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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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NORMA GONSALVES

9

PRESIDING OFFICER

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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The Museum of American Armor

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1303 Round Swamp Road

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Old Bethpage, New York

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Tuesday, March 15, 2016

21

6:50 P.M.

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Reported by

25

Frank Gray

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

3 LEGISLATOR NORMA L. GONSALVES
4 Presiding Officer
5 13th Legislative District

6 LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO
7 Deputy Presiding Officer
8 9th Legislative District

9 LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS
10 Minority Leader
11 1st Legislative District

12 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE
13 2nd Legislative District

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14 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD
15 4th Legislative District

16 LEGISLATOR LAURA CURRAN
17 5th Legislative District

13

18 LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III
19 6th Legislative District

20 LEGISLATOR VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA
21 8th Legislative District

16

22 LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM
23 10th Legislative District

24 LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY
25 12th Legislative District

19

26 LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER
27 14th Legislative District

28 LEGISLATOR JUDY JACOBS
29 16th Legislative District

22

30 LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER
31 17th Legislative District

32 LEGISLATOR DONALD MACKENZIE
33 18th Legislative District

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

3 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS
4 19th Legislative District

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5 MICHAEL PULITZER
6 Clerk of the Legislature

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2 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Would
3 you please take your seats. At this point I
4 would like to call the meeting of the Nassau
5 County Legislature to order. I am
6 privileged to call upon Mr. Corona, who
7 will present the colors.

8 At this time I would ask
9 Legislator Schaefer to sing the National
10 Anthem.

11 At this time I will ask the clerk
12 of the legislature, Michael Pulitzer, to
13 please call the roll.

14 MR. PULITZER: Thank you and
15 good evening. I will now call the roll.

16 Deputy presiding officer Richard
17 J. Nicolello.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

19 MR. PULITZER: Alternate deputy
20 presiding officer Howard S. Kopel.

21 Legislator Seila A. Bynoe.

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Legislator
24 Carrie Solages.

25 Legislator Denise A. Ford.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

3 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
4 Curran.

5 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

6 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.
7 William Gaylor III.

8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator
10 Vincent T. Muscarella.

11 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Ellen
13 W. Birnbaum.

14 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
16 DeRiggi-Whitton.

17 Legislator James D. Kennedy.

18 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura
20 M. Schaefer.

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Legislator
23 Dennis Dunne, Sr.

24 Legislator Judith A. Jacobs.

25 LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose
3 Marie Walker.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

5 MR. PULITZER: Legislator
6 Donald MacKenzie.

7 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator
9 Steven D. Rhoads.

10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Here.

11 MR. PULITZER: Minority leader
12 Kevan M. Abrahams.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Presiding
15 Officer Norma L. Gonsalves.

16 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: We have a
18 quorum.

19 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: Thank
20 you. I know at this time, if I'm not
21 mistaken, we may have a few minutes. So
22 I'm asking until I get a signal to introduce
23 the county executive I will wait I think a
24 minute or two. Is that what we have?

25 Ladies and gentlemen it is my

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2 pleasure to introduce the Nassau County
3 Executive Edward P. Mangano.

4 COUNTY EXECUTIVE MANGANO: Good
5 evening and welcome. I would like to begin
6 by thanking Presiding Officer Norma
7 Gonsalves, Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams
8 and the Nassau County Legislators that join
9 us here tonight and thank them for hosting
10 this year's State of the County Address.

11 I appreciate the presence of my
12 colleagues in government, Comptroller George
13 Maragos is with us. I believe our Clerk
14 Maureen O'Connell is with us.

15 District Attorney Madeline
16 Singas. And members of our learned
17 judiciary.

18 Legislator Schaefer, thank you
19 for leading us in our national anthem. And
20 thank you to Long Island Marine Cadets for
21 serving as honor guards this evening.

22 Will all of our veterans please
23 rise and be recognized. But for your
24 service and sacrifice we would not enjoy the
25 freedoms that we enjoy in the United States

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2 of America. Let's hear it for our
3 nation's veterans.

4 Fellow residents, tonight I
5 report to you that the state of Nassau
6 County's economy is growing stronger. Our
7 quality of life continues to be enhanced and
8 our county's finances are being
9 strengthened. Working together, our
10 economic development team has created
11 jobs and built a stronger Nassau. No more
12 are we fighting the exodus of jobs, but
13 rather we are effectively competing and in
14 fact attracting employers back to Nassau
15 County.

16 Our unemployment rate is the
17 lowest in New York State at 4.2 percent and
18 over 25,000 jobs have been added to our
19 economy. Most importantly, new employers
20 are returning and investing in Nassau
21 County, creating jobs. And local companies
22 are in many cases expanding operations. Our
23 economy has and continues to become more
24 diverse, no longer depending on a single
25 industry.

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2 The property tax cap is working.
3 More money is staying in the wallets of
4 our residents than entering government
5 coffers.

6 New housing opportunities are
7 becoming readily available near our transit
8 centers, providing millennials with options
9 to stay here on Long Island. Transformation
10 of the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum and
11 surrounding property is underway. We have
12 much to be proud of and much more to
13 accomplish.

14 Tonight I deliver this State of
15 the County Address from the Museum of
16 American Armor, located on the grounds of
17 Old Bethpage Village Restoration. A
18 public-private partnership with
19 philanthropist Lawrence Kadish. I'd like to
20 recognize Lawrence. He helped launch this
21 museum. I would also like to acknowledge
22 the charitable support of Stop and Shop
23 supermarkets, Polimeni International,
24 Bethpage Federal Credit Union, PSEG and
25 Suez. All of them have ensured that this

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2 museum can fulfill its mission.

3 And it plays a crucial role,
4 paying honor and respect to American GIs
5 while serving as a permanent living
6 classroom for a new generation of Americans,
7 who are learning to appreciate the
8 battlefield sacrifices made on their
9 behalf. Those sacrifices have taken place
10 since the birth of our nation and
11 continue to occur today.

12 While we assemble here tonight,
13 our troops remain overseas combatting ISIS
14 and other radical extremists.

15 Here in the homeland, we have
16 remained ever vigilant while witnessing acts
17 of terror in places where democracy and
18 diversity are celebrated literally from
19 California to Paris. The threat of
20 terrorism here in the United States is real.
21 It is something the Nassau County Police
22 Department takes very seriously and every
23 citizen can assist in prevention.

24 As some of you may recall,
25 whether you lived through it or learned it

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2 in history class, in 1941 President Franklin
3 Delano Roosevelt asked the American public
4 to keep a watchful eye for possible
5 espionage and sabotage through a program
6 known as civil defense. That may now seem
7 like distant history and international
8 terrorism appears to be well offshore. But
9 as recent developments in San Bernadino
10 remind us, those shadows are real, immediate
11 and dangerous.

12 Every American can help in
13 protecting our homeland in 2016. With
14 approximately 850 million active social
15 media users per month, you can help report
16 suspicious activity by taking a screen shot
17 of social media threats, terror allegiances,
18 recruitment efforts or any other suspicious
19 behaviors and report this activity via Text
20 a Tip by downloading the Nassau County Crime
21 Stoppers application available in the app
22 store for your smart phone and tablet
23 devices.

24 Rest assured, federal, state and
25 local law enforcement agencies are

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2 vigilantly working 24-7 to keep our county
3 and nation safe. While at the present time
4 there is no known threat to Nassau County,
5 we remain concerned due to our large
6 population and proximity to New York City.
7 To put it simply, we are a high value
8 target.

9 The Nassau County Police
10 Department, along with partners in law
11 enforcement, is monitoring potential
12 threats to public safety. We have
13 conducted anti-terror police training
14 exercises and our police department has
15 purchased high powered rifles which are
16 ready for use in response to any active
17 shooter or terror situation.

18 I am truly proud of the dedicated
19 men and women of the Nassau County Police
20 Department for their commitment to
21 protecting us here at home. Since entering
22 office in 2010, the legislature and I have
23 worked in a bipartisan manner to invest
24 significant resources in the police
25 department to keep our neighborhoods safe.

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2 In fact, crime is down 25 percent
3 since 2010 and shootings are down 24
4 percent. This success is directly
5 attributable to a dedicated and well
6 trained police force. Intelligent-led
7 policing models and advancements in
8 technology, such as computers in patrol
9 vehicles, license plate readers and our
10 Shot Spotter System, which notifies police
11 officers in six seconds of gunshots fired
12 and pinpoints the location of the incident
13 so that the officers can arrive quickly on
14 the scene to investigate the crime, aid
15 victims and search for evidence.

16 This past year, Legislator Denise
17 Ford and I assisted the city of Long Beach
18 in tackling gun crimes, thereby funding a
19 Shot Spotter System. Together with Minority
20 Leader Kevan Abrahams and Legislator Laura
21 Curran, we assisted Freeport Mayor Kennedy
22 and the village in launching a license plate
23 reader program that has led to impounding
24 hundreds of vehicles and dozens of arrests,
25 including a suspected murderer and a home

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2 burglar.

3 County-wide success in reducing
4 crime is also attributable to our Gun Buy
5 Back Program coordinated by the Nassau
6 County Police Department and District
7 Attorney Singas. This partnership has
8 resulted in more than 4,000 guns being
9 removed from our streets and destroyed.

10 Tonight we are joined by some of
11 Nassau's finest. This includes three
12 Nassau County police officers, two of whom
13 were father and son, who worked in tandem
14 with five dedicated communication operators
15 to save the life of a Franklin Square man
16 that had fallen into 37 degree water.
17 Police officers James V. Sarnataro, James R.
18 Sarnataro, police officer Justin Wocel, as
19 well as police communications operators and
20 supervisors Nancy Stanley, Carol Nadolny,
21 Loretta Pierson, Roseanna Lauro, and
22 Christopher Brandimarte. Please stand and
23 be recognized for your life saving efforts.
24 Tonight we also recognize Nassau
25 County police officer Jeffrey Shaikh and

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2 his partner K-9 Jake who apprehended a
3 suspect wanted for committing a rash of
4 robberies, including killing a gas station
5 attendant. Jake and officer Shaikh have
6 been very busy over the past year making 15
7 apprehensions and tonight we thank them for
8 their exemplary work.

9 I think they are with us here
10 today.

11 Also joining us tonight are five
12 police officers from the Fifth Precinct who
13 worked together to assist residents out of a
14 West Hempstead building fire.

15 These brave officers helped
16 rescue citizens from higher floors and even
17 caught an eight year old as he jumped out
18 of a window. Police officers James
19 Schurlein, Luis Ascenso, Jason Dennington,
20 Evan Marro, and Peter Duvenhorst please
21 stand and be recognized.

22 Tonight we are also joined by
23 three police medics, five police officers
24 and two civilians that saved the life of a
25 Seaford basketball referee who went into

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2 cardiac arrest while officiating a game.

3 Police medic supervisor Scott
4 Dipino, police medics Robert Freeman and
5 Steven Doucette, police officers John Ripp,
6 Joseph Clougher, Patrick Rail, David Tate
7 and Michael Valela. As well as residents
8 Karen Winter and Sean Killian. Please
9 stand and be recognized for your life
10 saving efforts.

11 I'm certain you are also familiar
12 with a failed robbery that took place at
13 Roosevelt Field Mall. 911 lit up with
14 calls of shots fired at the mall, resulting
15 in one worker being wounded and sending
16 hundreds of shoppers running for safety.
17 The perpetrator was immediately taken down
18 by two brave citizens, one off-duty NYPD
19 officer and the other a retired detective.
20 Both ran toward danger in an effort to save
21 lives.

22 Ken Krug, a mall security guard
23 who retired from the NYPD in 2003 after 20
24 years on the job, grabbed the gun and
25 took down the thug. A mall security officer

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2 joined in the struggle, as well as Nassau
3 County police officer John Carney, who was
4 off duty at the time and off-duty NYPD
5 inspector Kenneth Lehr, who ran to the scene
6 and slapped cuffs on the subject. I ask
7 that retired Police Officer Ken Krug, mall
8 security officer Marcelo Espinosa, Police
9 Officer John Carney and Inspector Kenneth
10 Lehr, please stand and be recognized for
11 their dedication, bravery and heroism.
12 These are just some examples of why we have
13 the safest large suburban county in the
14 United States of America.

15 While we have recognized many of
16 Nassau's finest, we must never forget
17 Nassau's bravest, the men and women of the
18 volunteer fire service who put their
19 families on hold and lives on hold to help
20 fellow residents and protect their
21 property.

22 To help our volunteers, we
23 launched two life saving programs. The
24 Yellow Dot Program assists in life saving
25 measures involving victims of automobile

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2 accidents, and the Vial Of Life Program
3 similarly assists individuals during
4 emergencies at home. It is my hope that
5 these programs help save lives, along
6 with the proper training our fire fighters
7 receive from VEEB and the new burn buildings
8 at the fire service academy.

9 To thank our volunteers and
10 assist with recruitment efforts, we have and
11 continue to provide free community college
12 tuition to hundreds of fire fighters who
13 answer the call of duty to protect their
14 fellow citizens.

15 Great acts of heroism are
16 performed by our fire service which rescued
17 a young woman crushed by a large tree that
18 crashed through the roof of her Great Neck
19 home, trapping her in bed. Joining us
20 tonight are Chief James Neubert and the
21 Great Neck Alert Fire Company as well as
22 members of the technical rescue teams,
23 including ex-Rockville Centre Chief John
24 Busching, Manhasset Chief Michael Farrone
25 and team leader Alex November, Port

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2 Washington Chief Brian Waterson, Bethpage
3 Chief Frank DeBobes, Assistant Chief John
4 Castles and North Bellmore Chief Michael
5 Rutt. Let us thank them for their
6 service.

7 Friends, brave first responders
8 both active and retired, take on the battles
9 required to preserve our quality of life.
10 The same is true with our war on drugs.
11 With the district attorney, police
12 department, Department of Human Services and
13 community partners we are combating the
14 growing heroin and prescription drug
15 epidemic that plagues our nation and took
16 the lives of nearly 200 residents last year.
17 We are battling heroin and opioid abuse
18 through a comprehensive strategy, awareness,
19 education, enforcement and treatment.

20 With respect to awareness, our
21 police department visits students
22 county-wide and continues to alert the
23 public through our Heroin Prevention Task
24 Force. Recently my wife, Linda, a constant
25 advocate for families impacted by heroin,

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2 thanks Lin, helped bring together 500
3 residents and professionals which included
4 18 school districts and two universities at
5 Nassau's first ever heroin educational
6 summit.

7 To educate residents on how to
8 save the life of a loved one, Legislators
9 Ellen Birnbaum, Denice Ford, Dennis Dunne,
10 Norma Gonsalves, James Kennedy, Howard
11 Kopel, Don McKenzie, Vincent Muscarella,
12 Richard Nicoletto, Steve Rhoads, Laura
13 Schaefer, Rose Walker, Delia DeRiggi-Whitton
14 as well as state senators Kemp Hannon, Jack
15 Martins, Michael Venditto, Assemblyman Brian
16 Curran, have joined us in hosting overdose
17 prevention and drug abuse awareness seminars
18 and they should be thanked for doing that.

19 In fact, Plainedge School
20 District took the bold move and hosted
21 training for all of its employees. Together
22 we have trained 6,200 citizens as well as
23 school nurses and administrators to
24 administer the overdose reversal agent known
25 as Narcan. Our training sessions alone have

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2 helped saved the lives of 25 residents. I
3 ask that everyone who has been trained to
4 administer Narcan please stand and be
5 recognized for your dedication to saving
6 lives and giving people a second chance at
7 life.

8 Together we are overcoming the
9 stigma of drug abuse and helping families
10 acknowledge that the only shame in addiction
11 is not seeking help.

12 With respect to enforcement,
13 Nassau County and Suffolk County joined
14 forces in February to combine our resources
15 and track down the sources of fatal heroin
16 overdoses. We are aggressively hunting down
17 drug dealers to remove them from our
18 streets. Commissioner Krumpter good job.

19 As for treatment, we launched a
20 program called a Shot of Life which provides
21 counseling with monthly injections of
22 Vivitrol which caps the opiate receptors in
23 the brain cutting the cravings and blocking
24 the euphoric effects of drugs.

25 Father Ralph Sommer of Saint

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2 Bernard's Church in Levittown formed the
3 first Vivitrol support group and we thank
4 him for his leadership as well.

5 Together programs such as these
6 are saving the lives of sons, daughters,
7 husbands and wives. We are truly helping
8 combat the heroin crisis, keeping families
9 whole and becoming a national model for
10 tackling the drug crisis. This is why the
11 states of Alaska, Arizona, Colorado and
12 Florida have contacted Nassau County for
13 guidance.

14 While there is much more work to
15 do, I thank all those who have worked
16 hard to combat the heroin epidemic.

17 It is our good samaritan spirit
18 that government must invoke more than ever
19 to keep our community a great place to live.

20 An ingredient to keep Nassau
21 great is to curtail the size of government.
22 There was time when government grew too
23 large and forgot who paid the bills.
24 Grandparents have moved to the sunshine
25 state. Young families have struggled

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2 financially to pay student loans and support
3 themselves and even made choices to have
4 smaller families due to the cost of living
5 here in New York. The middle class was
6 squeezed like a lemon from every angle. The
7 bitter taste of that lemon drove me to seek
8 changes on your behalf.

9 Over the past six years my
10 administration has remained mindful of the
11 economic times in which we live. While
12 schools make up 67 percent of your tax bill
13 in 2009, they now make up an average of 71
14 percent in 2016. Nassau County had the
15 reverse trend. County government on average
16 made up 19 percent of your total tax bill in
17 2009. Today it only makes up 16 percent of
18 your total tax bill in 2016. A real
19 decline. Let me tell you how that's
20 possible.

21 While neighboring municipalities
22 increased property taxes by double digits
23 since 2010, we froze county property taxes
24 for five years. 2015 was the fifth straight
25 year in which households earning under

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2 \$500,000 a year, and God bless you if you
3 make more, did not pay a net dime more than
4 they did in 2010.

5 This was accomplished by
6 participating in the governor's property Tax
7 Freeze Credit Program which rewards counties
8 like ours that stay within the tax cap by
9 sending dollar for dollar reimbursement
10 checks to residents which return a 2.2
11 percent residential budget increase to all
12 homeowners earning less than \$500,000.

13 Now, in 2016, county government
14 has again frozen its tax levy. This
15 unprecedented record of holding property
16 taxes down hasn't been easy. But we got
17 it done and protected homeowners' wallets.
18 Together with Presiding Officer Gonsalves
19 and the legislature we cut \$330 million in
20 wasteful spending, the equivalent of a 25
21 percent tax increase.

22 We reduced our workforce by over
23 1,776 positions to the lowest level since
24 the 1950s. This saves our generation money
25 and future generations will pay 1,776

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2 less pensions and health care costs at
3 retirement.

4 We now have six less departments
5 and 100 fewer administrators. We cut energy
6 costs, reduced the number of vehicles in our
7 fleet and eliminated thousands of copy
8 machines and phone lines. We launched
9 public-private partnerships which utilized
10 private sector nontaxpayer dollars to create
11 public improvements and continue public
12 programs. Public-private partnerships for
13 our bus system, sewage treatment plant
14 operations and health care at the jail are
15 savings tens of millions of dollars each and
16 every year.

17 These partnerships have also
18 enhanced public facilities, such as athletic
19 fields and ice rinks at no cost to the
20 taxpayer. By tightening our belt and
21 working together with NIFA and the
22 legislature in a bipartisan manner, we
23 doubled Nassau's reserves to \$120 million
24 and reduced the cost of government by more
25 than any other municipality.

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2 I would be remiss if I didn't
3 take an opportunity tonight to welcome new
4 NIFA chairman Adam Barski. Let's give him a
5 round of applause in his new role.

6 And I must thank outgoing
7 chairman Jon Kaiman for his service to our
8 county.

9 Together with NIFA under Jon we
10 have accomplished much toward strengthening
11 our county financing by settling labor
12 contracts and setting forth a financial
13 plan that eliminates borrowing for tax
14 refunds which has plagued this county's
15 finances over the last two decades through a
16 system that produces errors and requires
17 Nassau County to pay one dollar for every 16
18 cents in error. Understand this imagine if
19 you had a business that sold something for
20 16 cents and when someone came back to
21 return it you had to hand him a dollar.
22 Well, that's been the system here in the
23 county of Nassau for the last 20 years
24 represents nearly half our debt and that's
25 what we're moving towards ending the

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2 borrowing to pay that debt.

3 Through reforms, we have reduced
4 this debt accumulated from what was \$100
5 million a year annually to \$60 million and
6 are on a path to have zero borrowing in
7 2018.

8

9 We have also established a pay-go
10 litigation fund and began paying CSEA
11 termination compensation from operating
12 funds. This progress is reducing debt
13 accumulation and strengthening our finances.
14 In fact, despite increasing costs related to
15 employee pension costs and pension costs,
16 Nassau County spends millions less today
17 than it did when I took office in 2010.

18 That's right. Your county
19 government spends millions less today than
20 it did six years ago, and that is in spite
21 of a 13 percent rise in the consumer price
22 index during that time.

23 We've cracked down on wasteful
24 spending and ensured important public
25 services continue to enhance Nassau's

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2 quality of life.

3 To better protect your tax
4 dollars, the legislature and I improved
5 Nassau County's procurement process. Last
6 overhauled in 2004, it had been the subject
7 to media reports concerning the lack of
8 transparency. At that time the policy was
9 overhauled to reflect additional layers of
10 approval and increased transparency.
11 Following those reforms, a 2012 audit
12 conducted by New York State Comptroller Tom
13 DiNapoli found that the policy process was
14 being followed but had also created
15 significant delays in the final execution of
16 contracts. Some exceeding the statutory
17 deadline by 66 days. This process became
18 even lengthier in recent years with NIFA
19 adding an average of 39 days to the process.

20 By virtue of these delays, the
21 state comptroller correctly pointed out
22 vendors began work for the county at their
23 own risk of nonpayment before the contract
24 had actually concluded. While this lengthy
25 process was touted as the most transparent

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2 system possible at the time, we learned over
3 the past year that the system can be further
4 improved.

5 To that end, I signed two
6 executive orders. The first requires
7 registration and disclosures by lobbyists
8 and the second requires disclosures by
9 contractors and consultants. These orders
10 were subsequently codified by the Nassau
11 County legislature.

12 Immediately thereafter, I formed
13 an independent panel of experts to review
14 Nassau County's procurement process and the
15 district attorney issued a report to assist
16 us in our mutual goal of enhanced
17 transparency. We created a new position of
18 procurement compliance director to create
19 greater oversight. Together with the
20 legislature, we also adopted requirements
21 for all contractors to disclose their
22 political donations and sign affidavits.

23 Clearly, Nassau County followed
24 the laws and policies put in place in 2004,
25 as did the prior administration, which

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2 includes ten levels of approval prior to
3 contracts being executed. That's right.
4 Ten approvals are in place to ensure checks
5 and balances. Before a contract is executed
6 approvals are required from the initiating
7 department, then the Office of Management
8 and Budget Review, the Office of County
9 Attorney, the Office of the County Attorney
10 again, then the county comptroller, then the
11 county legislature when applicable, then the
12 county attorney for a third time, then
13 Office of Management and Budget Review
14 for a second time, our office of OMB, then
15 the county comptroller for a second time and
16 NIFA if applicable. Then and only then can
17 a contract be executed here in the county of
18 Nassau.

19 The integrity of our government
20 remains a personal as well as a professional
21 priority for me. We are entrusted to do the
22 people's business and it is a solemn,
23 ethical responsibility that I welcome every
24 day as county executive. Under my
25 administration there is now a procurement

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2 system that has historic levels of
3 transparency, oversight and checks and
4 balances.

5 With respect to contracts under
6 \$25,000, while there was never any legal
7 or regulatory mandate to do so, my
8 administration made certain that contracts
9 from one penny to \$25,000 were placed on the
10 legislative calendar publicly available for
11 public inspection since 2010 since I took
12 office. I, along with the majority in the
13 legislature, recently submitted a bill that
14 requires the legislature to vote on
15 contracts from \$1,000 to \$25,000. This will
16 create a further record of the process
17 because the public has a right and we have
18 an obligation to full disclosure. When
19 concerns are raised and I believe the answer
20 is more disclosure, more sunlight and more
21 transparency, yet additional actions must
22 also be taken or considered.

23 Public campaign finance reform is
24 once again a hotly debated topic. You'd be
25 interested to know this is not a new

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2 subject. In fact, in 1907 President
3 Theodore Roosevelt spoke at his State of
4 the Union Address of a radical measure
5 and I quote his words. "The need for
6 collecting large campaign funds would
7 vanish if congress provided an appropriation
8 for proper and legitimate expenses of each
9 great national parties." More than 100
10 years later we are still having this debate
11 over public financing of elections.

12 Here in New York, the laws of the
13 state govern campaign finance regulations
14 and presently set statutory limits as well
15 as reporting disclosure requirements, making
16 all contributions publicly available on the
17 New York State Board of Elections' website.
18 Nassau now requires a vendor certification
19 of this information in our contract
20 disclosure process.

21 Still the argument resumes with
22 respect to limiting a person's
23 constitutional right to support the
24 candidate of their choice verses the
25 appearance of influence in the contracting

1 3-15-16

2 process. Where this answer lies I believe
3 it is with some form of public campaign
4 finance reform. A subject that I am certain
5 will be further debated as time goes on.

6 Friends, our transparent and
7 fiscally conservative policies have and
8 continue to send a clear and loud message to
9 residents and our business community.

10 Nassau County is the place to
11 live, work and raise a family. Jobs have
12 begun to return. Nassau County leads the
13 state of New York with the lowest
14 unemployment at 4.2 percent. Down from
15 seven percent in 2010 when I took office.
16 Since November 2014 the number of employed
17 Long Islanders has grown more than 57,000.

18 This success is attributable to
19 our aggressive economic development plan in
20 partnership with the Nassau Counsel of
21 Chambers of Commerce, which focuses on job
22 creation by aggressively soliciting
23 companies to establish their headquarters
24 here in Nassau County. We trumpet Nassau's
25 quality of life and we have a great quality

1 3-15-16

2 of life here and you should look beyond our
3 borders to see how good it is to live here
4 in this great county.

5 And we have increased housing
6 opportunities as well as technology to
7 provide forums for residents to obtain
8 employment.

9 At the heart of our strategy is
10 not to just seek technology firms or bio
11 incubators, not just manufacturers or
12 importers, but a broad spectrum of companies
13 and disciplines that need the best and the
14 brightest of employees in order to succeed.
15 And those employees are right here in Nassau
16 County.

17 Against competition generated by
18 a global economy we seek to attract and
19 keep the entrepreneur who can offer a range
20 of career opportunities that can employ all
21 of our residents.

22 To give you some examples of our
23 success -- now these are companies that made
24 a brick and mortar investment in our county
25 before companies left here and when you did

1 3-15-16

2 get job growth they weren't investing in
3 their headquarters, their brick and mortar
4 investments. Today we have Display
5 Technologies relocated their headquarters
6 and 61 jobs from Queens to Lake Success with
7 plans to create more.

8 New York Vanity, a Queens-based
9 cabinet manufacturer, moved its entire
10 operation and jobs to Freeport.

11 Supreme Screw, a high tech
12 manufacturer of surgical screws, they are an
13 actual manufacturer which is tough to
14 attract here, from the Bronx moved 36 jobs
15 to Nassau County with plans to create an
16 additional 30 jobs and we are happy to have
17 them.

18 K and B Trading, a cap importer
19 and distributor, moved from New Jersey to
20 Port Washington creating 20 new jobs.

21 Haine Celestial moved their
22 international headquarters with 250 jobs
23 to Lake Success rather than New Jersey
24 after being personally courted by Governor
25 Christie and they have plans to create 100

1 3-15-16

2 additional jobs.

3 R Best Produce better know for
4 the chain of supermarkets they own Uncle
5 Giuseppe's, they relocated 51 jobs and their
6 corporate headquarters from the Bronx to
7 Port Washington along with plans to create
8 another 12.

9 Jesco Lighting, a Queens-based
10 company, was bound for LA but chose Nassau
11 County for their operations.

12 Aqua Enerviva moved its
13 headquarters from Greenwich, Connecticut
14 to Bethpage.

15 My economic development team has
16 really done a great job in this regard.

17 They should be recognized. Give
18 them a big round of applause for the great
19 work they do.

20 My economic development team also
21 focuses on retaining quality employers here
22 in Nassau County. Those that have been
23 paying the taxes all these years.

24 We helped NY Community Bank
25 retain nearly 500 jobs in Nassau that might

1 3-15-16

2 have been shifted out of state and helped
3 them create 80 new jobs.

4 We assisted Publishers
5 Clearinghouse in expanding their operations,
6 retaining 800 jobs and creating 66 more.
7 This success story alone is estimated to
8 generate \$136 million in economic benefit to
9 the county.

10 Working with New York State we
11 retained Dealertrack Technologies'
12 headquarters, their 367 jobs and helped
13 advance their plans for 357 new jobs in
14 Nassau County. This deal boosts Nassau's
15 economy to the tune of \$3 billion.

16 Dealertrack was courted to move from Long
17 Island by Texas, Utah, Florida, New Jersey
18 and South Carolina and Nassau County won.

19 Others expanding their workforce
20 with our assistance include Nassau Candy,
21 Designatronics, Genadyne Biotechnologies,
22 P and L Development, Wac Lighting Company.
23 All of them had been courted to leave our
24 state and leave our county.

25 Again, we were able to keep them

1 3-15-16

2 here.

3 An area of enormous job growth
4 and considerable potential is also our film
5 and TV industry. This is something I worked
6 on when I first became a legislator in '96
7 with Legislator Nicoletto. We formed a film
8 commission and we pursued attracting this
9 industry here in unused, unwanted former
10 defense buildings that had so many issues
11 they were really set for this industry and
12 not many other. Today we are happy they're
13 here. They have meant to our local economy
14 to the tune of \$530 million over the past
15 two years. That's they're economic impact.

16 Just a few months ago, Nassau
17 County served as home to NBC's live
18 performance of the Wiz. Nassau County has
19 also served as backdrops for movies
20 including Sisters, Trainwreck, the Amazing
21 Spiderman II and John Wick II. For those
22 fans of John Wick we just filmed John Wick
23 II here.

24 I just recently had the
25 opportunity to visit the set of The Comedian

1 3-15-16

2 featuring Robert DeNiro and I can tell you
3 firsthand the importance of growing this
4 industry and we will continue to help grow
5 this industry here and commit the resources
6 necessary to grow these jobs. And these
7 jobs are carpenters, electricians and
8 artisans that have worked here right on Long
9 Island.

10 And by the way, a good part of
11 that workforce lives here on Long Island so
12 they are more than happy to work in Nassau
13 County. I should mention Denise Ford as
14 well has been a great supporter of the film
15 industry and I appreciate that as well
16 Denise.

17 Our economy is also emerging in
18 the areas of cybersecurity and technology.

19 We are a leading technology
20 center in the region with hundreds of
21 companies employing thousands of residents.
22 Together with captains of industry, we are
23 fostering a supportive environment for
24 technology companies with Nassau County's
25 tech task team led by Peter Goldsmith,

1 3-15-16

2 Andrew Hazen and from my office Peter
3 DeSilvio. If they're here let's give them a
4 round of applause in this growing industry.

5 Over the past year we supported
6 their growth, assisted in recruitment
7 efforts and showcased their products at
8 Long Island Tech Day.

9 The IDA also paved the way for
10 New York Institute of Technology to
11 establish a cyberdefense research facility
12 here in Nassau County to serve the nation's
13 need for cybersecurity professionals.
14 Cybersecurity is a national concern and this
15 research facility will allow NYIT students
16 and faculty to work on government-sanctioned
17 projects in a secure facility.

18 Nassau County's workforce has the
19 skilled defense industry talent and high
20 tech knowledge to support the cybersecurity
21 industry and develop tomorrow's
22 cybersecurity technology today here in
23 Nassau County.

24 Our residents put a man on the
25 moon, built our national defense assets and

1 3-15-16

2 this history of experience will live on in
3 our vision for the future.

4 Nassau County has a diverse
5 economy and its health care industry is
6 growing like never before. Last year we
7 assisted Winthrop University Hospital in
8 building new lab space in Mineola. But it
9 didn't stop there. We also welcomed Hofstra
10 Northwell School of Medicine, which serves
11 as a building block to attract health care
12 related research and development to further
13 grow Nassau County's health care industry.

14 It is new economies such as these
15 that make my administration's economic
16 policies. That's what we are supporting.
17 The growth of these new industries. Just as
18 the federal government helped transformed
19 Nassau County into a defense industry
20 economy on the eve of World War II, we will
21 help transform our economy into a global
22 leader in health care related research and
23 development.

24 Nassau's Hub, once home of the
25 Hempstead Plains and Mitchell Air Force

1 3-15-16

2 Base, has a rich history. In fact, in
3 the 1920s air racing took place at the site.
4 Speed records were established, experimental
5 flights began and of course Charles
6 Lindbergh took off heading for Paris and the
7 world was changed.

8 Mitchell Field was also the air
9 base that welcomed such mighty fighters as
10 the P-38 Lightning and P-47 Thunderbolts
11 that were built down the road at Republic.
12 The records that were set, the quest for
13 speed, and yes, the courage to succeed will
14 again take place at Nassau's Hub.

15 Our vision for the property is
16 much more than a sporting arena. Yes,
17 construction began late last year to
18 transform the outdated Nassau Veterans
19 Memorial Coliseum into a world class sports
20 entertainment destination. While past
21 projects at the Coliseum floundered for
22 decades, we have construction underway with
23 a \$260 million private investment. Not
24 taxpayer dollars, private investment
25 building a brand new Coliseum.

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2 This public-private partnership
3 also provides financial relief to taxpayers
4 by eliminating over \$2 million in annual
5 expenses the county has previously paid
6 under the last Coliseum lease. You paid for
7 the utilities, the parking lot repairs and
8 most of the capital expenditures. While
9 under the new lease you will no longer pay.
10 Taxpayers will not pay any of those bills.

11 The new Coliseum will retain its
12 history of honoring our veterans while
13 sharing revenue with taxpayers, employing
14 2,700 people and providing \$10 billion in
15 economic activity to our economy.

16 When complete, the Coliseum will
17 host over 250 events annually, including
18 six New York Islanders games, Brooklyn Nets
19 games, the Long Island Nets, boxing and
20 college basketball as well as star-studded
21 concerts and family entertainment.

22 Later this year construction will
23 also begin on an entertainment district.

24 Redevelopment is much greater
25 though than just a sports and entertainment

1 3-15-16

2 zone. This has served as the catalyst. We
3 have already attracted an additional \$140
4 million private investment from Memorial
5 Sloan Kettering Cancer Center which will
6 occur at the corner of Hempstead Turnpike
7 and Charles Lindbergh Boulevard.

8 Memorial Sloan Kettering will not
9 only provide world class cancer care but
10 also employee 250 clinical and
11 administrative positions with an average
12 annual salary and benefits package totaling
13 \$150,000. They will add synergy to our
14 growing health care economy and provide
15 other state of the art care to those
16 fighting cancer.

17 Most recently, Nassau County and
18 New York State entered into discussions with
19 the Feinstein Institute to establish a
20 bioelectronics research and development
21 center at the Hub. For those of you who
22 don't know what bio electronics is it's
23 basically computer chips that are implanted
24 in the body to control diseases like
25 arthritis and other ailments.

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2 The establishment of this global
3 scale center for bioelectronic medicine is
4 expected to create nearly 150 new jobs,
5 bringing the total number of employed in
6 that to 400 and serve as a catalyst to
7 attract companies and researchers from
8 across the globe in this exciting new field
9 in medical treatments. While the defense
10 industry built our economy of the past, the
11 healthcare R and D industry is helping build
12 a new economy.

13 I want to thank Governor Cuomo as
14 well as Senators Jack Martins, Carl
15 Marcellino, Kemp Hannon and Michael Venditto
16 for recognizing this new economy and
17 proposing a \$50 million investment in the
18 Feinstein Institute for Medical Research at
19 the Hub. I also want to thank the LIA and
20 its president Kevin Law for their support as
21 well.

22 From university labs, research
23 facilities such as Feinstein and Cold Spring
24 Harbor Laboratories, the nation's brightest
25 scientists and the smartest venture

1 3-15-16
2 capitalists will seek their home here in
3 Nassau County. New York State has the
4 opportunity to partner with Nassau County to
5 further transform 51 acres of the Coliseum
6 parking lot into an economic engine for
7 research and development. Together we can
8 attract billions in private investment and
9 create thousands of new, permanent jobs to
10 complement existing educational
11 institutions, financial companies, research
12 and development and the Coliseum.

13 With \$450 million set aside by
14 our state senate delegation for economic
15 development here on Long Island, there's no
16 better place to invest than the Hub.

17 I have forwarded an economic
18 development plan along with a funding
19 request to our state leaders. The plan
20 requests \$225 million for phase one
21 infrastructure and transit improvements to
22 transform the Hub. With this funding we can
23 unlock 1.4 million square feet to private
24 investment by erecting green parking
25 structures to replace surface parking

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2 requirements.

3 Parking would support
4 biotechnology space and attractive amenities
5 as well as four acres of park and green
6 infrastructure that attracts residents and
7 families to the destination in its own
8 right.

9 Next, our plan launches a bus
10 rapid transit system to alleviate traffic
11 and transform the way people travel, live
12 and work in our community, because we
13 recognize that we cannot continue to commute
14 as we have without causing damage to our
15 quality of life. This transportation system
16 will connect surrounding communities,
17 academia and intermodel centers while
18 reducing congestion, pollution, travel time
19 and supporting job creation all while
20 attracting new private sector development.

21 Third, green pedestrian
22 connectors are needed at the Hub to connect
23 Hofstra University, Nassau Community
24 College, Mitchell Athletic Complex, Museum
25 Row, RXR Plaza, Kellenberg Memorial High

1 3-15-16

2 School and the Coliseum with direct walkable
3 access to the Hub.

4 Lastly, we must enhance the Hub
5 with destination green infrastructure to
6 create a world class research and
7 development destination not through office
8 space alone but by creating a sense of place
9 that will foster and inspire creative and
10 collaborative thinking.

11 These are not distant visionary
12 concepts. They are practical and achievable
13 goals that responsible government leaders
14 must advocate for the purpose of creating
15 our future economy.

16 Nassau's Hub should and can
17 provide real year-round economic activity,
18 improve our quality of life and create a job
19 generating economy engine for millennials
20 and generations to come.

21 In the 1920s New York State and
22 Robert Moses transformed Long Island from
23 backwoods and farms to suburbia as we know
24 it today. Nearly a century later it is time
25 to once again invest in the future of Long

1 3-15-16

2 Island and transform Nassau County to meet
3 the challenges of a new century. The
4 infrastructure investments made nearly 100
5 years ago supported Long Island's
6 skyrocketing population, which most famously
7 took root in Levittown, making it the first
8 place where a developer built homes in one
9 subdivision, providing a great opportunity
10 for GIs returning home from World War II to
11 raise their families. That housing was a
12 pillar of our economic success.

13 Now, in 2016, housing is at a
14 premium and our young workforce, families,
15 veterans and seniors are struggling to find
16 housing opportunities. To assist veterans
17 and active duty military families, we
18 transformed 60 dilapidated homes on the
19 old Mitchell air base into veteran housing.
20 We also helped rehabilitate five two-bedroom
21 townhouses in Hempstead to house homeless
22 veterans and their families, and worked with
23 not-for-profit organizations to build a home
24 for a returning Iraq veteran.

25 With the IDA we have created an

1 3-15-16
2 incentive to turn old, empty office
3 buildings into housing stock for families
4 and seniors and millennials. More than
5 3,500 new apartments have opened or are now
6 under construction in Nassau County, with
7 more than 1,000 units being constructed
8 through our incentives to convert vacant
9 office space into apartments near transit
10 centers.

11 You can view our success in Great
12 Neck, Great Neck Plaza, Farmingdale,
13 Hempstead, Manhasset, Mineola, New Castle,
14 Roslyn and Westbury.

15 I want to thank Legislators Rich
16 Nicolello and Vincent Muscarella for
17 supporting these efforts. And together
18 with Legislators Seila Bynoe, Laura Curran
19 and Steve Rhoads we launched a land bank
20 that will tackle zombie houses by acquiring,
21 rehabilitating and selling them.

22 Whether it's the local barber,
23 pizzeria or business incubator such as
24 Launch Pad Long Island, these housing
25 initiatives are helping to grow businesses,

1 3-15-16

2 create jobs and breathe new life in our
3 downtown communities.

4 To secure our future economic
5 success I formed the Nassau 200, a group
6 of millennials who will assist our pursuit
7 of transit-oriented housing opportunities.
8 In transforming our communities to achieve
9 decades of future economic prosperity we
10 must also endeavor to clean up our
11 environment.

12 While corporate and government
13 leaders never imagined the environmental
14 impact they would leave behind over the past
15 century, we have been left to clean that
16 contamination up. Brownfields, plumes, and
17 aged infrastructure that dumps treated
18 sewage into our local bays are some of the
19 challenges that we face.

20 With assistance from the New York
21 State Department of Environmental
22 Conservation and Legislators Dennis Dunne,
23 Laura Schaefer and Rose Walker as well as
24 Assemblyman Joseph Saldino, we are
25 addressing many of these issues.

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2 In fact, less than a year ago the
3 DEC finalized a consent order requiring
4 Northrop Grumman and the Navy to address
5 elevated levels of groundwater contamination
6 originating at its Bethpage defense site.

7 Today we see that there is more
8 work to be done. This year we seek to
9 finalize plans with the federal and state
10 governments for the construction of an ocean
11 outfall pipe at Bay Park Waste Water
12 Treatment Plant. To strengthen our
13 shoreline, protect our marine life and
14 improve our environment for decades to come,
15 we must build this infrastructure so that
16 treated sewage is no longer dumped in our
17 western bays resulting in excessive
18 nitrogen.

19 Where are we so far? Well, I
20 want to thank Governor Cuomo for a
21 commitment of \$150 million for the project.
22 I also want to thank Senator Schumer for his
23 steadfast support in seeking federal dollars
24 so that this project can get underway. And
25 I am optimistic an agreement will be reached

1 3-15-16

2 to construct an observation outfall pipe.

3 Long overdue here in the county of Nassau.

4 That much needed infrastructure
5 will greatly complement the progress we
6 have made at the Bay Park Waste Water
7 Treatment Plant since Super Storm Sandy
8 where over \$800 million in improvements,
9 restoration and infrastructure hardening
10 are underway.

11 Progress includes the reduction
12 of odor emissions, rehabilitation of primary
13 engine generators, restoration and elevation
14 of the plant's electrical distribution
15 system, and construction of berms and walls
16 surrounding the plant to protect it against
17 a tidal surge of up to 18 feet above sea
18 level.

19 Adjacent to the plant, the east
20 park was reconstructed, damaged since
21 Hurricane Sandy, it's now open to the public
22 and serves as home to the East Rockaway
23 Raiders Youth Football League and
24 cheerleaders as well.

25 The majority of this work really

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2 is possible thanks to the support of our
3 leaders in Congress and Albany and all those
4 here that fought to bring back dollars to
5 our county. I thank Senators Schumer and
6 Gillibrand, Congressman King and Israel and
7 Governor Cuomo and our state senators and
8 assembly people and our legislators here who
9 worked hard to secure \$830 million in
10 non-Nassau County taxpayer dollars to
11 reconstruct and harden this plant.

12 I also want to thank Legislators
13 Denise Ford and Howard Kopel who have this
14 plant in their district for their commitment
15 to seeing this resiliency project through
16 and taking the time to really keep an eye on
17 the project. Thank you for that.

18 Other infrastructure improvements
19 continue county-wide. While the largest
20 takes place at the Coliseum, other work is
21 underway at the former social services
22 building in Garden City which is being
23 converted into a new family court. By
24 the way, our present family court was voted
25 the worst family court in the state of New

1 3-15-16

2 York. And those of you that have to have
3 visited it will understand it.

4 A new crime lab is under
5 construction at the public safety center
6 in Westbury and a new police training
7 academy is planned to be constructed near
8 Nassau Community College.

9 With the support of Legislator
10 Steve Rhoads, police precincts are being
11 replaced with new buildings that better
12 serve our communities. And with the Office
13 of Minority Affairs, we have ensured in
14 those projects we've reached the lofty goal
15 of 30 percent MWBE participation in these
16 projects. That's a goal the governor set.
17 It's hard to achieve and we achieved it. We
18 want to thank all those that achieved it.

19 Millions are being invested in
20 county roadways, park improvements and
21 streetscaping projects. And Minority
22 Affairs has nearly tripled the amount of
23 MWBE opportunities year-to-date by expanding
24 the MWBE participation to 8,000 eligible
25 bidders. That was a lot of work for them

1 3-15-16

2 and we want to recognize Minority Affairs.

3 New cabanas are arriving at
4 Nickerson Beach this season and a Pitch
5 and Putt was built on the beach by,
6 in-house, our hard working members of the
7 CSEA. Let's hear it for them. It's really
8 a nice facility. They built it.

9 New athletic fields are being
10 constructed, including a first of its kind
11 field for children with disabilities in
12 Eisenhower Park. I will invite you all down
13 to really see this facility. It's going to
14 be wonderful.

15 Also in Eisenhower Park, the
16 Northwell Health Ice Center will host
17 official New York Islanders practices,
18 youth hockey leagues and share their profits
19 with taxpayers.

20 Cantiague Park showcases new
21 fields and a renovated NHL-sized ice rink
22 that now accommodates more youth hockey
23 teams and figure skating.

24 Grant Park also showcases a new
25 ice rink.

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2 On that part these facilities
3 have in fact helped our economy. Just take
4 a look at the statistics when it comes to
5 hotel stays here in Nassau County and you'll
6 understand the tourism that these youth
7 facilities play, the role they play in
8 bringing people here and expanding our
9 youth's opportunities to be viewed
10 nationally. So, they really are good
11 investments both for the public and our
12 economy.

13 Plans are also underway --
14 because if you can believe this we still
15 have parts, very few, but parts of Nassau
16 County are not sewerred, but plans are
17 underway to install sewer systems in parts
18 of our North Shore thanks to support from
19 Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton and Glen
20 Cove Mayor Reggie Spinnell and obviously the
21 entire legislature which is going to fund
22 these.

23 With the assistance of Vision
24 Long Island, complete street initiatives are
25 being used to ensure pedestrian and bicycle

1 3-15-16

2 safety on our roadways. You can view some
3 of them around the Hub area that are already
4 constructed.

5 Significant portions of the
6 county are being repaired and continue to be
7 repaired from Hurricane Sandy. That damage
8 still has affected our county and repairs
9 are still underway to harden our county.

10 In fact, the final phase of West
11 Shore Road reconstruction is included in
12 our capital plan and when hopefully it
13 passes we will fix that road. When we get
14 around to passing it we will fix that one.

15 The Bayville Bridge will also
16 undergo additional repairs. We have had
17 issues with the bridge. Since Hurricane
18 Sandy we've had many repairs there and we
19 continue to work on strengthening the
20 Bayville Bridge operations.

21 The Police Marine Bureau
22 Administration Building, another victim of
23 Sandy, its fueling station adjacent to Bay
24 Park is set to be storm hardened. As well
25 as 145 South Shore traffic signals that need

1 3-15-16
2 to be replaced. The community center at
3 Wantagh Park, another victim of Sandy, will
4 be demolished and rebuilt along with a new
5 mini golf course that we are going to build
6 there. A kayak launch -- and this is
7 exciting -- and boardwalk will be
8 constructed at Milburn Creek. And the
9 legislators that have that in their district
10 know what repair that has been in. I think
11 Laura Curran.

12 And finally getting to that.

13 We are truly building a better,
14 smarter and stronger county than ever before
15 while enhancing the quality of life
16 throughout our communities.

17 Friends, our vision for a better
18 and brighter Nassau County is quickly
19 becoming a reality. Our steps forward
20 toward success have been recognized locally
21 and nationally. We have earned a regional
22 leadership award from Vision Long Island for
23 safer roadways, greenways, new
24 transit-oriented housing and environmental
25 protection.

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2 Our team has received an
3 Environmental Equinox Award for outstanding
4 commitment for protection and restoration of
5 the western bays from the Citizens Campaign
6 for the Environment.

7 We've earned national recognition
8 or excellence in public health from the
9 National Association of County and City
10 Health officials. And I know more
11 recognitions are on the way. So let me just
12 say Dr. Larry Eisenstein, our health
13 department, you're doing a great job.
14 They should be recognized.

15 Our county received a local
16 government performance and efficiency
17 award from the state of New York. We also
18 received an award from the National Counsel
19 for Public-private Partnerships and a
20 community policing award for our efforts in
21 fighting the heroin epidemic.

22 These are owed and recognized
23 because of the team that works in Nassau
24 County, the employees of Nassau County, the
25 administrators in Nassau County. They don't

1 3-15-16

2 get always get to trumpet their horn but
3 this is verification of their hard work and
4 dedication to the citizens of Nassau County.
5 I thank them all for the hard work they do
6 each and every day to make this a great
7 place to live, work and raise a family. I'm
8 certain that they will earn even more
9 recognitions because they are that good.

10 We will continue to keep Nassau
11 County one of the safest large suburban
12 counties in the nation. Let's hear for our
13 police force, our Office of Emergency
14 Management and all those that work hard
15 to secure our county.

16 We will continue to protect our
17 taxpayers' wallets by advancing efficiencies
18 and building a stronger local economy
19 because the answer is job opportunities for
20 millennials. The kids that we educate and
21 we struggle to educate and they have loans
22 to pay and we should keep them right here.
23 That talent and that brilliance should stay
24 right here in our county of Nassau. And we
25 as elected officials have to do all that we

1 3-15-16

2 can to make that a reality.

3 We will continue to build upon
4 the integrity of this administration, one
5 that is committed to the simple principle
6 that open, honest and transparent government
7 is the foundation upon which democracy
8 rests.

9 We have ambitious plans, many of
10 which have already made Nassau County the
11 best place to live, work and raise a family.
12 And we have many more that will continue to
13 enhance our quality of life.

14 We will continue to meet our
15 challenges and exceed our challenges and
16 bring success to our great county. We will
17 continue to tackle the status quo, continue
18 to build a stronger community and leave,
19 most importantly, leave our county in a
20 better state than we found it.

21 It is not possible to do this
22 alone. It takes cooperation and
23 bipartisanship. Unlike other parts of
24 the nation where partisan differences have
25 created governmental gridlock, for the most

1 3-15-16

2 part here we can and we do respect each
3 other's political differences and opinions
4 with the understanding that we have a common
5 purpose, to move this county forward. We
6 are here for the people of Nassau County.

7 I'm am honored to be your county
8 executive. May God bless you, Nassau
9 County, the state of New York and these
10 United States of America.

11 LEGISLATOR GONSALVES: A motion
12 to adjourn please. Moved by Legislator
13 Nicolello. Second by Legislator Muscarella.
14 All those in favor? Any opposed? Good
15 night all. Safe home.

16 (TIME NOTED: 8:07 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATION

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

THAT the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of
March 2016.

FRANK GRAY