursuant to the Nassau County Charter Section 203 and Article XXI-B, Section 2160(B).

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by Legislator Walker, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

Okay. Any - is Mr. Ekstrand here?

I'd ask everyone, please, if you're going to stay, to stay and be cooperative, please.

Mr. Ekstrand, do you want to tell us a little bit about yourself?

MR. EKSTRAND: Good afternoon, everyone.

I've been asked by the Nassau County Village Officials' Association to take the place of Mayor Fran Murray from Rockville Centre on the Taxi and Limousine Commission for Nassau County. I was voted upon by the executive board of said organization to be recommended to you. I've met with the Taxi and Limousine Commission people a couple of times over the last two months. I think I can work very well with them, and I am looking forward to your approval.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions or comments for Mr. Ekstrand? Legislator Walker.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Thank you, Presiding Officer.

I would just like to thank you for accepting, if you're voted into the position. I want to thank you too for all of the work you do. We work very, very closely together. Mayor Ralph if the mayor of the Village of Farmingdale. It's a village that's done amazing and remarkable things. We can all take a lesson from your village.

Thank you very much. If all goes well, I

wish you the best of luck and know we are here  
for you.

MR. EKSTRAND: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other  
questions or comments for Mr. Ekstrand?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, any public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none, all those in favor of  
Mr. Ekstrand's appointment to the Taxi and  
Limousine Commission signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Welcome.

MR. EKSTRAND: Thank you. Thank you  
very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're welcome.

You should know that what we do first is  
move the consent calendar, and those are items  
that were passed unanimously in committee. I ask  
Frank to incorporate the testimony from the  
committees into the calendar, into the transcript

on the calendar. And if there are any other further questions regarding the items as I call them - and I will call those items as part of the consent calendar. Here we go.

Item 2, which is Ordinance 2; Item 3, Ordinance 3; Item 4, Ordinance 4; Item 5, Ordinance 5; Item 6, Ordinance 6; Item 7, Ordinance 7; Item 8, Ordinance 8; Item 9, Ordinance 9; Item 10, Ordinance 10; Item 11, Ordinance 11; Item 14, Resolution 3; Item 15, Resolution 4; Item 16, Resolution 5; Item 17, Resolution 6; Item 19, Resolution 8; Item 20, Resolution 9; Item 21, Resolution 10; Item 22, Resolution 11 - we did that, I'm sorry. Just one minute. Item 23, Resolution 12; Item 24, Resolution 13; Item 25, Resolution 14; Item 26, Resolution 15; Item 27, Resolution 16; Item 28, Resolution 17; Item 29, Resolution 18; Item 30, Resolution 19; Item 31, Resolution 20; Item 32, Resolution 21; Item 33, Resolution 22; Item 34, Resolution 23; Item 35, Resolution 24; and the last item is Item 36, Resolution 25.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator Dunne.

Any further comment or questions or  
public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor of  
the item just called signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The items passed unanimously.

Now we go to those items that were not  
part of the consent calendar, and that's  
beginning with Item 1, which is Ordinance 1 -  
we're not calling - I'm sorry. That's not being  
called.

We're going to Item 12, Resolution 1, a  
resolution authorizing the county attorney to  
compromise and settle the action *Volpe, et al. v.*  
*County of Nassau*, pursuant to the County Law, the  
County Government Law of Nassau County, and the  
Nassau County Administrative Code.

Motion, please?

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator Rhoads.

Who is here to speak on this item? Okay.  
Lisa Locurto.

MS. LOCURTO: Good afternoon, Presiding  
Officer. Lisa Locurto from the county attorney's  
office. This item was discussed in executive  
session at the last Rules Committee meeting. The  
resolution is to settle a lawsuit. It is a civil  
lawsuit claiming discrimination. For the reasons  
that were discussed in executive session, we  
recommend this settlement as being in the best  
interests of the county.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any questions of  
Ms. Locurto on this item?

(No verbal response.)

Any public comment on this item?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor of  
Item 12, Resolution 1 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The item passes unanimously.

Any abstentions? Excuse me.

(Abstain.)

The vote is 12 to 0 to 6 abstentions.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I just have a quick question about an item.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: There is an item that's on the calendar and I don't know if it was a mistake but it was not called on the consent calendar even though it was voted unanimously. There are actually two. Item Numbers 13 and 18 were both passed through committee and, from what I understood, were all set to go and now I'm hearing that they're not going to be called today. Can we correct that today? Is that a typographical error?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I believe, from counsel, that they required an amendment which have not been filed.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: And when did they require that?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I believe since the last meeting.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: We never got any notification of it.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm sorry.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I would truly appreciate if we could just address, especially if it's something as minimal as what I'm hearing.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I hear you. It requires an amendment and the amendment has not been filed then I can't --

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Can we have your permission then for both Legislator Birnbaum and myself to do an emergency filing of this? It's all set to go. These have been on for years.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Again, these emergencies are going to be part of our -

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: That's what I would like to do.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: that requires 13 signatures.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: These are

very simple.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Hold on.

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, listen to me. The amendment has not been filed, and I do not know exactly what the problem is with the amendment. So until we find out, I am probably going to put this meeting in recess.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Okay. And my attorney just suggested that he will sit down and try to work it out today.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. I may put this meeting in recess, which will give us time to do it.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I appreciate it.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're talking about 13 and 18.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Yeah. And as a courtesy, if there is any way I can ask my fellow colleagues to give us the emergency.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: If I put this in recess there will be time to see what the problem is.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And correct the  
3 problem.

4 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Can you consider my  
5 emergency?

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Your emergency  
7 requires 13 signatures.

8 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: It also requires  
9 you to consider it, which I hope you would.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: The calendar  
11 should move fairly quickly. Hopefully - I can't  
12 see those signs up there. I would like you to  
13 address it as the VLT. If you have a slip in  
14 here, fine. If you don't have a slip in here,  
15 you better put one in.

16 Michael Barberea (phonetic). Michael.

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Tony Palimar. Is that correct? Did I  
19 say it correctly? Tony Palimar.

20 (No verbal response.)

21 Andy Sexton.

22 MR. A. SEXTON: I'd like to yield to  
23 yield to Representative Solages.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You can't do  
25 that.

MR. A. SEXTON: No? I can yield to anybody.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's public comment.

MR. A. SEXTON: Then I guess you're going to get mad again. I'd like to yield to Matthew Sexton.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. Andy, I called you up.

MR. M. SEXTON: So I get six minutes, right?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No. You already had three minutes.

MR. M. SEXTON: It was yielded to me and then you mispronounced my name as Michael instead of Matthew.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm sorry. Sorry. Sorry. Sorry.

MR. M. SEXTON: I'm sorry you didn't answer the phone last Wednesday; we could have had such a great chat.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Listen. That phone keeps ringing and it's difficult.

MR. M. SEXTON: All day?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm not going to respond to you.

MR. M. SEXTON: You are.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's it. You have a comment? You have three minutes. Say what's on your mind.

MR. M. SEXTON: My comment kind of goes like this. And I do have a lot of respect for you, Legislator Nicoletto. I heard that you're a big comic book fan, so I'm going to explain something to you in comic book terminology. It comes from "Spiderman" written by Stan Lee.

With great power comes great responsibility; this kind of goes into how our government is set up. You were put in power by the people and now you have a responsibility to the people, the citizens of Nassau County.

When our forefathers, when they came up with this country, one of the big tyrannies that they were scared of was for our representatives not to act in the self interest of the individuals that they represent, but to act in the best interests of special interest groups or something like their own political party.

I understand the members of this legislature who are a member of the majority party, you're in a tight spot. I read the newspapers. I know what happens to you folks when you actually side with the people that you represent as opposed to the party itself. But with great power does come responsibility. Now that you have the power that was granted to you by the residents - Floral Park, Bellerose, Elmont, New Hyde Park, South Floral Park, and Elmont - it is time for you to use that power responsibly by putting this bill forward to a vote.

It's a straight up and down vote. You guys apparently have the votes to not turn over the Nassau OTB Board, so I really don't understand what you're scared of. But if you're going to be responsible with that power and you're going to do the right thing, what our founding fathers wanted you to do, and represent the people that voted for you as well as the residents of Nassau County, then it is your duty to change the board of Nassau OTB and to stop this casino from being built at Belmont Park.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Michael Jacob.

(No verbal response.)

Angelo Girardo. Let's do this. In the interest of fairness, I want to hear from the rest of - Angelo, you have nothing to say? Thank you very much. You put in a slip, you must have had something to say.

MR. GIRARDO: I normally don't speak in public.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's okay. We're not the enemy.

MR. GIRARDO: I heard a lot about OTB. Obviously, everybody here from OTB was here trying to keep their jobs. So, basically, my village is going to be a sacrifice so some of these people can keep their union jobs.

I got a union job too. Okay. So, it's not here. However, if I have an issue or I can't get work, guess what? Your job is docked.

They're just in debt; OTB's been in debt for years now. They got unfunded pensions so we now gotta suffer for it. So what happened to all these other areas? Everybody else fought it. We just don't want it in our backyard. Just like

everybody up there wouldn't want it in their backyard. You wouldn't want the casino down the road from your house. They keep comparing it to the lottery. The lottery is one machine down the block from your house. You play it one time. You go up there and spend a few dollars. We're not talking about some people going to go spend a ton of money, their paycheck that they get.

I'm not fighting gambling. Gambling is legal in New York. We just don't want it in our backyard. This is a nice community. When is the last time any of you guys drove through Floral Park Village? I moved from Queens County for a reason: I'm bringing up two kids, a two year old and a four year old. I don't want this in my backyard. I don't want this in my area. That's it. That's what it comes down to. None of you guys would want it. I bet you none of you guys live in Floral Park, because if you did this wouldn't be happening. Okay.

I respect that you guys let me speak, but I'm pissed and that's what it comes down to.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: See, you did

1 speak your mind.

2 Is there a Shavrika Scalfani? No. I'm  
3 not too happy with pronouncing some of these  
4 names, especially if I can't read them.  
5

6 (No verbal response.)

7 Joyce Stowe.

8 MS. STOWE: Good evening, everyone. My  
9 name is Joyce Stowe, President of Tudor Manor  
10 Civic Association in Elmont.

11 One of the basic rights of our democracy  
12 is that we, the people, exercise the right to  
13 choose whom we want to represent us and what we  
14 would want in a given situation; hence, my  
15 attendance here today on this matter.

16 I've spent a number of years in  
17 discussion on the development of two lots at the  
18 Belmont Racetrack for economic development in  
19 Elmont with three governors to date. The OTB  
20 Corporation has proposed this casino in many  
21 areas of Nassau County, and in those instances  
22 the communities there protested and blocked the  
23 corporation due to crime propensities.

24 Why do you think that Elmont would  
25 embrace it? Yes, we need development to lower

our taxes but not at the cost of urban decay. We have been fighting for the past decade or more to bring meaningful development to Elmont that is conducive to suburban living, for example Garden City, New Hyde Park, Franklin Square, etcetera.

We cannot bring development that can further offer a downgrading that we have here now in Elmont to step lower. Not at all. No one in authority who wants the development has come to the leaders in Elmont with a discussion, no one. I'm here today to advocate for the Elmont community in sticking to our original plan as advocated in the September 5, 2008, vision plan, which is this document.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Joyce.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Just - Presiding Officer, if I may. Presiding Officer, as a resident of Elmont, as a community activist who is very familiar with the efforts of several different civic associations, the document that Ms. Stowe is referring to is a visioning plan that was made in 2008 for which the community got involved and put together a clear plan as to what

sort of development they wanted in their community. That plan included, for example, 100,000 square foot supermarket, not a 100,000 square foot VLT facility.

I thank you very much for bringing up that document. Many people say that Elmont has said to no to many things, what are they saying yes to? We clearly have come together to say yes. But unfortunately patronage and politics have gotten a hold of this debate. And unfortunately our Presiding Officer does not want to do what should be done in a democracy, but instead acts as if she's in a tyranny and not consider this piece of legislation.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Cheryl Lee.

MS. LEE: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Cheryl Lee, a long-time Elmont resident and president - former-President of Floral Park Civic Association, and now I remain as a trustee of the Floral Park Civic Association.

As you can see this afternoon, there are not many of us here; the reason, we have work. We work two, three, and four jobs to keep our

homes in Elmont. Specifically, to keep our homes. Just take a drive through after you remove all the snow, you will see what I'm talking about. Now back to my script here.

So far we have heard all the pros and cons about a casino and the VLTs. Today, as I sat there I heard about jobs, of which I can assure you the ones with best positions and pay will not be for the locals. Outsiders will work, take their dollars, and then return to their homes in their areas where most of our sons cannot enter without fear.

Today I am here to represent the people who reside within the shadows of Belmont, the area of the proposed VLT casino, the area that was sliced up like a pizza due to gerrymandering. It is also the area in which cemeteries encompasses three-quarters of Elmont's land, of course, people who cannot speak.

Floral Park's residents at strong and proud hard workers. We moved here to improve the quality of life and raise our children. Today I want to address the elephant in the room - racial inequality. No one touched that subject.

Fact about Elmont population. In 2012, we had 33,198 residents - 27 percent White, 42 percent Black, 12 percent Asian, 5 mixed race, 11 percent other. In my area, 75 percent of the residents are Black. We all - the workers who will be paid to do the job, the best paying jobs, they do not want to live there. They will not live there. What does that mean? They come, they work, they take the money out, and then the scraps of the jobs will be given to us, our people. Our people are very well educated. Myself, as I stand here, has an MBA in corporate finance.

Today Floral Parkers had to join this discussion on the side of no casino and extra VLTs at Belmont Park. We speak up for respect, transparency, and a seat at the decision-making table. We fight because we have to.

Now, I leave you to ponder the words of Martin Niemöller: First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the

Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me. Speak to me. Speak to us.

We may not agree, but we will listen.  
Give us that much respect. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Tammie Williams.  
Tammie Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS: Tammie Williams, 2279 Ludlam Avenue. It's a pleasure. The last time I got to speak up here was during the redistricting, which I said what would your legacy be because I know what mine will be. It's great that I got to run for town council last November. So, full disclosure. I sit on the Elmont Public Library. I have a child with Autism. I am also park of the Parkhurst Civic. That's the millenials.

I know some people that represent our community have been taunted about what position they took beforehand and what position they take now. I have to say if it wasn't for my county legislator, I would not be standing up here today. It was only him that came to all of our communities to let us know what was being done

behind our backs.

Mr. Vincent Muscarella, you actually represent part of Elmont due to gerrymandering. Have you ever knocked on any of our doors? Okay. The answer is no.

Mr. Richard Nicoletto, you represent part of my constituent base, which is Floral Park. I knocked on every door during my campaign and told them what was about to happen. You know what I got from them? Well, it wasn't in our papers and our legislators didn't talk to us. This is the thing about civil engagement.

When there is an issue that can upset your daily life, that's what you're here for, regardless of whether I'm a republican, independent, democratic. That's what you're here for. So if they went out to vote for you in November and you decided to have this conversation December and tell them it's only going to be 70 year old women coming into this facility, then you neglected your responsibilities before that Election Day.

Ms. Laura Schaefer, you want to inspire to higher office, off the record. Yeah, okay.

Tell you what. You're not going to walk into Floral Park and you definitely can't walk into Elmont; take note of that one.

Give me the respect and give our community respect to sit at the table. Okay. Lot A and Lot B, Lot A and Lot B has been allocated by the State of New York to Elmont, a minority community which none of you up here respect. Let me read something to you.

In 2006, the Elmont community expressed a strong desire to improve and enhance the suburban, suburban - yes, people of color do by homes in the suburbs, okay - condition and quality of life. Nassau County, the Town of Hempstead, and the Elmont community came together with the help of Sustainable Long Island and carried out a community planning process designed to build consensus through the creation and implementation of a plan that would serve as a map for future development along Hempstead Turnpike, which I will get to the town tomorrow about zoning, mixed use, young professionals.

Whether you know it or not, older adults, you're dying out.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, ma'am.

MS. WILLIAMS: I'll finish up.

The goal of Elmont vision plan - and you can Google it - was to create a unique look for Elmont but developing a community around Belmont Park to foster economic development, facilitate the community rebirth, and create long range of housing.

I'm going to tell you this right now, and I will close with this. You don't represent us. Gerrymandering represents us. Like I said before, what would your legacy be because I damn sure know what mine will.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Jack Maskut.  
Jack Maskut - M-A-S-K-U-T - I'm not sure.

(No verbal response.)

It's very difficult sometimes to read the names here.

Jack McCloy.

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Madam Presiding Officer, if I may. As you well know, Legislator Curran had to leave early for a family emergency. I just wanted the record to reflect that, that

she left to deal with that family emergency.

Thank you.

MR. MCCLOY: Ms. Gonsalves, members of the legislature, I'd like to give you three minutes of time on a situation other than the VLT debate. And thank you, Legislator Solages, for pointing out that my legislator, Laura Curran, is not here. Excuse me?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm Abrahams.

MR. MCCLOY: I'm sorry.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Minority Leader Abrahams.

MR. MCCLOY: My comments are generally directed towards Ms. Curran.

I'd like to let you all know what I am concerned about, it's the Grand Avenue so-called road diet proposal in Baldwin where they are proposing to turn two lanes in each direction on Grand Avenue, our main north-south road, into one lane in each direction.

This is the same road section that was recently resurfaced within the last two years with public funds, and we have signs up and down Grand Avenue touting that fact. I'd like to also

point out that commonsense dictates that this area, where our main fire department is located, shouldn't be reconfigured from two lanes in each direction to only one lane in each direction. Plus, our main First Precinct, if it has to travel north, has to traverse this same section and also anyone that has to go to our main hospital, South Nassau Communities Hospital, would have to traverse this same section of roadway also. It just doesn't make commonsense.

Over 300 local residents have signed on to the website created to voice the opposition to this change of roadway. I do want to point out again that the main proponents of this have been my legislator, Laura Curran, and the Baldwin Civic Association executive board, including President Karen Montelbano.

At the last meeting of the Baldwin Chamber of Commerce - I'm sorry - Baldwin Civic Association which occurred last week, Karen Montelbano mentioned that although it is the unanimous decision of the executive board that this is a good idea, there are substantial amount of Baldwin members that are opposed to it.

I'd also like to point out that I am a member of the Baldwin Oaks Civic Association, and there are a majority of members in that organization that are opposed to this change also.

At this last meeting of the Baldwin Civic Association, President Karen Montelbano mentioned that a variety of engineers have come behind this proposal stating that it would be a good idea to change the two lanes into one lane. I haven't heard any specifics as to who these engineers are, but I have been told that if it didn't work out they'd be putting their reputations on the line. And I asked Ms. Montelbano if she'd put her reputation and position as president of the Baldwin Civic Association on the line also and she said she would have to consider doing that. I won't ask today if Laura Curran would also join that category; I'll wait until a session when she's here.

I'd also like to say in her absence, I'd also like to ask the Full Legislature to just consider the common sense aspect of changing a two-lane main roadway that has been recently

resurfaced from Merrick Road all the way to Southern State Parkway into a section of it where only one lane in each direction would be the new configuration.

Finally, to those who claim that if the road diet proposal is not implemented the funds would be spend somewhere else. I say that a bad idea, even if free, is still a bad idea -

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, sir.

MR. MCCLOY: Thank you.

And that argument that it would be spent somewhere else shouldn't hold water. And I'll stick to the three minutes.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Mr. McCloy.

Mr. Budnick.

MR. BUDNICK: Thank you. Honorable Chair, Ms. Gonsalves, and honorable members of this Legislature. I recently had the annoyance of trying to look up the phone number of one of our legislators here, and I found that instead of the current legislator listed in the latest

version of the Verizon phonebook, Ms. Jacobs, congratulations, you are still listed as the Chair. Okay. And Roger Corbin is listed as the Deputy Chair. There are notations for Lisanne Altmann, David Denenberg, Craig Johnson, and Joseph Scannell, my old friend from the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, and somebody has to contact these people with Verizon and open their eyes. Tell them what's going on.

Also, very, very serious, missing items with regard to the county or very erroneous items. For example, all the courts of Nassau County all have incorrect phone numbers. They've all been changed by the New York State Office of Court Administration and there is no notation of that. And somebody has to contact these people at Verizon because one of these errors could end up in a very serious, perhaps fatal problem for some of our local residents.

Thank you very much. My compliments to you. And my compliments also to the county for the fine work they did over the last weekend in the storm. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, John.

Meta Mereday.

MS. MEREDAY: Good afternoon. Meta J. Mereday, 758 Wesley Street, Baldwin. Another constituency that seems to continue to be left out of this.

First of all, I just got to put on the record with regard to the opposition. I agree with the issues pertaining to these VLTs. First of all, that mythical number about that \$20 million. Nassau County doesn't seem to have a good track record in putting together numbers as far as revenue streams. Let's do a little history here.

Privatization of the NICE buses, that was supposed to save millions of dollars to the county and improve services. Funny. Those people that are now standing on the street kind of waiting for that bus on those 11 routes, not so happy. Good luck with trying to get to the bus stop now. Not only can't they reach it, but there's no bus coming.

The consolidated police departments. I believe someone said earlier that the commissioner stated that these VLTs would not

generate an increase in crime. Funny. That's the same nonsense we heard when this body, some of you sitting behind there, voted to support the police precincts that we vehemently were against, including residents from the illustrious Elmont. I like Elmont. More power to you.

I was even included in a group that was noted by the county executive trying to storm his office. I didn't know myself and five senior citizens from Elmont considered storming the county executive's office. But I digress.

Let's not talk about those infamous red light cameras. Do you remember that one? Okay.

Again, these revenue streams that we come up with these mythical numbers, let's just start getting real.

Contracting. Funny, as someone else noticed, that the OTB, which is one tired business, let's just put it that way, they want to talk about jobs. If we dealt with some of the millions of dollars - and Mr. Budnick, to your point, maybe if we cut some of the money that we use for advertising for all of these posters, brochures, flyers, stickers - we've got the

county executive's name just about on every building that is empty and for rent, we might be able to address the fact that most county residents cannot get through to the various offices and services to get what we're supposed to be paying these high taxes for.

Contracting. Most of you who know that I come up here, I talk about the veterans because no one has talked about that except the one gentleman who talked about his grandfather. Now let me talk about my great uncle who served in World War I. Again, look at my color, so you can just imagine what role he played over in the fields of France. He was a medic. He had to use a handkerchief because even the rudimentary gas masks were not allotted to the Blacks. I didn't get to meet him. He died when I was four years old from black law. So, yes, I speak about veteran's issues, and I am tired, consistently tired of being here not hearing, seeing, or witnessing anything of actual documented fact with regard to veteran business development that would keep our student veterans who attend the colleges and universities here but can't afford

to stay here.

You want to talk about some jobs? We've got zombie houses that could be rehabbed. A lot of these people who have these union jobs could be doing that work.

CLERK MULLER: Your three minutes have expired, ma'am.

MS. MEREDAY: I already know that, but I'm going to keep it moving.

They have those jobs. We could be rebuilding these bridges. This county loses out on millions of dollars in state and federal funding for the various projects that seem to be happening in Suffolk County, Kings County, Queens County. And where is Nassau County? We only seem to get in the news when there's another indictment and there's another investigation, another scandal. But we have to pay the price for all of this.

So, like I said, the \$20 million, you really need to stop living on Fantasy Island because it's getting too expensive to live here on Long Island.

And I'm still waiting to find out about

the good-faith efforts that the county has been claiming that they've been implementing because of the last scandal with Abtec, or Abscam or whatever. It doesn't even matter. Each day Newsday has another person, one of you in here, I keep saying every time I come here somebody else is spotlighted in the paper. So I'm just going to wait to see when I get home whose name is popping up this week.

I was told that there was going to be some kind of report or something that talks about the contracting and the percentage of the money that we're getting from the state and federal government, there is a mandated, on-the-books law that three percent is designated for service disabled veteran owned business. But funny, we don't have a study in place to determine what businesses we have, whether they're veteran owned or service disabled. So how can a veteran or service disabled business get a contract in Nassau County when you don't even have a list for that? So why don't we start using some of those millions to build up our veteran business, to help our student veterans, and everyone in this

room has a direct or indirect connection to veterans. You want to do something about really bringing some money to this county? Let's start really talking about our veterans and our veteran community, and get these VLT things out of the way.

We don't need any more gambling. We don't need another addictive process in Nassau County. We need real government. We need real consensus.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very much.

MS. MEREDAY: I'm done. Goodbye.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Crystal Berger.  
Crystal Berger.

MS. BERGER: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Many of you here, in the interest of full disclosure, do know me. Hello to all of my friends. I have friends on both sides of this room. Currently, I live in Elmont. My address is 1743 Atherton Avenue.

I grew up in Elmont, but I grew up a little bit differently. I also grew up in Floral Park. Floral Park was my second home. My father

died when I was younger, when I was six years old, and my mother worked very, very hard and wanted to send me to what she believed was the best school at the time. She chose a school, a private school in Floral Park. I spent many, many, many years in Floral Park, growing up with friends who are now my family there. So I'm not only here to talk to you about VLTs in Elmont, a community I have lived in for 22 years, where I own a home, where I pay taxes, I'm also here to talk to you about my friends and neighbors in Floral Park, in Valley Stream, in Franklin Square, in West Hempstead, in North Valley Stream, in Queens on the other side of this issue.

I mentioned that my father died when I was younger. I'm not here to talk to you just about the race issue. Because I can talk to you all day long about the race issue. I know what it's like to be a white person, I'm half of one. I know what it's like to be a West Indian person, because I'm half of one. I know what it's like to be raised by a Haitian doctor; he was the person who raised me after my father died. And

the reason I mention this to you, ladies and gentlemen, is because I'm not coming to you as a person who is here to talk to you about one specific perspective, about how these VLTs are going to affect me. And I'm not here to talk to you about how it's going to affect one community.

I don't see the real definition of one community going on, except what's been going on here today. We are one community. We are one community who is going to suffer the exact same consequences: crime will increase, traffic will increase. There are many, many reports about this. I don't have to sit here and spit and quote statistics to you; we've heard them all afternoon long. As long as we all stay united, you're going to keep hearing them.

The reason I'm coming to you here today - I wasn't planning on speaking. I was planning on supporting my legislator, my other legislator friend, my friends on this movement. But I can't leave here today without saying what I have to say.

Every single one of you up here has a responsibility. You are elected to reflect,

represent, and demand the needs of your community and represent only the best interests. There are people here who I have become friends with who are republicans. I never thought that would happen. This is a really great thing I see going on here. Maybe it took 22 years. Maybe it was all in the making for a long time. It's like the powder keg in the Balkins that led to World War I. This issue exploded for many, many socioeconomic dynamic factors. It doesn't just affect the Black community in Elmont, of which I'm a part of because of my step-Dad. It doesn't just affect the White community and many other races in Floral Park, of which I'm also a part of because of my friends and my family and a lot of people I've met along in my life. This affects everyone. If you cannot and do not want to do your job, then I implore you, please do not do it. Please, vacate your position and allow someone else to do it, unless you want to continue to listen to --

FEMALE VOICE: Ma'am, your three minutes are up.

MS. BERGER: Please represent the best

interest for your community. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

David Fowle.

MR. FOWLE: Actually, I wasn't going to speak either, but I did want to --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You have a slip here.

MR. FOWLE: I wasn't intending to speak here today. Again, I did want to correct some of the misconceptions I think that were brought up during some of the discussion here.

My friend, Mr. Nicolosi, I am the President of the Sewanhaka Central High School District Board of Education. The event that he referred to on the front page of *Newsday* was held at Floral Park Memorial High School which, as you heard, is directly across the street from this proposed facility.

Absolutely, the Village of Floral Park requested a permit to use the facility for a rally, for a discussion. I was invited to speak at it, and did so. We expected, quite frankly, maybe 400, maybe 500 people, and that's why we used our auditorium and had an overflow room set

up in the library. It's because of the people you see here that have been coming before you last month and this month that came out in droves, that were willing to stand outside, to stand in the streets to wait to be heard. It's an issue that really, really affects all of our communities - Elmont, Floral Park, South Floral Park.

You know the statistics. You know from what you have been through. The idea that because there is gambling at the facility, then why isn't it at the Race Palace? There's already gambling at the Race Palace. It's not going to affect our children. It doesn't matter that it's near an elementary school and the high school. Why then isn't it Uniondale? Because the Hofstra University President objected.

This facility should not be near an elementary school. Again, the idea that this was not discussed in 2011 - with all due respect Madam Presiding Officer, you had a resolution, at least from the Floral Park-Bellerose School Board Education in 2011 objecting to any proposal that would place an Indian casino at Belmont

Racetrack. We have testified in the past, when I was the president of that board, the elementary school board, we testified against a flea market being placed at the facility. This is an area that we have defended - the communities of Elmont, Floral Park, South Floral Park have defended this for years.

Horseracing is a wonderful, wonderful sport. It is not pulling a slot machine. This is something that really has no business in a residential community. Again, the idea that there is no impact on the local community I think is ridiculous. And this is for, as the woman just stated, an alleged \$20 million payoff to the county. It's not going to happen.

You have already operating, as someone said, very, very successfully a few miles away. You have casinos coming back --

FEMALE VOICE: Sir, your three minutes are up.

MR. FOWLE: That's fine.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Fowle, just wrap it up.

MR. FOWLE: I will be very happy to wrap

it up.

Again, this is something that I think you have to think long and hard. You are placing something that has not bearing being in a residential community, particularly adjacent to schools, in this. And I urge you to do all that you can to stop it.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Mr. Fowle.

That concludes public comment. All the slips have been responded to.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: There's been a slip for Ms. Flood --

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Who?

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Ms. Flood has submitted a slip, to my understanding, and several people have deferred to her and she hasn't spoken.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I had Ms. Flood speak, I'm sorry.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Somebody yielded the floor to her. Ms. Flood, you've spoken here

before so you know that we don't pressure you.

MS. FLOOD: I know. I know. I'm here again. I'm going to continue to come here again. This is a hot potato issue. Again, I'm new to all of this. I have a three year old and a one year old. When the casino was a hot button issue, I know my parents talked to me about it, but I was working to start a family. I was working around-the-clock in my corporate job and I honestly didn't know enough about it to fight it then.

Right now, it's real to me. I have a three year old and one year old and this is my community. So I've been up here the last couple of times. And everyone in this room today, with the exception of a few people who demonstrated, actually quite well, the type of clientele that would be attending this proposed casino. Anyway.

I reached out to a lot of elected officials. Some of you up there, Mr. Muscarella, Mr. Nicoletto, who support my area, Ms. Schaefer who did something unprecedented for the Westbury proposal. My question is I don't understand why it didn't die at Westbury. Knowing that there

was one more shot at it. But there were residents, schools, and congestion involved in that deal.

Financial reasons in this county do not support signing up for something that has the potential to increase crime, perpetuate the sickness of this gambling and, my number one is, to teach the children in this community that this is acceptable, that this is an acceptable solve for a budget gap is not what we should be showing our young children.

I'm encouraging you because from some of the conversations that I've had from your representation, especially on the majority side, this week, I know that there is open to fact find. I'm imploring you to fact find. I'm imploring you to do dig into the numbers, the crime statistics, the false revenues. Drill down to the slot machine. I implore you. Dig into the current county budget again. I know it's your job and I know you're up against managing a budget. But in the document, the executive overview, there are a couple of gaps and places where you are citing a potential revenue

opportunity. So maybe that's half of the nut that we have to solve for for the \$20 million VLT revenue that's noted in the executive summary of the budget as a risk. Why are we supporting a risk, especially a risk that's supposed to be funded and built upon for future budget years by an organization such as OTB, that is a declining business, that supports something that's detrimental to humans, welfare, and to the economic and growth potential of this county.

I don't really understand the legislative process. Again, now I'm going to try to understand it a little bit better because I think a lot more people would have stuck around in this room today had they realized 15 minutes would pass and then they could have gotten up to the mic.

Again, there are school delays and children that need to get safely home, so I understand why we have a thinned out crowd.

But I don't know how do we get something like this back on the agenda? So there was something today called an emergency session that you need votes for. How many votes does it

require to get the VLT issue on your agenda?

Again, representing, from both facets, right? I know that there is the obligation to ensure the board of the OTB is overseen in an ethically, legal fashion. But what about the financials? How can we can the financials into question, and is that something that is worthy of an agenda item today if you're not prepared to remove and replace the board of the OTB? How do we get the financials into question and on this agenda?

Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you, Ms. Flood.

We're going to put the legislature in recess. Believe me, we have a Rules Committee that will probably convene very shortly, but it should not be too lengthy.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Norma, can I just ask you a favor? I was just told that they're coming down with the information.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We're in recess right now.

(Whereupon, the Full Legislature recessed at 3:54 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the Full Legislature reconvened at 5:17 p.m.)

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We are now reconvening.

I believe the two items that were in question - I think we were going to go by emergency for them, primarily because remember we said that there were questions that needed to be addressed. I believe the amendments have been brought down to us. Do we have the amendments?

CLERK MULLER: I do have them.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Do you have them? Okay. For which ones now?

CLERK MULLER: The one I think we had done for you were on 46 and 47, which we had given the chart out to everybody this morning, and then the county executive filed the two items that needed the amendments and has them as emergency resolutions. Are they the water pollution and the Port Washington Library?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: 13, Resolution 2, I believe that has to do with the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District. There's one more. I believe Item 18, Resolution 7. An

amendment needed to be filed, and I believe we have gotten the amendment so now we have to - Mr. Muller, I believe they filed the amendment and now that's an amendment in the nature of a substitution, correct?

CLERK MULLER: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: This is for 13 and 18.

CLERK MULLER: Sure. Do you want to do them together?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, please.

CLERK MULLER: Presiding Officer, we have an emergency that comes by way of a recommendation from the county executive. It's an emergency resolution declaring an emergency for immediate action upon a resolution to authorizing the county attorney to execute an inter-municipal agreement with the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District in relation to installing a new concrete ramp and miscellaneous architectural upgrades.

Also on the calendar today for an amendment is an emergency resolution, which will be an emergency resolution declaring an emergency

for immediate action upon a resolution authorizing the county executive to execute an inter-municipal agreement with the Port Washington Public Library to renovate the children's room of the Port Washington Public Library.

Motion, please?

By Legislator Walker.

All those in favor of the two emergencies signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

By Legislator Walker.

All those in favor of the two emergencies signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The emergency has been - for those two items have been established.

Let's go back to 13 and 18. There was an amendment for both items, correct? Here we go.

I'm going to read both of them and put them into the record.

Item 13, Resolution 2, which is the IMA

2 with the Great Neck Water Pollution Control  
 3 District in relation to installing a new concrete  
 4 ramp and miscellaneous architectural upgrades;  
 5 and the other was the IMA with the Port  
 6 Washington, which is 18, Resolution 7, an IMA  
 7 with the Port Washington Public Library to  
 8 renovate the children's room of the Port  
 9 Washington Library.

10 The amendments were noted on Clerk Item  
 11 24-16 and the time stamp is January 25 and 4:30.  
 12 The other one was Clerk Item 3 and the stamp I  
 13 believe is pretty much the same, January 25,  
 14 2016, 4:30 p.m. The amendments have been duly  
 15 filed.

16 Motion to accept the amendments?

17 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by  
 20 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Kopel.

21 Any questions?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 Any comments?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

Okay. Items 13 and 18 have now been approved.

Now a motion to adjourn?

CLERK MULLER: We have other emergencies.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Again, we have to establish the emergency, please.

CLERK MULLER: There are two to correct petitions with different towns. Can we call them together?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes, please.

CLERK MULLER: Thank you.

Presiding Officer, we have a request for an emergency to be declared from the county executive on two items: Clerk Item Number 46-16 and 47-16; a resolution to authorize the County Assessor and/or County Treasurer and/or the Receiver of Taxes of the Town of Hempstead to correct erroneous assessments and taxes in accordance with petitions of the county assessor on specific properties situated in various school

districts, assessed to designated owners appearing on the assessment rolls for the specified school year and/or County years pursuant to this resolution; pursuant to the Real Property Tax Law, the County Government Law of Nassau County, and the Nassau County Administrative Code.

The other emergency resolution is requesting an resolution to authorize the County Assessor and/or County Treasurer and/or the Receiver of Taxes of the Town of Oyster Bay to correct erroneous assessments and taxes in accordance with petitions of the county assessor on specific properties situated in various school districts, assessed to designated owners appearing on the assessment rolls for the specified school year and/or County years pursuant to this resolution; pursuant to the Real Property Tax Law, the County Government Law of Nassau County, and the Nassau County Administrative Code.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion to establish the emergency?

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator  
Nicolello.

All those in favor of establishing the  
emergency for these two items signify by saying  
aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

The emergency has been established.

Items 46 and 47, he just read them into  
the record.

Is there any public comment - we need a  
motion for Items 46 and 47.

LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator  
Nicolello.

Do we have anyone to speak on these two  
items? Lisa is here. I believe Legislator  
Nicolello has a question.

MS. LOCURTO: Certainly, Legislator.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I guess if you could just explain.

MS. LOCURTO: This is just a correction of errors that the Department of Assessment normally does. The reason why we're doing it by emergency is because we want to take advantage of the opportunity. If we can make this correction while the tax bills are still waiting or are in the period to be paid, we can get a corrected tax bill out to the taxpayer so they can pay on the corrected tax bill in time and they don't have to get a refund. So that's the reason we wanted to do it as quickly as possible.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What was it that led to the erroneous assessments? It's been in the newspapers. You can tell us what it is.

MS. LOCURTO: My understanding was that for the 2016 general tax bill there was a computer glitch that put additional properties on the tax warrant that shouldn't have been there. They were attributed to certain property owners that shouldn't have been. In essence, it was an overbilling. For example, you might have received, particularly this was in the area of

sewer charges. You might have received a sewer charge for A as well as B taxing jurisdiction and you shouldn't have. You should have only received a sewer charge for A. So what this correction will do is indicate that there are not to be two sewer charges for A and B, only one sewer charge.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Now that leads me to that question. What are we doing to make sure this computer glitch does not occur again?

MS. LOCURTO: The Department of Assessment IT Department is working with our outside vendor. As you know, or you may not know, the Department of Assessment runs the assessment role through the ADAPT system, which was a multi-billion dollar system that was acquired during the reassessment phase. We are going to have our IT Department work with Tyler to determine the exact cause of the error of why it was listed twice and to make sure it doesn't happen again.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We do want assurances - I understand you're with the county attorney's office. We want assurances from

2 Assessment that whatever it is that caused this,  
3 this glitch or problem with the software, that  
4 it's been fixed and it's not going to happen  
5 going forward.

6 MS. LOCURTO: Absolutely. And if it's  
7 possible.

8 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator Ford  
10 and then Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: I understand then,  
12 especially for the properties in question, that  
13 we have pushed back when the taxes are due.

14 MS. LOCURTO: Correct. Normally taxes  
15 are due February 10. There was a lawsuit between  
16 Town of Hempstead and subsequently with the Town  
17 of Oyster Bay which the time to pay your taxes  
18 was pushed from February 10 to March 1.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: That only gives three  
20 weeks. What happens, though, because it is a  
21 confusion that's causing a lot of concern, and  
22 I'm sure Legislator Whitton is getting the same  
23 e-mails and calls from residents in her district  
24 as well as in mine. I just want to make sure -  
25 when are you sending out the corrected tax bills?

MS. LOCURTO: Once the Legislature here votes on the correction petition, that will then immediately be sent to the Town of Hempstead and Town of Oyster Bay. We will be coordinating with their receiver of taxes so they can issue the corrected tax bills as quickly as possible and within the timeframe with the taxpayers with the corrected tax bills have to pay, so they are not in any way put out.

LEGISLATOR FORD: For me, I just want to be quite clear, that it's nice that you pushed back the time that their taxes are due. It was the error on the part of the county. We committed this error. So I want to be assured that not one resident who got this incorrect tax bill will be punished or fined in any way. If they forget or they got confused and sent in the wrong amount and then the Town of Hempstead pushes it back because it's not the right amount and end up sending it in, end up sending it in after March 1, I want to make sure that not one person pays more than what they are supposed to have been paid if the tax bills went out correctly.

MS. LOCURTO: Hopefully, Legislator, the corrected tax bills will go out and no taxpayer will have to pay an incorrect amount.

LEGISLATOR FORD: So when the tax bills go out - they went out, when? I guess either this week or last week, correct?

MS. LOCURTO: Last week. Normally, when the tax warrant was passed, as it always is, for the general tax bill in December, there are ten days from the receipt of that warrant that the town receivers send out the tax bills. So the tax bills have been going out in the past two weeks. Hempstead and Oyster Bay got a little bit of an extension of time. Many of the tax bills have already been out. The receiver of taxes will be communicating with the taxpayers. Many of the taxpayers called the Department of Assessment and/or the Receiver of Taxes and immediately we were on top of it to ensure that the correct information was given to them so that they are expecting the corrected tax bills so they will pay the corrected amount.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Without penalizing.

MS. LOCURTO: Without penalty.

LEGISLATOR FORD: So what you're going to do is after this, tomorrow, you're going to send out - you have all the corrected tax bills to be sent to the receiver of taxes in the towns?

MS. LOCURTO: The town receivers send out the tax bills. We can only give them the warrants so that they have then the authority to send out the corrected tax bills.

LEGISLATOR FORD: And they'll get these warrants tomorrow?

MS. LOCURTO: I'm sure the receivers, because they're aware of the problem and we've been coordinating with them identifying the properties, they're probably already loading up the tax bills, but the receiver of taxes have to send it out, the county can't.

LEGISLATOR FORD: All right. I just want to make sure that not one person who got an incorrect tax bill pays one additional penny more than what they were supposed to have paid.

MS. LOCURTO: We're endeavoring to do that.

LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator

DeRiggi-Whitton.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Thank you.

Lisa, are we sure that these were the only taxpayers that were billed incorrectly?

MS. LOCURTO: The Department of Assessment has identified all the parcels. There were 880 parcels. The majority of the parcels fall between two specific areas: Lido Beach and Sea Cliff. So those two areas have been identified and assessment is confident they've identified all of the properties.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: It's all Glen Cove and Glen Head. It's been the whole Town of Oyster Bay, a big portion of the Town of Oyster Bay area.

MS. LOCURTO: In the petition - I don't have the particulars of the different properties. But all the properties that were in the petitions are the ones that were identified as where the problem existed.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Did anyone go back and make sure that the glitch didn't happen with any other properties?

MS. LOCURTO: Yes, they did. The

Department of Assessment did that.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I think  
Legislator Ford touched on a lot, as far as  
they'll be notified, the towns and cities and  
villages, immediately.

MS. LOCURTO: Yes. Absolutely. We've  
been coordinating. When Assessment first learned  
of the issue and we started getting phone calls,  
we immediately began to coordinate with the town  
receivers. So, yes.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: On a  
related subject. I've been receiving a number of  
correspondence from various attorneys. With the  
LIPA Pilot, do we have any idea what the county  
is going to be doing? Do you believe the county  
might pursue a lawsuit against LIPA for the  
discrepancies in their bills?

MS. LOCURTO: The County is still  
examining filing a lawsuit with LIPA on that  
issue.

LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Do you have  
any idea -- talk about calls, that's my number  
one problem right now.

MS. LOCURTO: I understand, Legislator.

2 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Do you have  
3 any idea if we're going to have an answer any  
4 time soon?

5 MS. LOCURTO: Yes, we should have it  
6 soon.

7 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Can I ask  
8 you as a personal favor to let me know when you  
9 do know -

10 MS. LOCURTO: Absolutely, Legislator.

11 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: because  
12 that is a major thing.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Let us all know.

14 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Let us all  
15 know, of course. I'm sorry.

16 MS. LOCURTO: Absolutely.

17 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: Norma, I  
18 just wanted to thank you and Ellen -

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're most  
20 welcome.

21 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: We  
22 appreciate your doing that.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We just have to  
24 make sure we get our items correct.

25 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON: I

appreciate it.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No other  
comments.

Public comment?

(No verbal response.)

There being none; all those in favor of  
Items 46 and 47 signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

That was unanimous for the two items.

Motion to adjourn?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Second.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
Nicolello.

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

We're all ready to go home.

(Whereupon, the Full Legislature  
adjourned at 5:34 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand this 10th day of February, 2016.

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FRANK GRAY