

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

Monday, March 27, 2017  
1:30 P.M.

1

2     A P P E A R A N C E S:

3     NORMA GONSALVES, Presiding Officer

4     RICHARD NICOLELLO,  
5         Deputy Presiding Officer6     HOWARD KOPEL,  
7         Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

8     STEVEN RHOADS

9     DENISE FORD

10    LAURA CURRAN

11    C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

12    VINCENT MUSCARELLA

13    ELLEN BIRNBAUM

14    LAURA SCHAEFER

15    DONALD MACKENZIE

16    KEVAN ABRAHAMS,  
17         Minority Leader

18    ROSE MARIE WALKER

19    DENNIS DUNNE

20    ARNOLD DRUCKER

21    JAMES KENNEDY

22    DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

23    CARRIE SOLAGES

24    SIELA BYNOE

25    MICHAEL PULITZER,  
      Clerk of the Legislature

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

LIST OF SPEAKERS

BARBARA SALVA . . . . .	23
JACK MCCLOY . . . . .	26
SHELLI SUTNICK . . . . .	30
JASON SINDLER . . . . .	36
JOANNE BORDEN . . . . .	37
BRIAN SULLIVAN . . . . .	50
ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER . . . . .	95
JOHN BUDNICK . . . . .	101
META MEREDAY . . . . .	102
ROBIN LAVEMAN . . . . .	107
ANTHONY BALLATO . . . . .	111
DAN DOBROFF . . . . .	123
JOHN HEALY, . . . . .	127
KAREN BENEDETTO . . . . .	131
NANCY BERGMAN . . . . .	134
AARON WATKINS LOPEZ . . . . .	139

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We will  
3 begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Welcome  
7 everyone. At this time, at each Full  
8 Legislature meeting, we have the privilege  
9 of honoring the top cops of Nassau County.  
10 Today is no different. I believe that we  
11 have three top cops today, and I hope we're  
12 correct, and I'm going to ask the President  
13 of the PBA, Jim McDermott, as well as the  
14 Commissioner and the top cops themselves to  
15 approach the podium. Okay?

16 Mr. McDermott, it's yours. Tell  
17 us who we have.

18 MR. MCDERMOTT: We will be  
19 honoring three top cops today, one is not  
20 here, he's on vacation. His name is Anatoli  
21 Bonyets. That's going to be as tough as it  
22 gets. The other two are Nathan O'Connell  
23 and Carlo Componia. Irish guys shouldn't be  
24 doing Italian names. We don't mix well.

25 Officer Componia, Officer

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 O'Connell, and Officer Bonyets responded to  
3 a radio assignment for a child locked in an  
4 auto located in a parking lot of 860 Old  
5 Country Road.

6 When they got there, they  
7 observed a two year old in a car seat and  
8 the engine was off. It was one of those  
9 hot, humid, and hazy 90 degree days that we  
10 all know about in New York.

11 The windows were closed so there  
12 was no air getting into the car. The  
13 officers immediately called for an  
14 ambulance. They tried to bang on the  
15 windows to get the child's attention but the  
16 child was unconscious at that point.

17 They were forced to break the  
18 front window of the car getting them into  
19 the car and taking the child -- tending to  
20 them, getting the ambulance.

21 The child was dehydrated. They  
22 were removed to the hospital and then they  
23 went out and got the father and locked him  
24 up for endangering the welfare of a child,  
25 like he should have been.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Each year in the United States  
3 they lose about 38 children to situations  
4 like this. These officers prevented the  
5 39th. I just wanted to honor all three of  
6 them. We have here Carlo Componia and  
7 Nathan O'Connell here. Congratulations,  
8 guys. Great work.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES:  
10 Commissioner Krumpter.

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: So  
12 I would like to Legislator Gonsalves,  
13 Minority Leader Abrahams, I would just like  
14 just to take a moment to thank this body for  
15 your unwavering support. You demonstrate it  
16 each every day and this is one of the items  
17 that you do on a monthly basis. So thank  
18 you to all the legislators.

19 This is a classic example of the  
20 police officers not just arresting people.  
21 Every day they do things that impact the  
22 lives of people in this county. Every day  
23 it's at the very core of policing here in  
24 Nassau County community policing. If not  
25 for the intervention of these police

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 officers, we could have had a fatality that  
3 no one would want to be talking about.

4 So, to the officers, thank you  
5 for your great work day in and day out, it  
6 is greatly appreciated on behalf of the  
7 Nassau County Police Department and the  
8 residents of Nassau County. That's all I  
9 have at the moment. Legislator Gonsalves.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you  
11 very much. Now, officers would you like to  
12 say anything?

13 MR. COMPONIA: I just want to say  
14 thank you and glad the child is okay.

15 MR. O'CONNELL: Thank you very  
16 much and thank God that child was okay. I  
17 also think that the person who contacted 911  
18 should be honored also, because if she  
19 didn't contact us, and if she wasn't alert  
20 to observe the child in the car, something  
21 horrible could have happened.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you  
23 very much for that.

24 Now, on behalf of the Nassau  
25 County Legislature, we have a citation for

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 each and every one of you. If you would  
3 like, you can join us up here and receive  
4 those citations and, again, the  
5 photographers, I don't know how you want to  
6 do this. It is your call. So go ahead.

7 (Citations distributed to top  
8 cops.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We have  
10 two points of personal privilege. The first  
11 one is from Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams.  
12 So I'm going to give him the task of  
13 introducing his point of personal privilege.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good  
15 afternoon everyone. Today it gives me great  
16 pleasure to share actually in this point of  
17 personal privilege with Legislator Laura  
18 Curran as we celebrate the championship run,  
19 if they could now please come to the podium,  
20 of the Baldwin High School ladies basketball  
21 team. I stand corrected. Also Howard Kopel  
22 shares with us Baldwin.

23 But I've got to tell you, and I'm  
24 going to allow the other legislators to  
25 speak as well, before Superintendent Camhi



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 and Ager Hudson get an opportunity to speak,  
3 but I have a little girl that's aspiring to  
4 play basketball. She's eight years old.  
5 She dribbles and shoots in the backyard.

6 You girls are heros to her. I  
7 have to tell you, you were professional  
8 obviously in your craft, but you were  
9 professional whenever we saw an interview on  
10 News 12. It showed that Baldwin has so much  
11 greatness to offer.

12 As we watched that run, she was  
13 so proud of you. If she didn't have school  
14 today, I know that she would have been here  
15 to celebrate with you.

16 But it's inspiring to so many  
17 young women that, one, the way you carried  
18 yourself was phenomenal. But, two, you're  
19 phenomenal at your craft. And it's a  
20 shining star for the Baldwin community.

21 I know you fell short with the  
22 federation championship, but, to me, where  
23 you got to today in the state championship  
24 it speaks volumes. Each and every one of  
25 you, if people are not saying it to you,

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 each and every one of you should feel  
3 extremely proud about yourselves and your  
4 achievement. You've made this entire  
5 community very very proud so I want to  
6 continue to thank you for your leadership in  
7 this area. That said, Legislator Curran.

8 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: So the lady  
9 Bruins, it takes teamwork to make the dream  
10 work, and you made our dreams come true. We  
11 are so proud. Congratulations.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:  
13 Superintendent Camhi.

14 SUPERINTENDENT CAMHI: First, I  
15 would like to thank you for inviting us here  
16 today. Just a point of clarification.

17 Our girls went on to the  
18 federation championships and there were four  
19 teams that are invited up to the federation  
20 championships. One of those teams was our  
21 Baldwin Bruins. The other three teams are  
22 three teams that have the ability to  
23 recruit. So our girls are regular public  
24 school students.

25 The other three teams that are

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 invited are teams that are allowed to  
3 recruit based on different factors, athletic  
4 scholarship is one of them. So our girls, I  
5 will say, are amazing.

6 There are a few things that I  
7 would like everybody to know about them.  
8 The first is that our girls are scholar  
9 athletes. So it's not just that you have an  
10 opportunity to play on a basketball team.  
11 It's that you recognize the importance of  
12 your academics at the same time that you  
13 recognize the importance on being on an  
14 extracurricular activity that takes up a lot  
15 of your time as an athlete.

16 Our school district as well as  
17 all the school districts in Nassau County  
18 believe in educating the whole child. So  
19 when we think about what it takes to run a  
20 public school district, that affords our  
21 kids opportunities not just in the classroom  
22 but outside the classroom, this is an  
23 example of what we get for that effort.

24 I will tell you that what we get  
25 are very well rounded young ladies who care

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 about each other as a family, who care about  
3 their academics, and who care about every  
4 other individual person that's on their team  
5 with them.

6 So there are a few people I would  
7 like to thank because a family has a  
8 structure, right? So there are kids in our  
9 family, and these kids, the students, our  
10 young people; our coaches, Tom Catapano,  
11 Anthony Bolden, and Amber Harrison, spent so  
12 much time working with our young people and  
13 making sure that they're warm, caring,  
14 happy, smart young people.

15 For the folks in the audience,  
16 what you need to know is, these are your  
17 future doctors, lawyers, nurses,  
18 accountants. These are the people that will  
19 take care of you. So I share them with you  
20 because they are an outstanding group of  
21 young people.

22 Ed Ramirez, he is our athletic  
23 director. I believe that his family never  
24 sees him because he's always at some event.  
25 It is an honor to be here today for our

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Nassau County legislators to honor our young  
3 people. It affirms for them to not only be  
4 a good scholar but to be in extracurricular  
5 activities and really go up to the New York  
6 State championships.

7 I have to say that I think I did  
8 not quite even recognize initially what a  
9 huge accomplishment this was, but to go all  
10 the way to state and to win New York State  
11 it is a first in Baldwin's history and we  
12 are exceedingly proud of our girls. So  
13 thank you for this opportunity.

14 I would like to introduce Asia  
15 Hudson who will speak on behalf of our team.

16 MS. HUDSON: First, we will like  
17 to thank the Town of Hempstead for having us  
18 here today. Nassau County, sorry.

19 SUPERINTENDENT CAMHI: She had  
20 like four minutes to prepare. She did not  
21 know she was speaking.

22 MS. HUDSON: Winning a state  
23 championship has been our goal for many  
24 years and a vision we all shared.

25 It's a great season to have and

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2 the support for our community and we look  
3 forward to continue our success.

4 I want to thank our  
5 superintendent, Dr. Camhi, our principal,  
6 Ms. Lafergola, and all of our coaches who  
7 pushed us to excel and have provided us with  
8 a culture that allows us to succeed as well  
9 as we did today. Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES:  
11 Superintendent, I didn't plan on speaking  
12 but I have to tell you today we honored  
13 about 19 women as our trailblazers award for  
14 Women's History Month. I'm looking out  
15 there now, and I said, I bet you in about  
16 ten years one of those are going to be our  
17 trailblazers. So thank you for doing what  
18 you do.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:  
20 Superintendent Camhi, two quick things.  
21 One, I would be remiss if I didn't  
22 personally thank Coach Catapano for his  
23 leadership and for leading these young  
24 ladies.

25 And, two, you may remember a

1                   Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2     gentleman, one of the coaches, Coach Butler,  
3     his son Michael Butler interned in my  
4     office. For every one that's out there, I  
5     see some of the young men from Westbury  
6     here, but anybody out there, Michael went on  
7     to Harvard after interning in our office and  
8     being obviously playing on the basketball  
9     team as well.

10                   So I stress the fact of the  
11     scholar athlete and I'm so glad you brought  
12     that up. I know later on that Legislator  
13     Bynoe is going to recognize the Westbury  
14     young men that also went on to greatness in  
15     basketball, if you guys played them, who  
16     would win? There you go. I think I agree.

17                   But thank you again for sharing  
18     with us. I have certificates that I would  
19     like to present to each of the young ladies  
20     in their championship run.

21                   Legislator Curran would you like  
22     to join me?

23                   (Certificates distributed to  
24     players.)

25                   CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We have

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 another point of personal privilege and it's  
3 my privilege to ask Legislator Bynoe to  
4 introduce her point of personal privilege.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,  
6 Presiding Officer. So it gives me great  
7 pleasure to celebrate with the Dragons, the  
8 Westbury Dragons, in their boys' Long Island  
9 conference championship.

10 I'm going to ask that the team  
11 and coach and the principal, superintendent,  
12 and also joining us today is the town  
13 councilman, Viviana Russell, along with my  
14 predecessor, a fellow Dragon, Robert  
15 Troiano, if everybody could come center,  
16 that would be great.

17 Also joining us would be the  
18 county treasurer, Beaumont Jefferson, also  
19 hailing from Westbury.

20 It does me great joy to be able  
21 to celebrate along with my colleague Laura  
22 Schaefer, the celebration of our Westbury  
23 boys team.

24 Westbury was the Nassau County  
25 conference AA champs with a record of 11 and



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 1. Then they went on to win the first  
3 Nassau County Triple A championship in the  
4 school's history.

5 Then we went on -- we didn't stop  
6 there. Then we went on to win the first  
7 Long Island Triple A championship in the  
8 school's history. Now we can applaud.

9 I would tell you as I witnessed  
10 that championship game, and they played with  
11 heart and with determination. They did not  
12 give up in. In the first half of the game  
13 they were down and they came out and took it  
14 to the hoop and took it to the board and  
15 they were victorious winning by one point.  
16 It was a great game not just because we won,  
17 but because they played with their heart and  
18 didn't give up, and for that I think they  
19 deserve another round of applause.

20 So, we're proud of you today. We  
21 were proud of you, both the councilwoman and  
22 my predecessor, we traveled to watch the  
23 game at Stony Brook. We traveled with you  
24 to Binghamton where you fell short, but you  
25 need to know that we couldn't be more proud

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 of you for your determination in that game  
3 as well as in the championship game. Again,  
4 I salute you and I applaud you. I have  
5 citations for you as well.

6 On today, I have citations for  
7 the coaches, Coach Graft, where are you? We  
8 have a citation for you and the rest of your  
9 coaching team. Then there is a citation  
10 specifically for the school and that will be  
11 bestowed to the interim superintendent along  
12 with the principal.

13 But at this time I have the  
14 sincere pleasure to also give a citation to  
15 one of our coaches of the team who was a  
16 personal friend of mine who would stop in  
17 and visit me in my office from time to time  
18 Coach Redd. He coached this team with his  
19 heart. He led this team with his heart.

20 Today we want to bestow a  
21 citation in his honor to which these young  
22 men played for his honor in winning this  
23 championship. His son, Jordan Redd is on  
24 this team, and I would like to bestow a  
25 citation specifically to him in honor of

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 sharing his father all those years with all  
3 these young people that have played not only  
4 played on this team but on the pick up teams  
5 and the games we played back at Bunky Reed  
6 Park and the Yes We Can Center. And,  
7 Mr. Jordan Redd, we salute you and your  
8 father.

9 I will turn it over to the coach  
10 and the superintendent.

11 Assistant superintendent or the  
12 coach, who will bring remarks?

13 COACH GRAFT: On behalf of  
14 myself, the team, the school, the  
15 administration, and our whole community,  
16 it's an honor for us to be here.

17 The support that we have gotten  
18 from the entire community has just been  
19 fantastic and I want to say thank you to  
20 everybody.

21 We also have a small gift for  
22 Legislator Bynoe to show our appreciation.  
23 I'm going to ask our captains to give it to  
24 her now. Thank you all so much.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Bynoe, Legislator Schaefer just wanted to  
3 make a comment.

4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: I just  
5 wanted to congratulate you all, and just say  
6 that it's obviously a testament to what  
7 teamwork can do. You can become successful  
8 and victorious as you have been today and as  
9 you have been this year with all of your  
10 hard work you obviously got to your end goal  
11 and that was a victory. So,  
12 congratulations.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now,  
14 Legislator Walker, wants to say something to  
15 you.

16 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Coach and  
17 boys, I'm sorry, I stand in the way of you  
18 taking a great picture. But I would just  
19 like to say, I happen to do Hicksville's JV  
20 and varsity basketball book. I saw you play  
21 us when you played us at home and away when  
22 we were over in Westbury. You killed us.  
23 Okay?

24 But I just have to tell you how  
25 proud I am of you going on to win the

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 counties and then to win Long Island to  
3 represent us in the state.

4 But I have to tell you more so,  
5 to you, to your parents, to your coaches,  
6 what wonderful young gentlemen you are  
7 because when I'm at those games and,  
8 especially the away games, you are in a gym  
9 full of people that you really don't know  
10 other than the boys on your team. Each and  
11 every one of you showed me the utmost  
12 respect and kindness, and were so nice and  
13 it made me feel at home at your school. It  
14 goes to say also when you were at our  
15 school.

16 I want to tell you, I know you  
17 are going to be successful as you continue  
18 playing, but I also know you are going to be  
19 successful in life. Good luck and thank you  
20 very much.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now you  
22 can join Legislator Bynoe in the chamber.

23 SUPERINTENDENT BUDHAI: I'm  
24 Interim Superintendent of Schools, Eudes  
25 Budhai. These are extraordinary gentlemen.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 You have some seniors here that are leaving  
3 a legacy for some of our freshman and  
4 sophomores. These gentlemen could not do  
5 the work they do if they do not have the  
6 community and support they get from these  
7 fine individuals, such as Robert Draddie and  
8 Legislator Siela Bynoe and Councilwoman  
9 Russell.

10 So part of their success is our  
11 success. These are scholar athletes. They  
12 won the championship on Long Island, but not  
13 only are they champions on the court but  
14 champions as well in academics.

15 Many of our students they will be  
16 attending four year institutions, two year  
17 institutions coming soon with scholarships  
18 as well. I just want to congratulate them  
19 on their success as well. Thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now this  
21 is your time and, as customary, we give 30  
22 minutes of public comment to those who  
23 submitted a slip. There are a lot of slips  
24 here and I don't know if 30 minutes is going  
25 to cover it.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 So, I'm going to ask you to be  
3 adherent of the time, the three minute time,  
4 so that we can cover as many speakers who  
5 would like to speak. I'm going to begin  
6 with Barbara Salva.

7 MS. SALVA: Good afternoon  
8 everybody. I'm Barbara Salva. I'm the  
9 Deputy Executive Director of the Long Island  
10 Transgender Advocacy Coalition also known as  
11 LITAC.

12 Several years ago I asked a  
13 prominent Long Island lawmaker when exactly  
14 did I lose my civil rights? I am a good  
15 citizen. I pay my taxes. Had a good job  
16 for 40 years and even spent four years in  
17 the Air Force with a tour in Vietnam.

18 Of course during those years I  
19 was a white male. Now I'm a trans woman.  
20 And I don't have any rights in Nassau  
21 County, as well as much of the State of New  
22 York. That lawmaker could not answer my  
23 question.

24 Protections for transgender  
25 New Yorkers are needed because we are

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 getting fired from our jobs without cause,  
3 evicted from our homes without cause, denied  
4 adequate health care and medical treatment,  
5 refused credit, employment and education.

6 When it comes to public  
7 accommodations most people think it's just a  
8 bathroom. It's much much more than that.  
9 Public accommodations means any  
10 establishment, public or private, that is  
11 open to the general public that provides or  
12 endeavors to provide some type of goods or  
13 services to the general public which  
14 includes health care facilities, which means  
15 hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, nursing home  
16 dental. Service establishments such as  
17 employment agencies, funeral parlors, gas  
18 stations, banks, places of public  
19 transportation, including bus stations,  
20 trains, terminals, and airports.

21 Professional services which  
22 includes doctors, dentists, lawyers,  
23 accountants and insurance agents as well as  
24 state and local government agencies such as  
25 court rooms, hearing rooms, polling places,



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 public information counters and displays  
3 and, of course, restaurants, hotels, retail  
4 establishments, theaters, sport arenas. The  
5 list goes on and on and on.

6 We have no recourse to any of  
7 these establishments once we are refused for  
8 service.

9 As for the bathroom issue, it's  
10 pure fear. It's fear from those who say it  
11 opens doors to predators to abuse and rape  
12 women in the ladies' room.

13 At least three police chiefs in  
14 the State of New York, including the cities  
15 of Albany, Rochester, City of New York and  
16 all states that crimes such as these are  
17 rare, if not nonexistent.

18 We state that a crime is a crime  
19 and if anyone commits a crime, they should  
20 be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

21 What the transgender community  
22 asked for is an amendment to the existing  
23 LGBT law in the county. It's not a partisan  
24 issue, but you are making it one.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Your time is up,

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 ma'am.

3 MS. SALVA: It's a matter of  
4 doing what is right and it doesn't cost you  
5 a penny in tax money. I thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Jack  
7 McCloy.

8 MR. MCCLOY: Good afternoon,  
9 members of the Legislature. Thank you for  
10 allowing me to address you today.

11 At the last session, I mentioned  
12 to you that National Grid had a significant  
13 price increase of gas service for those that  
14 use gas on Long Island.

15 Since my address to you last  
16 session, I also went down to the Suffolk  
17 County Legislature and I spoke to them about  
18 the same situation.

19 I don't know if any of you have  
20 had a chance to check your own National Grid  
21 bills, but if you take a look at the  
22 December bill versus your February bill, you  
23 will see that the price increase has already  
24 gone into effect.

25 Most people that use National

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Grid for their gas service will use at this  
3 time of year probably between 100 and 300  
4 therms depending on how large a home they  
5 have.

6 After the first three therms  
7 which are set as a fixed price, your  
8 increase for the additional therms has been  
9 22 percent over what you paid in 2016.

10 Now, I want to mention to you  
11 that I mention this to the Suffolk County  
12 Legislature also and Legislator Al Krupski  
13 had walked over to me as soon as I mentioned  
14 this to him. He gave me his card and he  
15 said he would like this to be a Nassau  
16 County/Suffolk County unified approach to  
17 looking at this increase by National Grid  
18 and coming up with some type of a procedure  
19 to re-review this.

20 Apparently this was an issue that  
21 was demonstrated by National Grid to the PSC  
22 as a price increase that they requested. It  
23 was implemented already. But I don't think  
24 that many, if any of you, have been aware of  
25 such a large price increase that was on the

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 horizon because Legislator Krupski had  
3 mentioned that he didn't think anybody from  
4 the Suffolk Legislature was aware of that  
5 either.

6 I mention this to you today in  
7 the hope that some of you will contact me,  
8 my information has been submitted in the  
9 possibility of coming up with a Nassau  
10 Suffolk unified re-review of this increase  
11 of natural gas prices and whether you would  
12 like me to explain this in more detail to  
13 you individually in your committees or as a  
14 whole, I would be welcome to do so. A 22  
15 percent price increase is just way too much.  
16 Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
18 Rhoads.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Yes. I have  
20 a question. Mr. McCloy, thank you very much  
21 for raising the issue. I personally don't  
22 have gas service to my block so I don't get  
23 a gas bill. But can you tell me exactly  
24 when this went before the Public Service  
25 Commission? Usually they do this as a three

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 or four year rate plan, it's not just a one  
3 year implementation. Do we know if this is  
4 22 percent this year and then there's going  
5 to be subsequent increases?

6 MR. MCCLOY: Well, I will tell  
7 that I spoke to a Newsday reporter, Mark  
8 Harrington, about this after our last  
9 month's session and speaking to the Suffolk  
10 County Legislature about it also.

11 Mark had directed me to a few  
12 Newsday articles that addressed the proposed  
13 increase last year. I have to tell you that  
14 the increase as explained in those articles  
15 and purported by Newsday represented this as  
16 5.5 percent increase. It's not. It's a  
17 heck of a lot larger than that.

18 Even if you want to factor in  
19 some of their reasons for explaining it as a  
20 lower percentage, it factors in some  
21 charges, because National Grid basically  
22 calculates their bills on two levels; the  
23 cost of the commodity which is the gas, plus  
24 the cost of the delivery services which is  
25 what they provide.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 They factor it as a lower  
3 percentage because they use the percentage  
4 increase in conjunction with the entire  
5 bill. Which is a skewed way to look at it.

6 The 5.5 percent increase that  
7 they're talking about is Phase One of a  
8 three year increase. If you calculate the  
9 fact that their increase is skewed  
10 downwards, then the three year increase is  
11 going to be dramatic in the year 2018 and  
12 2019 phases are able to be implemented  
13 without opposition.

14 This is a giant jump in the price  
15 hike of national gas. I would like to  
16 explain it further to you when I'm not  
17 taking up more time of public session.

18 I'm willing to come in and  
19 explain it during committee meetings  
20 individually or as a group. But this is a  
21 big increase. Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We will  
23 get back to you, Mr. McCloy. Shellie  
24 Sutnick. I hate to say it incorrectly.

25 MS. SUTNICK: Good afternoon. My

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 name is Shelli Sutnick. I'm a citizen and  
3 resident of Nassau County for the last 39  
4 years. And for the last 32 years I have  
5 been residing in Plainview, which every day,  
6 on a daily basis, twice a day I use a NICE  
7 Bus system to work and to go food shopping  
8 and for other things that I would have to do  
9 on my own as an independent person.

10 I just found out recently that on  
11 April 9th NICE Bus service will be  
12 eliminating several of the bus routes.

13 I'm a senior that depends upon  
14 the N79 bus route to go to work and to shop.  
15 The county has denied the service, the \$6.8  
16 million to help supplement to keep those  
17 routes going.

18 It's a very big hardship on  
19 myself and for the people who depend upon  
20 this for their livelihood.

21 I cannot myself afford to pay for  
22 any other types of transportation which I  
23 would have to use a taxi, which would be \$10  
24 a day twice a day for myself to go to work.

25 Nassau County residents pay very

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 high taxes and I would expect a reliable low  
3 cost transportation for myself and for  
4 others. I hope they can take this serious  
5 matter into consideration.

6 And most people who also depend  
7 on the NICE Bus system are not aware that on  
8 April 9th their routes will be discontinued  
9 and they will be standing on corners waiting  
10 for the buses to take them to and from work.

11 Also, on the route that I take,  
12 the N79, there are several institutions that  
13 do have employees that do have to take the  
14 bus system to the nursing homes, to the  
15 industrial area up through the boulevard, in  
16 Plainview, the industrial area on Sunnyside  
17 Boulevard. The bus service is always there.  
18 Always been helpful for me and other people.

19 I hope that the state will  
20 intervene with state funding that is needed  
21 to continue this service with the county and  
22 we are all residents that are very, very  
23 deeply concerned. The deadline is  
24 approaching in less than two weeks and  
25 please consider the hardships that this will



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 impose on myself and the others who depend  
3 on this for their livelihood.

4 I'm 72 years old and it's so  
5 inconceivable of me to think that I would  
6 have to walk to work rather than being able  
7 to take the bus system which has been  
8 providing me a low cost transit system and  
9 helping me to have my happy helpful life in  
10 Nassau County. Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
12 Curran.

13 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Thank you  
14 very much for coming in and telling us your  
15 story. We have identified pots of money  
16 that could go towards the buses if the  
17 administration made it a priority.

18 We have laid out, between all of  
19 us, different places where we could get real  
20 money to do this. Even Rich Nicolello  
21 agreed with us. I would like to speak for  
22 people when they're not here.

23 But we were at a business event  
24 and we had a meeting of minds about this  
25 publically.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 So I would urge the  
3 administration, if anyone from the  
4 administration is listening, to make this a  
5 priority because we can do it. I know both  
6 sides of the aisle want to do it, but the  
7 administration is not making it a priority.

8 MS. SUTNICK: What bothers me or,  
9 if anything, I don't want to take anything  
10 away from any public parks or counties from  
11 anyone. I know that Massapequa was just  
12 given a grant of \$2.1 million to improve  
13 their park. I think that money should be  
14 thought about and reconsidered where they  
15 would have to apply it to.

16 Parks are important to the  
17 community. They're important for families  
18 but I think people who depend upon the  
19 public transportation for their livelihood  
20 should be considered priority as opposed to  
21 that.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you  
23 very much. I believe Legislator Rhoads had  
24 his hand up.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you. I

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 want you to know that your complaints  
3 haven't fallen on deaf ears. I know that we  
4 are making bus funding a priority.

5 I, personally, on behalf of the  
6 majority caucus went last Tuesday, the  
7 company, Vision Long Island, up to Albany to  
8 lobby for additional funds from the State  
9 Legislature both in the short term and long  
10 term because it's unfair to riders to have  
11 this issue come up year after year where  
12 we're trying to scramble in a tough budget  
13 environment where we're trying to piece  
14 together, cobble together enough to try to  
15 restore some of the threats in cuts.

16 We are well aware of the April  
17 9th deadline. We are attempting to work on  
18 a solution. But ultimately it's going to  
19 take efforts on behalf of riders not only to  
20 speak to their county representatives but to  
21 speak to their state representatives as well  
22 to find a long term stable funding source  
23 that will enable us to find reliable public  
24 transportation for years to come. But I  
25 thank you for your interest. Thank you so

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 much.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just  
4 wanted to echo what Legislator Curran said.  
5 I think that the ball is in the  
6 administration's court right now. I'm  
7 hopeful, Legislator Rhoads, I commend you  
8 for getting up to Albany and trying to do  
9 what you can up there, but I think now the  
10 emphasis has to be down here. I'm confident  
11 they are going to find a way to avoid the  
12 drastic cuts that are going to be made that  
13 are going to impact the lives of so many  
14 people in my particular district who depend  
15 on the N78, N79 bus at the hospital, at  
16 schools, at parks, at the industrial park  
17 that exists in my town.

18 So I'm hopeful that that takes  
19 place and we have to keep up the fight and I  
20 intend to do so as well. Thank you.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Jason  
22 Sindler.

23 MR. SINDLER: Thank you very much  
24 for having me. I'm not a very seasoned  
25 public speaker so I will be brief.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 I'm here to speak in support of  
3 the Gender Identity Amendment. I cannot  
4 speak to the particular struggles of the  
5 trans community, I can only speak on behalf  
6 of my conscience which tells me that trans  
7 rights are human rights and human rights are  
8 nonnegotiable.

9 If we profess to live in a  
10 community of conscience, we must look out  
11 for and defend one another and, if this  
12 Legislature has a conscience, it will vote  
13 in support of gender identity and in defense  
14 of its trans constituents. Thank you very  
15 much. That's all.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Joanne  
17 Borden.

18 MS. BORDEN: Human Rights, and I  
19 would ask them to stand for a moment, and  
20 anyone in the audience who agrees we should  
21 have human rights, would you please stand?

22 Good afternoon. Again, I ask you  
23 to put the Transgender Human Rights Law to a  
24 vote.

25 Before Columbus landed on San

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Salvador, native Americans recognized that  
3 people like me, transgender people, were a  
4 natural recurrence, and politics never ever  
5 justified harming transgender tribe members.

6 Your refusal to protect us from  
7 the evils of harmful discrimination,  
8 encourages bigots to devalue us. Take away  
9 our lives, our jobs, our housing. They  
10 murder us. Transgender people were murdered  
11 last year, seven in the first two months of  
12 this year.

13 You have the machine of the law  
14 to help stop this slaughter. This horror.

15 For over 100 years, scientists  
16 have believed we are born this way.  
17 Physical proof that we are born transgender  
18 was found in our brain. In Melbourne in  
19 2008, in Vienna, 2013, to mention a few.

20 Most people distinguish our sex  
21 by the clothes we wear. But clothes are not  
22 our sex. They are an indication of our sex.  
23 Genitals, sex organs, are not our sex.  
24 They're an indication of our sex also.

25 Proof of this is 132,000 intersex

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 babies are born each year. A great number  
3 have genitals that are ambiguous and some  
4 look like the other sex.

5 Our birth sex label was based on  
6 our sex organs not the gender we feel inside  
7 where everyone's gender resides.

8 Try telling a woman to dress as a  
9 man all the time or a man to dress as a  
10 woman all the time and you will get complete  
11 rejection.

12 Some people erroneously use the  
13 Bible to harm us. But the Hebrew Bible, the  
14 Christian bibles, and the Quran all agree  
15 God judges us by what is beneath the  
16 surface. Most of your constituents agree  
17 that you should protect us in the law. Now  
18 it's the Legislature's turn to give us Human  
19 Rights.

20 God made me this way so he must  
21 have intended for me to be this way. Give  
22 us human rights. Give us a vote. Thank you  
23 for listening.

24 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just want  
25 to thank you as usual for coming down and

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 speaking. It's enlightening. I'm sorry  
3 that Presiding Officer Gonsalves didn't feel  
4 a need to stick around and listen to it.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just to  
6 let you know, she's here, Legislator  
7 Drucker, 99.9 percent of the time. Every  
8 once in a while, she's a human being, she  
9 has to step out.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I  
11 understand.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: In  
13 particular, she does try to spend as much  
14 time listening to Joanne as she can.

15 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Well, that  
16 wasn't the purpose of my comments. The  
17 purpose of my comments was not to point that  
18 out, just to point out that what transpired  
19 here this morning with the trail blazer  
20 awards and the dedication of Legislative  
21 wing to the late Judy Jacobs who I've been  
22 honored to succeed on this body, the issues  
23 that she was passionate about was the issue  
24 of transgender, and the smoking, the tobacco  
25 21. Those were issues she was so passionate



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 about.

3 In my opinion, particularly my  
4 colleagues and brethren on the other side  
5 the aisle don't feel the need to just pay  
6 more than lip service to saying that, well,  
7 we work together in a bipartisan fashion  
8 when Judy was here. I don't see why we  
9 can't work in a bipartisan now in these  
10 issues. It's so important and it's so  
11 necessary. How do you defend it? How can  
12 you justify not working in a bipartisan  
13 manner when it comes to these issues? I  
14 don't really understand it.

15 I'm hopeful that maybe in the  
16 spirit of Judy Jacobs, maybe here now, it  
17 will inspire some bipartisanship and we can  
18 get this accomplished because we need to get  
19 it done.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
21 Rhoads.

22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I appreciate  
23 Legislator Drucker's comments. I don't  
24 think, Ms. Borden, and this is the first  
25 opportunity really that I've had to speak to

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 you on the issue.

3 I don't know necessarily that the  
4 issue from our perspective, and I certainly  
5 speak only on behalf of myself, I don't  
6 intend to speak on behalf of the majority.  
7 I don't think the issues is transgender  
8 rights.

9 I think that from our  
10 perspective, my perspective, the language  
11 and the law that states gender real or  
12 perceived already applies to this situation.  
13 As an axiom of statutory construction, the  
14 more times you carve out specific exceptions  
15 for individuals, it diminishes what's  
16 supposed to cover every one.

17 We have a County Attorney opinion  
18 which says that transgenders are covered  
19 under the existing law.

20 So I want you to understand that  
21 this isn't some sort of religious litmus  
22 test issue, this isn't -- at least as far as  
23 I'm concerned, I feel as though the law  
24 applies to you and that, if there are  
25 complaints, you should be going to the Human

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Rights Commission. You should be going to  
3 the Nassau County Police Department, and you  
4 should be filing those complaints and know  
5 that they will be investigated and handled.

6 Again, that's just my opinion but  
7 I respect very much what you're doing and  
8 what you're saying.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Before you  
10 speak, I think Legislator Rhoads has spoken  
11 for everyone on the majority, I believe we  
12 all agree with him in this position.

13 Again, I should correct that,  
14 speaking for myself, I agree completely with  
15 Legislator Rhoads. But we have a bunch of  
16 speakers, Joanne, so if you want to respond,  
17 please make it as succinct as possible.

18 MS. BORDEN: I would like to  
19 reply, sir, I need class glasses. I have a  
20 letter, a ruling, from the county attorney,  
21 the county administrative code establishes  
22 the rules and regulations of Human Rights  
23 Commission as well as the various classes of  
24 individuals whom it protects.

25 The code does not explicitly

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 protect individuals based on their status as  
3 transgender or based on their overt gender  
4 expression. However, the code does provide  
5 protection from discrimination on the basis  
6 of sexual orientation.

7 I found some of the Legislator  
8 attorneys think that sexual orientation has  
9 something to do with transgenderism.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: It's not  
11 that. It's perceived, it's the language  
12 that says perceived gender.

13 MS. BORDEN: Here it says, does  
14 not explicitly protect individuals.

15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The language  
16 I was referring to is the language that says  
17 gender real or perceived.

18 MS. BORDEN: That doesn't say  
19 just for gender. That's for everybody.  
20 That's for race, for religion.

21 It says, New York State, New York  
22 City had the same thing. They had this,  
23 what is it, they had gender stated that way,  
24 actual or perceived. They found that a very  
25 similar amendment was needed to cover

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 transgender people. They found that through  
3 case law. I understand lawyers. I don't  
4 know if you're a lawyer or not.

5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I don't know  
6 if I want to admit that, Joanne. I am.

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Well, lawyers  
8 have lots of opinions, but I would say the  
9 official Nassau County ruling is that we are  
10 not explicitly protected under the law.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's not  
12 true. The County Attorney's opinion said  
13 the exact opposite. The County Attorney's  
14 opinion says the exact opposite. It says  
15 that transgender is covered.

16 MS. BORDEN: I can't hear you.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The County  
18 Attorney's opinion says that transgenders  
19 are covered.

20 MS. BORDEN: Who says?

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The County  
22 Attorney's opinion.

23 MS. BORDEN: I just read you the  
24 letter from the County Attorney.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: You read

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 part of it. You didn't read the entire.

3 MS. BORDEN: You're a county, the  
4 Republican county --

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If the  
6 County Attorney is saying it and we're  
7 saying it, you're the only one that's saying  
8 it's not covered. That's why you come each  
9 time you are not getting a response. You  
10 are covered.

11 MS. BORDEN: New York City said  
12 the same thing and they had to add a similar  
13 amendment. Here you're saying -- you say  
14 that I should disagree with the County  
15 Attorney. That's who rules on these things.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: If the law  
17 is so clear, how come there are so many  
18 cases that are being referred to the DA's  
19 Office for discrimination?

20 Throughout history in our country  
21 there have been statutes enacted and they  
22 constantly have to be tweaked and amended  
23 and tightened up. I don't see the logic in  
24 how tightening the language here makes the  
25 law weaker. It doesn't. It can't be made

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2 weaker. Let the Human Rights Commission be  
3 responsible at that point in time. Let our  
4 courts of law be responsible for  
5 interpreting at that point in time. It's  
6 illogical to contend that making a law  
7 tighter makes it weaker. It's not logical,  
8 as a lawyer.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: As a  
10 lawyer, you would know then that the Human  
11 Rights Law is not something that would go  
12 before the DA. Simply, it's not a criminal  
13 offense, so the DA would not be prosecuting.  
14 So whether or not something applies with our  
15 Human Rights Law has nothing to do with  
16 whether the District Attorney has  
17 discrimination cases.

18 Again, there are many rights that  
19 you have. It's the DA's Office, you have  
20 the Human Rights Commission, you have state  
21 authorities, federal authorities, and you're  
22 being told by the County Attorney's Office  
23 that this specific local law which is  
24 limited in nature covers you. That's our  
25 position. You're covered.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 MS. BORDEN: When I started  
3 advocating for transgender human rights, I  
4 went to the police department, I went to the  
5 Human Rights Commission. They didn't even  
6 have gender on their complaint form.  
7 Finally, after a year, they put gender on it  
8 after sexual orientation and I complained  
9 about that. It's a separate thing. Then  
10 they removed everything.

11 Now you write it in. And I had a  
12 case before this Legislature and before the  
13 County Attorney on the abuse of police of a  
14 transgender.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay,  
16 Joanne, I appreciate your concern and of  
17 course your energy regarding this particular  
18 issue.

19 I will tell you that if we did  
20 not agree with the County Attorney and we  
21 felt otherwise, we would get another  
22 opinion.

23 I'm asking you at this particular  
24 time because we are running late. It is now  
25 2:40 and about a dozen slips here and I'm



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 going to call one more and I have to go on  
3 to the Full Leg.

4 I sympathize. If I thought that  
5 the law was not a law, I would certainly  
6 pursue it. Right now we are hanging our hat  
7 on the fact that the law does protect you  
8 and, what's further, that you do have  
9 additional recourse where there is anything  
10 that is considered discriminatory towards  
11 transgender or any other case for that  
12 matter, the Human Rights Commission receives  
13 those complaints and does the investigation.

14 I would hope that we can resolve  
15 your issue to your satisfaction, but we're  
16 going to abide by what the law does say and  
17 the attorneys have said is so in the law.

18 So, without any further ado,  
19 Joanne, I'm going to ask one more person to  
20 come up and speak and then, after that, I'm  
21 going to have to go on to the Full  
22 Legislature. We have Brian Sullivan.

23 MS. BORDEN: Are you going to  
24 give me a vote?

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: No.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 MS. BORDEN: The Republicans are  
3 the only ones who say that we are covered  
4 and take it as an excuse because everyone  
5 else says we're not covered.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'm  
7 telling you our attorney says you are  
8 covered.

9 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: What about  
10 hate crimes unit? That's not Human Rights  
11 Commission.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's your  
13 turn, Mr. Sullivan, to speak, please. Hold  
14 on to your slips till after the Full  
15 Legislature has completed its calendar.

16 In the meantime, Mr. Sullivan,  
17 please.

18 MR. SULLIVAN: Good afternoon:  
19 Ladies and Gentlemen of the Legislature.  
20 Brian Sullivan, president, Nassau County  
21 Correctional Officers Benevolent  
22 Association.

23 Now for something completely  
24 different. Back on February 24th of last  
25 month, I led a tour of the Nassau County

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 correctional facility, Legislator Gonsalves  
3 was president, Deputy County Executive Rob  
4 Walker, the sheriff, Sheila Shah, the head  
5 of DPW was there with several of her  
6 department heads, CSEA people were involved.

7 It was a tour to show and point  
8 out the crumbling infrastructure of the  
9 Nassau County Correctional Facility and  
10 point out a lot of security issues that need  
11 to be addressed. We walked around for a  
12 couple of hours. I was very happy to see  
13 Legislator Gonsalves actually walked around  
14 and made a patrol in B building with me.  
15 Didn't miss a thing.

16 What I have is, at the conclusion  
17 of that meeting, it was brought up that I  
18 should memorialize everything that we saw  
19 that day and I got the permission of the  
20 Deputy County Executive and the Sheriff to  
21 go back on our own, take photographs of  
22 issues, normally you're not allowed to take  
23 photographs in the facility, but I got  
24 permission to do it, and I did.

25 The result of that was a packet

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 that I have that's going to be going to  
3 Sheila Shah, DPW, outlining everything that  
4 we saw, all of the deficiencies in the  
5 correctional facility, all of the things  
6 that need to be done so we can formulate  
7 under the capital project, capital projects  
8 to address the issues at hand and get this  
9 jail up to snuff.

10 A lot of these things in these  
11 packets, Pat is going to hand them out. I  
12 don't, unfortunately, please forgive me  
13 today, I don't have a packet for everybody  
14 on this board. I will have one for  
15 everybody by the conclusion, hopefully at  
16 the end of business tomorrow or Wednesday.  
17 I have a packet for Ms. Gonsalves, Dennis  
18 Dunne with Public Safety, the head of the  
19 minority, Kevan Abrahams, Laura Curran, and  
20 Mr. Muscarella who is the head of DPW  
21 because I'm sending it over to DPW with  
22 Sheila Shah.

23 The conditions of the buildings  
24 are, I think Legislator Gonsalves, you would  
25 agree with me, are deplorable. The 832

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 building which was built and opened in 1993  
3 is leaking like a sieve when you see some of  
4 these photographs, you will see exactly what  
5 I'm talking about, issues that create slip  
6 and fall hazards, electrical problems,  
7 mechanical problems, security issues with --  
8 I want to be delicate about how I go about  
9 this because there are certain things that I  
10 don't want to say in a public forum, but  
11 there is a lot of issues once you see in  
12 these photographs, and I apologize to anyone  
13 else listening that's not going to be privy  
14 to this, there are serious security lapses  
15 that need to be addressed in the  
16 correctional facility, as far as  
17 surveillance, everything else.

18 Mrs. Gonsalves, you saw first  
19 hand what this was about, and I hope once  
20 this thing has been delved into, I have  
21 about 30 pages of photographic evidence and  
22 four pages of dissertation on what's going  
23 on here that we can start paying some  
24 serious attention. I want to sit with the  
25 head of Public Safety and DPW. I know it's

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 an election year and we have a lot of  
3 exterior static going on this year which may  
4 prevent some of this stuff from happening  
5 but it still needs to be addressed.

6 I'm hoping that I can sit with  
7 everybody that's particularly involved in  
8 this. Any other legislator that wants to  
9 get involved, certainly I will take your  
10 help.

11 I'm hoping this is going to be a  
12 bipartisan event to show exactly what needs  
13 to be done to protect my correction  
14 officers, to protect the inmates that are in  
15 the facility.

16 Last week we had, shifting gears  
17 a little bit, something else that needs to  
18 be addressed as far as security issues in  
19 the jail.

20 We need to -- we were here  
21 talking about vests. We're going to have  
22 different types of vests provided for our  
23 members. I finally got the go ahead from  
24 the sheriff to go ahead and have all our  
25 people measured. We have the vendor. I'm

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 hoping that's going to start this week some  
3 time at the earliest convenience, I can get  
4 the vendor in. That's a big step forward.

5 We also have to address the  
6 emergency response team. The team itself  
7 needs to be replenished. There is an  
8 agreement to start a full time emergency  
9 response team that will always be on in the  
10 platoons in the event of an emergency.

11 I'm going to need some help from  
12 you on the Legislature to help me push the  
13 department, to help me push the sheriff to  
14 get this started.

15 The agreement was once we have  
16 the next class start, which I'm still  
17 waiting for, apparently they're having  
18 trouble getting people hired. That's when  
19 we are going to start the full time team,  
20 but the call-up team, the reserve team,  
21 whatever you want to call it, it needs to be  
22 replenished immediately.

23 We had an incident last Thursday  
24 where I was actually very happy with the  
25 response from the sheriff, which a lot of

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 these issues where we're talking about that  
3 we need continued random searches, we call  
4 them shakedowns, if I say it forgive the  
5 nomenclature, random searches of the  
6 facility. We need continued random searches  
7 in the facility, we need a search policy.  
8 We need the cert team replenished and  
9 outfitted.

10 There's a lot that needs to go on  
11 here. We have a very, very serious gang  
12 problem in this facility. The gang members  
13 that are here and a lot of nonsense that I  
14 have been dealing with administratively,  
15 different processes and things like that, we  
16 need to address the gang problems.

17 We have areas of the facility  
18 that are closed. I know you have heard this  
19 before.

20 We have an over consolidation of  
21 inmates in the facility that are all jammed  
22 into the 832 building, jammed into two  
23 floors.

24 We have two floors in the main B  
25 building that are unused right now. I know



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 my predecessor had a PILOT program that was  
3 done. I believe that PILOT program as  
4 formulated and doomed to fail so we could  
5 keep post-coverage down.

6 But we need to come up with a  
7 plan so we can separate a lot of these gang  
8 members. They're getting a little bit too  
9 emboldened. There is a lot of violence  
10 going on in the jail, a lot of weapons being  
11 smuggled into the jail. There's a lot of  
12 drugs being smuggled into the jail. My guys  
13 are finding stuff left and right through  
14 their own routine searches, regular patrols  
15 they're finding it.

16 And when there is an incident,  
17 they'll do a quick search of the area itself  
18 and they will find things. But we need to  
19 get actively proactive and start shaking the  
20 hell out of this place like a tree and have  
21 all the weapons and drugs fall out.

22 Part of that is the emergency  
23 response team. If they're full duty on  
24 straight time, they worry about overtime and  
25 everything else. I get all that.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Let's formulate a plan, get this  
3 plan together. I want to sit with everybody  
4 here about the crumbling infrastructure.  
5 I'm sure once all of you see these pictures,  
6 you're going to be amazed at what you see.  
7 It's all behind the walls. The public  
8 doesn't see.

9 This place has been neglected for  
10 far too long, and we need some money to be  
11 put into this place. We need to get the  
12 security up. That's pretty much where we  
13 stand.

14 I need security addressed at this  
15 facility before something bad happens to one  
16 of our officers. Like I said the other day,  
17 there was an incident on Thursday. I'm not  
18 going to give you the details of it in one  
19 of our dormitories on Thursday night.

20 Friday I was all over the sheriff  
21 like a fly on a stick of butter. You better  
22 do something because we have a real problem  
23 here.

24 If he get to the end of the day  
25 and nothing is going on, I'm going to make

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 an issue out of it. And, thankfully, the  
3 sheriff was very amenable to going in. We  
4 had a rigorous search of that area. What  
5 there was of the cert team, we had the  
6 canine in, and it was very impressive what  
7 was done.

8 It needs to be done all the time  
9 not just after major incidents. The inmates  
10 need to know that we are in control of this  
11 facility. They're not. And they need to be  
12 given the tools and backing to do that.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Brian, I  
14 was there with you and I was certainly  
15 surprised at the condition of the complex.

16 I was even more surprised with  
17 the 832 building because of the newness of  
18 the building. It's obvious that things were  
19 neglected over the years, and, as a result,  
20 becoming more and more uninhabitable.

21 What I have asked you to do and I  
22 know there is something that you just  
23 mentioned, should be at the top of the list,  
24 which is the location of the gang members  
25 within that facility, and I think that it's

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 not only for their safety but the safety of  
3 the correction officers and also the safety  
4 of the community in which I live.

5 I've also asked you if there's  
6 any way, and there were so many issues on  
7 that day that we toured, if there was any  
8 way you could prioritize the needs of your  
9 concerns in a way that we can address them  
10 as quickly as possible?

11 MR. SULLIVAN: That's in the  
12 package that I handed out.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.  
14 That's important to us.

15 MR. SULLIVAN: That's if the  
16 packet prioritize the security issues.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Absolutely.  
18 Hold on. You know as well as I do, over the  
19 years, as a member of the community and also  
20 as someone who is involved in the creation  
21 of that new building, that the security  
22 within that facility was extremely important  
23 to us outside of that building.

24 Because if it was not secure and  
25 problems arose in that building, they were

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 going to flow over into the community. We  
3 have a high school right next door and a  
4 hospital right next door. So security is a  
5 big issue for us and we need to address and  
6 make sure that that is addressed and  
7 addressed properly, not only for the  
8 correction officers and the inmates, I  
9 prefer to call them trustees, but for the  
10 community at large.

11 I appreciate you coming down  
12 today and presenting us with this. I've  
13 been waiting. When did we meet?

14 MR. SULLIVAN: A few weeks, a  
15 couple of weeks. Had to go through the area  
16 get all the dirt up.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I thought  
18 maybe it got lost. I was concerned. I said  
19 hopefully he's not going to walk away from  
20 this.

21 MR. SULLIVAN: Never.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I didn't  
23 think so. So I'm going to make copies for  
24 my colleagues.

25 MR. SULLIVAN: I will make

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 copies. I will drop them all off so they  
3 can have it.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: So they  
5 should all have it. Both sides should have  
6 it. I appreciate it.

7 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: There is no  
8 list included in here about -- no mention of  
9 gangs in this booklet.

10 MR. SULLIVAN: The gangs are  
11 separate because this was all based on the  
12 infrastructure. The infrastructure of the  
13 facility, things that need to be done. The  
14 gangs and the cert team are issues that I do  
15 with the sheriff.

16 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: You will get  
17 us a list?

18 MR. SULLIVAN: You want that  
19 separately, I will put that on this also.

20 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: ASAP. I want  
21 to get on this.

22 MR. SULLIVAN: I will email that  
23 to you this afternoon. This package itself  
24 was based solely on the infrastructure and  
25 all the equipment that's deficient that

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 needed to be brought up.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: But you  
4 raised another point, Brian. Because the  
5 gangs are related to security.

6 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: There's also  
7 senior housing right next door. So it's not  
8 only a high school, a hospital, but there's  
9 senior housing, and then an open golf  
10 course, where they can run and fight and do  
11 whatever they want. So we have to get on  
12 top of this.

13 MR. SULLIVAN: Homes are right on  
14 the other side of the fence.

15 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Absolutely.  
16 That's my district. Get this done.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
18 Ford would like to speak.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: Hi. Thank you  
20 very much for coming down here. I have to  
21 say I'm horrified by the pictures that I  
22 see. I was away when you had the last tour  
23 in February. I was just speaking to  
24 Legislator Nicoletto. We would like to set  
25 up a tour as well. Maybe if we have the

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 books prior to going, that we can actually  
3 bring them with us and look at the pictures  
4 and actually see them.

5 MR. SULLIVAN: I would like to  
6 invite the other side also.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: We travel well  
8 together. I'm just curious, when I first  
9 was elected, we had an issue with the roof  
10 in one of the buildings in the correctional  
11 facility. This is not the same building?

12 MR. SULLIVAN: Same building.  
13 The roofs were redone. When I was here last  
14 time there was a roof project done on the  
15 832 building and what ended up happening  
16 was, they had to redo -- there was a problem  
17 with the roof. There were problems with the  
18 HVAC systems. They took them apart and then  
19 started digging into the roof again and it  
20 undermined the integrity of the roof after  
21 the whole project was done ten, 15 years  
22 ago.

23 We didn't even get 20 years out  
24 of that roof and when you look at these  
25 pictures now, you can see it's a disaster.



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 LEGISLATOR FORD: It's horrible.

3 MR. SULLIVAN: When you see the  
4 conditions in B building, there is walls  
5 bowed, there's windows that are separated.  
6 You can actually reach out, see out.  
7 There's cracks in the concrete block. The  
8 facade is coming apart.

9 It should have been getting  
10 caulked this entire time. There is a  
11 million issues. I know our maintenance  
12 department is way down in staff. It's  
13 almost impossible for those poor guys to  
14 keep on top of everything. Everything is  
15 basically at an emergency level now.  
16 Everything is fixed on an emergency basis,  
17 our routine maintenance goes out the window.

18 We need to hire more maintenance  
19 staff to get on top of these things. We  
20 need to address surveillance issues and  
21 everything else. It's all in these packets.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: It's a myriad  
23 of problems. I agree. Less isn't always  
24 better. Because, like you said, the routine  
25 maintenance, you are always putting out

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 fires, so to speak.

3 MR. SULLIVAN: The surveillance  
4 and the security issues are number one. I  
5 will send out under separate cover, I will  
6 send out to everyone today, about the gang  
7 issues and I'll detail an incident that  
8 happened last Thursday and the response to  
9 it. The other is all the infrastructure,  
10 it's crumbling.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: And I'm aware  
12 to a certain degree of the gang only  
13 because, as you know, I have family members  
14 that work at that facility. So they have let  
15 me know about it.

16 But my last question then would  
17 be, out of all the jail, what percentage of  
18 the jail is actually being used for the  
19 inmates and how much is vacant when you talk  
20 about the B building?

21 MR. SULLIVAN: The 832 building  
22 which was built for 832 inmates, every area  
23 is full. It probably has a little -- are  
24 they still double bunking? They lost the  
25 variance for that apparently. But mixing

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2 classifications left and right on these  
3 dorms is a major problem.

4 In B building, which is where we  
5 have the -- those are dormitories in the 832  
6 building, with cells that you can lock in,  
7 but the inmates all come out into day rooms  
8 and officers have to be stationed in each  
9 pod.

10 In the B building, where we have  
11 the linear tears, it looks like the old  
12 fashioned shaw shank kind of jail, only two  
13 of the floors out of the four are open.

14 My preference is that that entire  
15 building should be opened and should be  
16 maintained because there are eight linear  
17 tiers that are sitting empty right now.

18 I think B-5 is going to need a  
19 lot of maintenance to get it up and running.  
20 It's B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, that's the set up.  
21 And the north lobby is below it.

22 Four and five are closed. Four  
23 can be used, it's my understanding, it can  
24 be opened with a little bit of spit and  
25 polish. Five is going to need a little more

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 maintenance to get the lock boxes and  
3 everything working. But if we have the  
4 ability to put inmates in linear tiers in  
5 cells, violent inmates, gang member inmates,  
6 and we have a lot of should shuffling  
7 around, robbing Peter to pay Paul, to keep  
8 areas closed, it would bode very well to be  
9 able to separate inmates in linear tiers.  
10 You can keep lesser inmates, nonviolent  
11 inmates in the open dorms, inmates that have  
12 lesser crimes. But some people need to be  
13 behind bars. I don't need to go down the  
14 litany of things like that.

15 If you're a repeated gang member,  
16 we have a BMU unit, behavioral modification  
17 unit. It's kind of been turned into, for  
18 lack of a better word, an enhanced psych  
19 area, for more violent psych type of  
20 inmates. They assault staff. But it could  
21 certainly be run differently as far as I'm  
22 concerned. It can be run better on a  
23 different floor.

24 If there's anybody who wants to  
25 sit down with me, I can go through the

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 myriad of things. I would love to have all  
3 of B building open.

4 A building, actually it may be a  
5 little bit of different thing with the fire  
6 marshal. Something that we can look into.

7 A building, I know a lot of it  
8 was refurbished because of the movie  
9 projects. We were originally going to  
10 refurbish all of A building because we were  
11 going to hold Suffolk County inmates a  
12 couple of years ago. We did a lot of  
13 refurbishing on several of the different  
14 areas. A building, which has been closed  
15 since 1983, but a lot of it was redone.

16 They have been shooting movies in  
17 there. I think with a little bit of  
18 attention paid, we can get a few of those  
19 floors open and alleviate a lot of the  
20 pressure and the tension that's going on in  
21 these open dorms where we have inmates in  
22 and out of administrative segregation.  
23 Inmates in and out of the BMU unit. There's  
24 only so many inmates you can put in BMU.  
25 One has to be kicked out earlier than he

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 should be because we have to put the new  
3 special child of the day in there.

4 We need to be able to segregate a  
5 lot of these gangs. We need to be able to  
6 segregate the violent inmates. More  
7 attention with armor and everything else.  
8 We have problems with medications. Cutting  
9 down on medications and psych, we can talk  
10 that until I'm blue in the face. Hopefully  
11 that's going to be rectified very soon.  
12 Hopefully we get back into NUMC. That's my  
13 personal preference and get back to the way  
14 it was before all of this nonsense started.

15 We are pushing about 250  
16 identified gang members in the jail. We  
17 have about I'm going to say approximately  
18 1200 inmates in the jail.

19 It's a little bit different than  
20 it was years ago. I stood here several  
21 times and I've been in the paper talking  
22 about why our head count is down and I'm not  
23 going to bore you to tears with letting  
24 people go in arraignment court because I'll  
25 keep banging that tom-tom until somebody

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 finally realizes what's going on.

3 There's things in th paper today  
4 about people letting go, released on their  
5 own recognizance.

6 But I worked here when we didn't  
7 have an 832 building. We didn't even have a  
8 D building in the middle and our head count  
9 was over 2000. I don't know how I lived  
10 through that back then when you had just  
11 half the buildings there and twice as many  
12 inmates.

13 It was a little inventive. We  
14 had inmates on cots, in classrooms. We had  
15 them in the chapel. I'm surprised they  
16 didn't send inmates home with us.

17 Now we have, like I said before,  
18 the rolling head count average used to be  
19 about 16 to 1800 inmates for the majority of  
20 my career. Within the last four or five  
21 years, the average started dropping way  
22 down.

23 Now we have 1100 to 1200. But  
24 we've done so much consolidation, the  
25 sheriff has done so much consolidation

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 because the head count is low, that we're  
3 keeping areas closed. I'm not opening that  
4 area. You open that area, it cost you four  
5 posts. Then it's overtime. It's money,  
6 it's this and that.

7 So in exchange for not having  
8 areas open and having relief valves to  
9 separate inmates, they're all squashed in  
10 the same areas. We're mixing matching cats  
11 and dogs. They're all taking this dorm to  
12 that dorm to that dorm. It's all gang  
13 members in all of these dorms. Obviously  
14 you can't send them home and you can't send  
15 them to another jail.

16 We need some sort of attention  
17 paid to this. Something bad is going to  
18 happen here. We had an incident probably  
19 two years ago, a gang member killed another  
20 gang member in a cell. He went into the  
21 cell in the morning and killed an inmate.  
22 Beat him to death. The officers couldn't  
23 get to him fast enough.

24 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Backing up a  
25 little bit --



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm finishing  
3 that we will be on tour with you. Thank  
4 you.

5 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: The building  
6 you said with the roof, it's not even 15  
7 years and it's leaking. We have a 20 year  
8 guarantee from the contractor that we  
9 contracted with and so they should hold up  
10 to the guarantee. We will go through the  
11 contract.

12 MR. SULLIVAN: If they're still  
13 under guarantee, get them in here and get a  
14 new roof on. A lot of these flat industrial  
15 roofs, sometimes they're ten years,  
16 sometimes they're 20.

17 I know originally it was a 20  
18 year. We'll check into all of that.

19 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: We'll check  
20 into that.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: The  
22 preventative maintenance is a lot of the  
23 stuff that has to be done here. There's  
24 been no preventative maintenance because  
25 they just don't have the manpower and the

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 guys are overworked.

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Well, rest  
4 assured, I don't think one person on this  
5 entire 19 person dais will disagree with  
6 that you need help.

7 MR. SULLIVAN: Right. We've had  
8 ten years of do more with less and less and  
9 less and less. Band-aids.

10 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: And we're  
11 coming to help you. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
13 Brian. Thank you, Pat. I'm going to --  
14 okay, Legislator Bynoe.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Legislator  
16 Curran actually had her hand up before me so  
17 I'm going to allow her and then me if you  
18 don't mind.

19 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: So it's a  
20 real lack of accountability that we're  
21 talking about there and, you know, the jail  
22 obviously it's kind of hidden away, only  
23 certain people go there. And maybe this is  
24 why this sort of thing is allowed to fester.

25 I'm glad you brought this to us.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 I think sunlight is the best way to solve  
3 these problems.

4 Under your predecessor,  
5 Legislator Bynoe and I had a chance to visit  
6 the jail. She was beating the drum for that  
7 roof from then. The fact that it's still a  
8 problem is outrageous because I think there  
9 was some progress that was supposed to be  
10 made and wasn't made. She can talk about  
11 that further.

12 I'm looking forward to coming and  
13 seeing this. I just appreciate that you're  
14 bring this to our attention.

15 One more quick thing, when  
16 Legislator Bynoe and I did visit the jail,  
17 some improvements were made. Clearly it  
18 wasn't enough. If it needs us to come all  
19 the time, then that's what we'll do.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,  
21 Presiding Officer. Good afternoon, Brian  
22 and Patrick. So, as Legislator Curran  
23 stated, we visited the jail several times  
24 and it was everything from security issues  
25 to deferred or lack of maintenance.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 The roof was an issue when we  
3 went. I was told that it was some kind of  
4 litigation going on with the roof. I  
5 implored both the sheriff and the chief  
6 deputy County Executive to move on fixing  
7 the roof and dealing with the litigation  
8 later.

9 I believe there's a host of  
10 health issues that are borne to that  
11 facility based on the consistent moisture  
12 that the building is taking on.

13 In addition to that, at what  
14 point does the roof become so weak that it  
15 just collapses. I have to agree that I  
16 believe this is an issue of accountability.

17 In looking at how the jail is  
18 staffed and the structure of leadership  
19 there, I spent some time researching that  
20 and looking at it, and it came to my  
21 attention that we didn't have a commissioner  
22 of corrections.

23 It may be filling that position  
24 would in some way provide proper leadership  
25 and oversight at the jail.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 To this point, I'm not seeing  
3 where that has benefitted us. I'm concerned  
4 that we continue to deal with the same  
5 issues.

6 Now in terms of the inmates being  
7 housed in the same units and jail  
8 populations being two different gangs,  
9 rather, being mixed into the same  
10 population, that's something that I spoke to  
11 on the record not this last budget hearing  
12 but the one before that and I was promised  
13 by the sheriff that he was going to make a  
14 change. I was told, and it was confirmed to  
15 me that the change was made.

16 So now I'm thinking that, as  
17 Legislator Curran said, we kept going back  
18 and that's when we saw change.

19 We at some point got a comfort  
20 level that change would continue. So now  
21 it's my belief that once we turn our back  
22 that things go back to the way they were.

23 So if this body, I think you guys  
24 have to realize that we have an issue at the  
25 jail, we have a real serious issue at the

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 jail. Even supplementing the leadership  
3 that is currently in place has not proven to  
4 be beneficial to those inmates, to the  
5 officers that are there, and we have to  
6 address this thing head on.

7 There are certain committees that  
8 I think could be engaged properly to be able  
9 to kind of flush out what some of these  
10 issues are. We need to stop putting band  
11 aids on these issues. Let's get to the root  
12 cause. We keep treating symptoms. Let's  
13 stop treating symptoms and get to the cause.

14 If I sound frustrated it's  
15 because I am. I put a lot of work going  
16 back and forth to this jail and speaking  
17 with administration at the jail, speaking  
18 with the administration here to try to see  
19 some change.

20 When is the change going to come?  
21 When something more catastrophic happens  
22 than the death of all these inmates? What  
23 are we going to do here? We have to get  
24 involved.

25 I'm happy that you went,

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Presiding Officer, to the jail and I'm happy  
3 that others are now interested in going. I  
4 know Legislator Ford also went with  
5 Legislator Curran and I one time. This is a  
6 human rights issue. We are violating those  
7 people's human rights at the jail. And  
8 going to that jail shouldn't make you  
9 subjected to the worst health care that you  
10 can ever imagine in life and all the other  
11 issues that are.

12 MR. SULLIVAN: Then we have to  
13 worry about the inmates.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I need to  
15 end it.

16 MR. SULLIVAN: One more thing, if  
17 I can say one thing and then I will leave.  
18 They did hire a new commissioner from the  
19 city. He is a former chief of internal  
20 affairs in the city. He was brought out  
21 there. He was the commissioner. He was  
22 made the chief administrative officer.

23 He's basically been acting in the  
24 capacity of the head of internal affairs  
25 here. He hasn't really been involved in

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 really anything else.

3 I'm against having -- although I  
4 respect all law enforcement, whenever you  
5 bring somebody in to run a correctional  
6 facility, they should have correctional  
7 experience.

8 We have people that run police  
9 departments. You could run the FBI. When  
10 you come into corrections it's a whole  
11 different bird. Especially Commissioner  
12 Campezi coming into this facility from where  
13 he came from in the city, with all the  
14 terrorism and all the training, and  
15 everything else, I would love to get his  
16 position on our lack of training, a lot of  
17 what goes on here, the lack of upkeep and a  
18 lot of other issues.

19 I would love to get him on record  
20 stating certain things about post-coverages  
21 and training and the lack of training. I  
22 think it would be eye opening for a guy like  
23 that to come here, especially dealing with  
24 where he came from to where we are now.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: In fact,



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Brian, I have sent several letters over to  
3 the jail and a few of them addressed to  
4 directly Commissioner Campezi talking to  
5 most of the issues you are actually bringing  
6 forwarded today and must be included in your  
7 report.

8 I too am concerned about his  
9 background. He's coming with -- somebody  
10 needs to be there with some kind of  
11 background.

12 MR. SULLIVAN: They have to know  
13 the jails. It's a whole different bird.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So I, too,  
15 have questioned whether he is the proper fit  
16 for that particular institution. Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: One  
18 question that I did ask you and I asked the  
19 sheriff the day we toured.

20 Why are we waiting for the person  
21 or the company that did the roof to come  
22 back and take care of it since it's under  
23 litigation? I said it's worth doing it  
24 ourselves, getting it done and then suing  
25 the company after.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Because the longer it stays, the  
3 way it is, the more damage there is.

4 MR. SULLIVAN: Every time it  
5 rains it's running through the walls.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's  
7 heartbreaking that a building is 20 years  
8 old is in that shape. Now are you saying  
9 that the Commissioner of Corrections is not  
10 qualified to do this job?

11 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes. He could  
12 have the highest qualifications in New York  
13 City police and everything else, but  
14 somebody who is going to be a commissioner  
15 the corrections should have a correction  
16 background. I get that there's  
17 administration, there's administrators,  
18 everything else, but if you don't know  
19 jails, you shouldn't be the commissioner of  
20 corrections.

21 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. I  
22 got you.

23 MR. SULLIVAN: They wouldn't put  
24 me as the chief of patrol. As much as I  
25 know a thousand cops and I know what goes on

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 and I deal with whatever, you wouldn't take  
3 me out of my job and put me in charge of  
4 patrol at the police department. I'm sure a  
5 lot of people would jump and down and dance  
6 about that, and I wouldn't be put in charge  
7 of a detective squad. It works both ways.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Brian, we  
9 are going to wait for your brochure with all  
10 the things we talked to again today and  
11 other things that are not in this booklet.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Presiding  
13 Officer, I'm not finished.

14 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Brian, I  
15 toured that jail and I have seen it become  
16 more and more unreasonable as far as -- not  
17 only -- look, everybody is saying the  
18 inmates, the inmates. What about the  
19 correction officers that have to work there?  
20 It's a combination here.

21 I have toured that jail and saw  
22 it change over the years. It didn't just  
23 happen. It's a number of years of neglect.

24 MR. SULLIVAN: On every issue.  
25 Not just infrastructure.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're  
3 absolutely right. I certainly was appalled  
4 by what I saw the day we toured for more  
5 than two hours.

6 MR. SULLIVAN: I can talk to you  
7 about units that were cut over the years and  
8 it just keeps eroding and eroding and  
9 eroding.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Right.  
11 Brian, listen to me. I think it's important  
12 that we establish I guess some type of  
13 committee to listen to some of these  
14 concerns. Some of the concerns I think we  
15 should address in a session. Then, of  
16 course, if need be, open it up to the  
17 public. But right now, I think we've said a  
18 lot.

19 MR. SULLIVAN: I'd glad to be  
20 part of a committee like that. I would  
21 welcome to be part of a committee.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I know you  
23 would. We're doing the same thing with the  
24 CSEA, why wouldn't we do it with you?

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: And I am

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 interested and concerned about the  
3 correction officers and they were mentioned  
4 when I spoke.

5 The other thing that I wanted to  
6 address with this body is that the Board of  
7 Visitors, if employed properly and resourced  
8 properly, could in fact be our eyes and  
9 ears. They could go back and they could be  
10 the ones to make sure consistently that  
11 there is a review and inspection of the  
12 jail. That is why this body -- that Board  
13 of Visitors was actually created.

14 If we're not going to allow them  
15 to have the proper resources and empower  
16 them properly, it's really our fault. Okay?  
17 It's really our fault.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
19 Bynoe, I'm not going to refute that, but  
20 they have visited the jail and they will  
21 continue to visit the jail as the Board of  
22 Visitors.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Not according  
24 to what they have stated when they were here  
25 for reappointment, not according to the

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 letter that the County Attorney -- I sent a  
3 letter. I think you were cc'd on it.

4 I sent a letter to the  
5 administration both at the county level and  
6 at the jail level. I cc'd the Board of  
7 Visitors by way of Captain Golio and the  
8 County Attorney's Office responded basically  
9 telling me that that's not their role. I  
10 disagree with them and I sent back a letter  
11 disagreeing with them.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I happen  
13 to agree with you to a point. They do tour  
14 that building but they don't do it on a  
15 regular basis as you and I get to do. But  
16 they do visit that facility.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Not only  
18 should they visit the facility. They should  
19 be engaging the inmates so that the inmates  
20 so the inmates know that they even exist,  
21 that they know they exist so they can get  
22 these types of complaints.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
24 Bynoe, I think that that would be over and  
25 above.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It's not.  
3 It's according to Charter.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We are not  
5 talking about the Board of Visitors at this  
6 time; we're talking about conditions at this  
7 facility.

8 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: To which they  
9 put the beneficial in assisting us to  
10 rectify.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Excuse me,  
12 but you are not here and neither am I here  
13 to determine what their responsibilities  
14 are.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I think I am.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: In the  
17 meantime -- no. It's not the time. We are  
18 listening to the president of the SHOWA's  
19 association and --

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm trying to  
21 give him an additional resource. Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Brian,  
23 thank you very much. And I will tell you,  
24 if you would like, that we can set up that  
25 committee.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 MR. SULLIVAN: I will set that up  
3 with both caucus. Thank you very much.  
4 Have a good day.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Now, for  
6 the calendar. I'm going to call the  
7 calendar. Mr. Pulitzer, please call the  
8 roll.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you,  
10 Presiding Officer. Deputy Presiding Officer  
11 Richard Nicolello?

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

13 CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy  
14 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel?

15 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela  
17 Bynoe?

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator  
20 Carrie Solages?

21 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator  
23 Denise Ford?

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Curran?

3 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

5 Vincent Muscarella?

6 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.

8 William Gaylor III?

9 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Ellen

11 Birnbaum?

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

13 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia

14 DeRiggi-Whitton?

15 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

16 Here.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James

18 Kennedy?

19 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

20 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura

21 Schaefer?

22 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

23 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

24 Dennis Dunne, Sr.?

25 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

3 Arnold Drucker?

4 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.

5 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

6 Donald MacKenzie?

7 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: Here.

8 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

9 Steven Rhoads?

10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

11 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

12 Rosemarie Walker?

13 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

14 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader

15 Kevan Abrahams?

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

17 CLERK PULITZER: Presiding

18 Officer Norma Gonsalves?

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

20 CLERK PULITZER: We have a

21 quorum, ma'am.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you

23 very much, Mr. Pulitzer.

24 I'm going to call the consent

25 calendar first. And the consent calendar of

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 those items that were discussed in  
3 committees and voted unanimously.

4 So, therefore, we will call those  
5 first and then we will go to those other  
6 items that need to be addressed or completed  
7 with the testimony.

8 The first one is Ordinance 36,  
9 Item 2; Item 4, Ordinance 38; Item 5,  
10 Ordinance 39; Item 6, Resolution 64; Item 7,  
11 Resolution 65; Item 8, Resolution 66; Item  
12 20, Resolution 78; Item 21, Resolution 79;  
13 Item 25, Ordinance 15; and Item 26,  
14 Resolution 140. Motion, please.

15 I'm sorry, I have two other items  
16 that were on the consent calendar. Item 22,  
17 Resolution 80; Item 23, Resolution 81.

18 According to the calendar, there  
19 was an item that I called which is Item 24,  
20 Ordinance 14; and Item 25, Ordinance 15, and  
21 I believe Item 26 as well. These items that  
22 needed to be untabled. Hold on.

23 CLERK PULITZER: Excuse me,  
24 madam.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Put me on the

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 record.

3 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Ford is  
4 here.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I called  
6 Item 25 and 26 as part of the consent  
7 calendar. They are not part of the consent  
8 calendar. 25 and 26 are not part the  
9 consent calendar. They are items to be  
10 untabled. I cannot call them at this time.  
11 Motion, please.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Norma,  
13 before you take the motion, just to be clear  
14 for the record, Items 24, 25, and 26 are not  
15 a part of this consent calendar?

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: They're  
17 not part of the consent calendar. I called  
18 25 and 26 as part of the consent but that  
19 was before I read that they were to the  
20 untabled. So they are not part.  
21 Motion, please.

22 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
25 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Walker. All those in favor of those items  
3 that were just called signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye.)

5 Any opposed?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 Those item pass unanimously.

8 Now for what we call the  
9 non-consent calendar, and in most instances  
10 it's because there are amendments that need  
11 to be done.

12 Next is Item 3, Ordinance 37; an  
13 ordinance making certain determinations  
14 pursuant to the State Environmental Quality  
15 Review Act and authorizing the County  
16 Executive of the County of Nassau to accept  
17 on behalf of the County of Nassau an offer  
18 of purchase from Breezy Hill Group, L.L.C.  
19 of certain premises located in Westbury,  
20 Town of North Hempstead, County of Nassau,  
21 State of New York, said property known as  
22 Section 11, Block 504, Lot 7 on the land and  
23 tax map of the County of Nassau and  
24 authorizing the County Executive to execute  
25 a deed, contract of sale, and all pertinent

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 documents in connection therewith to  
3 consummate the sale.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
7 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator  
8 Kopel. Now I need an amendment in the  
9 nature of a substitution. I will tell you  
10 what you the amendment is before we do that.

11 The amendment corrects the  
12 language in the ordinance to state the  
13 property description as Section 11, Block  
14 504, but now is included is part of Lot 7.

15 Motion, please.

16 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
19 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
20 Walker. All those in favor of the amendment  
21 in the nature of a substitution signify by  
22 saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 Any opposed?

25 (No verbal response.)

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Now, the item as amended. All  
3 those in favor of the item as amended  
4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 Any opposed?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 The item passes unanimously.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You were just  
10 amending the item, Presiding Officer?

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: We took  
12 the vote to amend the item in the nature of  
13 a substitution. Now the item itself as  
14 amended is being voted on.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But the police  
16 commissioner is there and I may have a  
17 couple of questions.

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay,  
19 commissioner.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER:  
21 Thank you, Legislator Gonsalves. Acting  
22 Commissioner Thomas Krumpter, Nassau County  
23 Police Department. There has been a number  
24 of questions on what this land and property  
25 is currently used as. Historically, the

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 building was originally built as the highway  
3 patrol. About 20 years ago, highway patrol  
4 moved from there to Brushhollow Road and  
5 ultimately they're currently situated in the  
6 Third Precinct policing center.

7 This facility is currently  
8 occupied by the CAPS squad; Crimes Against  
9 Property Squad. There was a question at the  
10 last Legislative meeting as to how this  
11 would disrupt the operations of that CAP  
12 squad. As part of the new second precinct  
13 policing center will be the home of the CAP  
14 squad and they will ultimately be moving  
15 into that facility.

16 CAP squad investigates auto  
17 crimes. They investigate, additionally,  
18 credit card fraud and they were the home of  
19 the computer forensic section and the cyber  
20 predators section.

21 Cyber predators section recently  
22 January of this year was moving into special  
23 victims squad. The computer forensic  
24 section was moved into the electronics  
25 squad.



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Computer crimes is now based out  
3 of that unit. So those are the three  
4 functions there. It's the credit card fraud  
5 and fraud cases. Auto crimes and the last  
6 piece of that is computer crimes.

7 Those units will be moving  
8 temporarily into the Bellmore facility and  
9 then they will be ultimately moving into the  
10 Second Precinct policing center.

11 The building is dilapidated.  
12 It's in one of its worst conditions. It  
13 doesn't really lend itself to computer  
14 forensics. It doesn't lend itself to  
15 investigative services. Right now CAP squad  
16 is about 12 detectives. The building is  
17 rather large and it's mostly garage space.  
18 That garage space is currently not needed.

19 Therefore, we contacted the  
20 county and requested that they could surplus  
21 the building and use it for other uses  
22 within the county.

23 The county ultimately decided to  
24 put out requests for proposals and, after a  
25 lengthy process, a bidder was selected and

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 the amount of \$1.2 million was the final  
3 purchase price of that building.

4 With that I will be more than  
5 happy to answer any questions that you may  
6 have.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
8 Bynoe.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,  
10 Presiding Officer. Good afternoon.

11 So I visited the site with you  
12 just last week and we walked through the  
13 building and I will agree that it's probably  
14 at its tipping point and of very little use  
15 to the police department.

16 I want to just confirm that there  
17 will be no disruption of service or anything  
18 to the local Westbury, New Cassel community  
19 that neighbors the police station there.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER:  
21 Legislator Bynoe, as you saw on the day we  
22 visited, which was a Monday, there was  
23 actually only two detectives in that  
24 building at that time. That's pretty  
25 standard right now. It's an under utilized

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 building. Those detectives work throughout  
3 the county as a whole. So there would be no  
4 disruption to policing within the community  
5 of Westbury, New Cassel and they might even  
6 see a benefit.

7 That is a -- highway would stop  
8 in there to use the facilities. They would  
9 now likely just head into the Westbury New  
10 Cassel New Cassel and use the facilities at  
11 the booth that's right down in New Cassel.  
12 So they will actually draw more police  
13 sources further into that community rather  
14 than just on the peripheral of that  
15 community.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So you said  
17 that you contacted the county and suggested  
18 it become surplus. Do you remember when you  
19 did that?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER:  
21 It's been a while. This is all part of the  
22 bigger plan. When we knew we were moving  
23 into the policing center, that facility is  
24 35,000 square feet of office space. 15,000  
25 square feet of garage space, it's a 50,000

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2 square foot building. The Second Precinct  
3 was during the planning of that.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So I'm just  
5 going to, for the record again, state that  
6 this was an unanticipated sale of property  
7 as it was not included in the original  
8 budget and, therefore, I suggest that this  
9 money, this 1.2, go to funding the buses.  
10 Thank you, Commissioner.

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER:  
12 Thank you. Have a good day. And if you  
13 look at the tail on that, it goes back to  
14 2015. So this has been a long process. It  
15 wasn't easily sold.

16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Understood.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
18 Schaefer.

19 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: On that  
20 topic, do you know where the funding goes?  
21 Does it go to the police department, does it  
22 go to the administration?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: If  
24 I'm not mistaken, it goes to the land sales,  
25 the open space, I believe. We will have to

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 get back with that answer.

3 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Okay. That  
4 will be good to know. Thank you.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other  
6 legislators?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 Any public comment? Mr. Budnick.

9 MR. BUDNICK: Do I understand  
10 that the Second Precinct is going to be  
11 transferred into this building in Westbury?  
12 I just want to make sure to get that  
13 question answered because it seemed as if  
14 the Second Precinct was going to be  
15 transferred from its current location in the  
16 Town of Oyster Bay into Westbury and leave  
17 the Town of Oyster Bay --

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES:  
19 Commissioner, will you correct the record?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER: I  
21 will clarify the record. So the only thing  
22 that's happening is the detective unit  
23 that's assigned to the Westbury facility is  
24 moving to the Second Precinct Policing  
25 Center that is being built. That's 50,000

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2 square feet building. The Second Precinct  
3 is not moving. There's no plans to move the  
4 second precinct at this time. There is no  
5 discussions about moving the Second Precinct  
6 at this time, that will remain in Syosset.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay. Mr.  
8 Budnick, does that answer your question? I  
9 guess it does. Any other public comment?  
10 Meta Mereday.

11 MS. MEREDAY: Meta Mereday,  
12 Baldwin, go Bruins. Actually I'm connected  
13 to Westbury too because I used to work with  
14 Bucky Reed when I did some teaching at  
15 Westbury High School, so, go Dragons. I'm  
16 just hoping that those young people will be  
17 able to, once they finish high school and go  
18 to college will be able to afford the taxes  
19 at the rate it's going now, and the number  
20 of zombie houses.

21 With regard to this property, I  
22 just wanted to get clarification, as Mr.  
23 Budnick, I just needed to get clarification  
24 with regard to the temporary move for the  
25 credit and fraud aspect.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 I just wasn't clear as to them  
3 being temporarily moved to Bellmore or just  
4 to get clarification because if we're  
5 looking for space, and particularly when we  
6 are looking for fraud and credit card fraud,  
7 and you're doing all these tours, I don't  
8 know but have you been to the Department of  
9 Social Services recently because in the  
10 basement, there is a whole area that is  
11 empty and the section that is being utilized  
12 actually is being utilized for welfare fraud  
13 and things of that nature.

14 So, hey, wouldn't it be  
15 interesting if we're talking about fraud and  
16 recouping money, that people are getting  
17 illegally, including our tax dollars since  
18 we're paying the second highest property  
19 taxes in the country, that we might want to  
20 incorporate that type of scenario to bring  
21 those departments and that type of purpose  
22 together, that it would positively impact  
23 those of us who are trying to stay here on  
24 Long Island.

25 So I just wanted to get some

1                   Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2   clarification on why we should have to  
3   temporarily move someone, we can get them  
4   situated, they can be right on the spot,  
5   because the wiring and everything is in the  
6   location. Brand new cubicles and  
7   everything, but you can run a cow through  
8   the available space, the lower level of  
9   Social Services.

10                   ACTING COMMISSIONER KRUMPTER:  
11   Just to clarify, the CAP squad is under the  
12   major case bureau. The major case bureau is  
13   based in Bellmore. They are all moving into  
14   a facility that's under construction. It's  
15   just a matter of the timing of the closing.  
16   So depending on the timing of the closing,  
17   we expect that facility to be up and  
18   operational before the end of the year, and  
19   it's just a matter of exactly when this  
20   facility is closed on, and we have to vacate  
21   it. It would be a temporary fix. That's  
22   all it is.

23                   On the face, Social Services may  
24   be an ideal, it's really not for us because  
25   our network is complete separate. We would



1                   Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2     have to run network fiber into that  
3     building. It's a secured network. This is  
4     a lot easier for us we already have the  
5     space available to house this unit without  
6     any significant investment.

7                   CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
8     Commissioner. Any other questions or any  
9     other comments?

10                   (No verbal response.)

11                   Is there any public comment?

12                   (No verbal response.)

13                   There being none, all those in  
14     favor of Item 3, Ordinance 37 as amended  
15     signify by saying aye.

16                   (Aye.)

17                   Any opposed?

18                   (No verbal response.)

19                   I guess the item passes  
20     unanimously.

21                   We are going to move on to Item  
22     17, Resolution 75, a resolution to confirm  
23     the County Executive's reappointment of  
24     David Chulwoo Lee to the Assessment Review  
25     Commission.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Motion, please.

3 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So moved.

4 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
6 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Legislator  
7 Kennedy. Now, I also have an amendment in  
8 the nature of a nature of a substitution, so  
9 I need someone to move the amendment.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

11 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
13 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator  
14 Muscarella.

15 The amendment adds language in  
16 the resolution to show the salary of the  
17 appointment pursuant to Administrative Code  
18 6-40.

19 So all those in favor the  
20 amendment in the nature of a substitution  
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Now for the item as amended. Any

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 questions or comments regarding Item 17?

3 MS. LAVEMAN: Good afternoon,  
4 legislators. I'm Robin Laveman. I'm the  
5 Chairperson of the Nassau County Assessment  
6 Review Commission. I wanted to introduce  
7 you to David Lee who is our new appointee  
8 and we have Jacki Rogoff and Anthony  
9 Ballato, numbers 18 and 19, for  
10 reappointments.

11 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: They're  
12 all here. Yes, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Why  
14 is it that their term expires June 30th,  
15 2017?

16 MS. LAVEMAN: The way it works is  
17 we replace people who have left. So you  
18 continue the term of the position. There  
19 was a former commissioner, Stanley Hirsch,  
20 his commission ends the end of June. So Mr.  
21 Lee will be replacing him and then coming  
22 back for reappointment in June.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Mr. Lee,  
24 would you like to say something?

25 MR. LEE: Yes, my name is David

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Chulwoo Lee.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: And you're  
4 going to serve up to June of 2017 and  
5 hopefully be reappointed again, correct?

6 MR. LEE: Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You may  
8 get up and talk if you want. I'm not going  
9 to stop you.

10 MS. MEREDAY: I know that. Meta  
11 Mereday, Baldwin. Not a problem. You were  
12 getting ready to say was there any public  
13 comment.

14 As it pertains to all three of  
15 the appointees, I'm just hoping that as far  
16 as the information, because all of you would  
17 have the information and most of us would  
18 not want to hear about it in Newsday of  
19 course.

20 I'm just hoping as far as their  
21 professional affiliations, that they are  
22 not, so that there is no potential conflict  
23 that none of them have businesses that  
24 relate to anything that has to do with  
25 assessments or things of that nature

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 because, again, we have so many situations  
3 that smack of conflict of interest. It  
4 seems like we pay a lot of lawsuits in  
5 Nassau County for some interesting reason.

6 So I just want to make sure as a  
7 point of clarification that these appointees  
8 standing here that you are clearly going to  
9 approve in some form of the majority that  
10 they do not have any relationships to any  
11 businesses that are tied to providing advice  
12 or assistance in terms of assessments or  
13 anything to do with mortgages or things of  
14 that nature in the housing arena. I just  
15 want to be clear. Thank you.

16 MS. LAVEMAN: Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
18 Ms. Mereday. Since I called that  
19 separately, I'm going to, if there is no  
20 other comment, call a vote on Item 17 as  
21 amended.

22 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Madam  
23 Presiding Officer, I do have one question.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
25 Drucker, I should have called the other two.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I withdraw  
3 any question.

4 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I should  
5 have called the them but they're all being  
6 amended, I figured take our time.

7 Any questions regarding 17?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 All those in favor of Item 17,  
10 Resolution 75, signify by saying aye.

11 (Aye.)

12 Any opposed?

13 (Nay.)

14 We got 12 to 6.

15 Now we're going to move on to 18,  
16 Resolution 76, Resolution to confirm the  
17 County Executive -- Mr. Lee, by the way,  
18 you were approved, resolution to confirm the  
19 County Executive's appointment of Anthony  
20 Ballato to the Assessment Review Commission.

21 Motion, please.

22 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Second.

24 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
25 Legislator MacKenzie, seconded by Legislator

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Gaylor. Now I also have an amendment in the  
3 nature of a substitution. So a motion for  
4 the amendment.

5 Motion, please.

6 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: So moved.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
9 Legislator Nicolello, seconded by Legislator  
10 Kopel. And that amendment has to deal with  
11 the salary of the appointee that was not in  
12 the resolution. Before we get to the item  
13 as amended, who do we have?

14 MR. BALLATO: I'm Anthony  
15 Ballato.

16 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Say a few  
17 words before we vote on your appointment.

18 MR. BALLATO: Good afternoon,  
19 everybody. My name is Anthony Ballato. I'm  
20 in Massapequa, New York. And to answer the  
21 question that was raised, I'm a private  
22 practitioner. I have zero interest in any  
23 kind of assessments or real estate business  
24 or anything of that nature.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: That's

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 good. Thank you, Anthony.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I do have A  
4 question for, Mr. Ballato. I'm sure you are  
5 aware of the highly critical and  
6 controversial issue that we have today in  
7 assessment in Nassau County.

8 Could you tell us really, I see  
9 that you're mostly involved in litigation in  
10 your resume. What experience could you tell  
11 us what you have in real estate and in terms  
12 of in light of how important that's going to  
13 be in your position?

14 MR. BALLATO: Well, as a general  
15 practitioner, and I might handle about 52  
16 different areas of law, people come to me  
17 with all sorts of problems; from birth to  
18 death, I handle people's matters.

19 I was born and raised in this  
20 county. I know it well. I bought and sold  
21 homes of my own, my own business. I have a  
22 fair idea of what properties are worth and  
23 what taxes are.

24 After all, it's just as the old  
25 commercial, the Hair Club for Men, I'm not



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 just a customer.

3 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: With all due  
4 respect, sir, I believe this position  
5 requires more than just a general knowledge  
6 that every person has when they live in this  
7 county.

8 What percentage of your law  
9 practice involves real estate? I'm a  
10 private practitioner as well. I concentrate  
11 in real estate, but do you have any sort of  
12 concentration in real estate?

13 MR. BALLATO: Yes, certainly I  
14 do.

15 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: How come  
16 it's not mentioned in your resume?

17 MR. BALLATO: I don't put  
18 percentages on my practice.

19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: You don't  
20 mention it at all. You mention litigation,  
21 matrimonial.

22 MR. BALLATO: If you go to the  
23 second page, I talk about real estate and  
24 general practice. Real estate false under  
25 the heading of general practice.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 To answer your question, I  
3 handled numerous transactions involving the  
4 purchases and sales of residential and  
5 commercial real estate.

6 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: How many per  
7 year would you say?

8 MR. BALLATO: It varies could be  
9 a dozen one year, maybe a few the next. It  
10 goes back and forth.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you.

12 MR. BALLATO: This is a  
13 reappointment. I have been on this board  
14 for over six years now and I also served in  
15 capacities of a lot of other matters.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I wasn't  
17 involved in previous appointments, so --

18 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator  
19 Muscarella.

20 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: I just  
21 think we are getting to a point where you  
22 are almost damned if you do, damned if you  
23 don't. Ms. Mereday rightly pointed out that  
24 we didn't want anybody with conflicts of  
25 interest which would be people interested in

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 real estate or had experiences in real  
3 estate.

4 Now we hear that there may a  
5 criticism for somebody not having enough  
6 experience in real estate. So I just think  
7 that we should look at the quality of the  
8 candidates and vote accordingly.

9 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: How can you  
10 deny the relevance and importance of real  
11 estate experience when you're in a position  
12 like this?

13 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: I'm not.

14 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: You are by  
15 saying it's irrelevant.

16 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: I'm not  
17 saying it's irrelevant. I think that the  
18 quality of the person --

19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: We're not  
20 talking about quality, we are talking about  
21 the experience.

22 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: And he's  
23 had six years of experience on the  
24 Assessment Commission.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: It was

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 nonsensical from the beginning if you ask  
3 me.

4 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I would  
5 note for the record that County Executive  
6 Suozzi appointed as chair of this commission  
7 a perennial candidate who had no  
8 qualifications. Dolores Sedaka. So if  
9 we're going to go to qualifications, maybe  
10 we should start -- it's kind of late in the  
11 game for you guys to start bringing that  
12 stuff up.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: First of  
14 all, before we can approve your appointment,  
15 we need to move to accept the amendment in  
16 the nature of a substitution.

17 All those in favor of the  
18 amendment in the nature of a substitution  
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Aye.)

21 Any opposed?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 Ms. Mereday, you don't have  
24 another comment, do you? Before I took the  
25 vote.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 MS. MEREDAY: I appreciate that.  
3 Thank you. Meta Mereday, Baldwin. Just  
4 again, with the concerns as it pertains to  
5 making sure that those issues that are  
6 impacting the least of us, so to speak,  
7 truly the underserved, for me, primarily,  
8 the veterans, but also our senior citizens,  
9 in terms of what the responsibilities are or  
10 what the considerations are with regard to  
11 the assessment process in making sure that  
12 those needs that we don't have to once again  
13 go to New York State to address those types  
14 of assessments and abatements for our senior  
15 citizens and making sure our veterans are  
16 aware.

17 And I agree in terms of  
18 Legislator Drucker, just wanting to be  
19 concerned about who is watching any of our  
20 store houses. Right now, our assessment  
21 process is ridiculous in its archaic nature  
22 and its lack of parity as it pertains to  
23 residents in this county.

24 So we need to make sure and we  
25 need to continue to make sure so we don't

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 see these expos'es that come up in Newsday  
3 and News 12 about what's happening with our  
4 tax dollars. Because our properties right  
5 now are being challenged.

6 I'm just hoping again that the  
7 individuals that are being appointed and  
8 reappointed and reassigned are just aware of  
9 all of those issues and those items that  
10 pertains to that.

11 I also wanted to let Legislator  
12 Kopel know that the veteran that was in East  
13 Rockaway and Lynbrook, we are working  
14 towards getting the dormer on top of his  
15 house. He's the 91 year old veteran that  
16 was going into Alzheimer's and I had left a  
17 letter with you requesting your assistance.

18 But we were able to get the  
19 dormer that's now being built on the house  
20 but we have got to address, not just the  
21 assessments but the considerations for our  
22 older veterans so they can get additions put  
23 on their homes that are challenged in these  
24 local municipalities who are against mother  
25 daughters, so that couple's family that had

1                   Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2     to travel over an hour from Sayville to come  
3     and look after them will now be able to live  
4     upstairs in that home and take care of that  
5     couple. So this is serious business. I'm  
6     hoping we're all aware of it and we're going  
7     into it proactively and collectively. We  
8     should not be talking about a majority and  
9     minority when it comes down to somebody's  
10    home. Thank you.

11                   CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: You're  
12    welcome, Ms. Mereday. There being no other  
13    comments, all those in favor of Item 18,  
14    Resolution 76 as amended signify by saying  
15    aye.

16                   (Aye.)

17                   Any opposed?

18                   (Nay.)

19                   I just have to see. Okay, Mr.  
20    Ballato.

21                   MR. BALLATO: Thank you to  
22    everybody. I appreciate your time.

23                   CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Your most  
24    welcome.

25                   Next, Item 19, Resolution 77, a

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 resolution to confirm the County Executive's  
3 reappointment of Jacki Rogoff to the  
4 Assessment Review Commission.

5 Motion, please.

6 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
9 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
10 Ford. I also have an amendment in the  
11 nature of a nature of a substitution, it  
12 pertains to the salary of the appointee not  
13 part of the resolution.

14 Motion for the amendment.

15 LEGISLATOR MACKENZIE: So moved.

16 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

17 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
18 Legislator MacKenzie, seconded by Legislator  
19 Kennedy. All those in favor of the  
20 amendment in the nature of a substitution  
21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 Now, for the item as amended, is



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 there any comment from the legislators?

3 MS. LAVEMAN: Legislator

4 Gonsalves, I would just like to introduce

5 you to Jacki Rogoff, she currently sits on

6 our board. Jacki has extensive real estate

7 background managing a not for profit

8 foundation with substantial real estate

9 assets and she is has been on our board for

10 nine years. She is an asset to the

11 Assessment Review Commission and I would

12 request her reappointment.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you

14 very much. I appreciate that. Any comments

15 from the legislators?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Is there any public comment?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 There being none, all those in

20 favor of Item 19, Resolution 77 as amended

21 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Any opposed?

24 (Nay.)

25 So that was 15 to 4. That was

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Mr. Drucker, Ms. Birnbaum and Ms. Curran.

3 I'm not going to adjourn the  
4 meeting. I have public comment. Motion to  
5 adjourn the Full Legislature meeting on  
6 March 27th.

7 Motion, please.

8 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Moved by  
11 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator  
12 Ford. All those in favor of adjourning the  
13 March 27th, 2017 Legislative meeting signify  
14 by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Any opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
19 meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.)

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I several  
21 people who are here waiting to speak.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I  
23 understand, Norma, based on our  
24 conversations that the Human Rights  
25 appointments are not going to be called

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 today.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Yes.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: When you  
5 get the responses that you are looking for,  
6 can you share that with our side as well?

7 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Without a  
8 doubt, and vice versa. You're not waiting  
9 for anything.

10 As promised, we're going back.  
11 Daniel Dobroff.

12 MR. DOBROFF: You all know that  
13 gender identity is not covered under Nassau  
14 County's anti-discrimination laws or gender  
15 expression.

16 I was told on Friday by the  
17 Nassau County legislator's legal counsel  
18 that transgender rights are covered in  
19 Nassau County's antidiscrimination laws.

20 This I do not believe to be the  
21 case. I do not believe this is the case  
22 because two simple words, gender identity,  
23 are not in the County Charter.

24 I was told that adding gender  
25 identity to the County Charter would in fact

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 make it harder for transgender individuals  
3 as well as others to be protected against  
4 discrimination in Nassau County. I do not  
5 believe that this is the case.

6 I do not believe that the late  
7 great Judy Jacobs would keep trying year  
8 after year to add gender identity and gender  
9 expression to the County Charter if she  
10 believed that transgender individuals were  
11 protected under Nassau County's  
12 antidiscrimination laws.

13 When we add gender identity, we  
14 recognize the transgender community and they  
15 feel respected. They don't have to hide.

16 When people don't have to hide,  
17 they have freedom. Freedom is the safety of  
18 the soul.

19 Do the right thing and add gender  
20 identity to Nassau County's  
21 antidiscrimination laws. If you have any  
22 hesitation about doing so, please agree to  
23 meet with the leaders of the transgender  
24 community before the next Nassau legislative  
25 meeting so you can understand why that is so

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 important to do.

3 I just wanted to make a few extra  
4 comments. I'm disappointed in how you  
5 select who speaks first. My friend Rusty  
6 Rodes who is 65 and has had serious medical  
7 issues over the past several years and came  
8 all the way from Suffolk County to speak on  
9 this issue, was unable to speak because she  
10 can only sit for a short period of time. So  
11 I'm disappointed she did not get an  
12 opportunity to speak. That's the  
13 responsibility of the County Legislature to  
14 ensure this doesn't happen in the future,  
15 not the person's responsibility. I'm  
16 disappoint about that.

17 And I wanted to say, my one  
18 question is, if you truly feel transgender  
19 citizens are protected, why not just put it  
20 up for a vote and vote your conscience on it  
21 so the vote in all your districts could see  
22 where you stand officially in a vote?

23 A problem I have been having in  
24 national, state, and local level is, when  
25 things are put up for a vote, people can

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 vote the way they want, but whenever a bill  
3 is out there, it should be voted on.

4 I really hope that Democrats and  
5 Republicans will do more on this issue.

6 I would like a Democrat to  
7 respond and say how Judy Jacobs supported  
8 this issue because I know she did.

9 CLERK PULITZER: Your time is up.

10 MR. DOBROFF: Okay. Not to put  
11 you on the spot, but Minority Leader  
12 Abrahams, I want to know what Judy Jacobs  
13 thought about transgender civil rights and  
14 conversations with you? I'm sure there must  
15 have been a few. What did Judy Jacobs think  
16 about transgender civil rights and the  
17 conversations you and her had about it and  
18 why she wants this to be done?

19 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: She's not  
20 here. Go ahead, answer him.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I can just  
22 say that obviously Judy was a strong  
23 supporter of the transgender community. I  
24 think her actions demonstrated that as well.  
25 Year after year, she supported legislation

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2 to try to include some of the language that  
3 Joanne has come down here for. Words cannot  
4 express enough how much support she gave  
5 towards the transgender community. She was  
6 one of the most staunchest supporters of all  
7 communities, but obviously she spoke very  
8 fondly of that community as well.

9 MR. DOBROFF: Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Dobroff. Jacqueline Pirro? John Healy?

12 MR. HEALY: Good afternoon,  
13 Legislators. I'm here specifically to  
14 address Legislator Rhoads. He's the  
15 representative for my district in Merrick.

16 As he's not here, I will take a  
17 few minutes to address the general body of  
18 the legislators and I appreciate your time.

19 I'm here as a resident of  
20 Merrick. I resided in Merrick for four  
21 years now. I bought a house back in 2009 in  
22 a residential neighborhood. I bought the  
23 home, across the street from me, hello  
24 Legislator Rhoads, how are you? Thank you  
25 for coming back in. I appreciate that.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 I'm a Merrick resident, and I  
3 started saying, and I bought a home in a  
4 residential community and across from me  
5 were four families with children.

6 In the last six or seven years  
7 since I have been living in that community.  
8 One by one I have watched the lights in  
9 those homes go off.

10 And the owner of those particular  
11 homes is St. Demetrius Church. They have a  
12 plan. I know we sent you some letters and  
13 also to Presiding Legislator Gonsalves about  
14 this issues.

15 We sent some letters to you  
16 because the Nassau County Planning  
17 Commission is going to address a pretty  
18 aggressive redevelopment of the neighborhood  
19 where I have bought my home and some of my  
20 neighbors are also here and they're going to  
21 speak about it as well.

22 They are looking to knock down  
23 six homes on my particular street. Like I  
24 said, we bought in a residential community.  
25 The nature of that community is going to



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 change. They are going to put up a large  
3 commercial structure, directly across from  
4 me and my two young children and my wife is  
5 going to be a parking lot and an entrance to  
6 the parking lot for this new cultural  
7 center.

8 I know that the Nassau County  
9 Planning Commission is going to make a  
10 recommendation on this issue. They have a  
11 hearing two days from now just this week.  
12 Unfortunately, the people on the Planning  
13 Commission are not elected representatives  
14 and that's why we came to talk to you about  
15 that.

16 We had a hearing last year before  
17 the Town of Hempstead building BZA, and, at  
18 that hearing, over 100 residents of our  
19 neighborhood turned out in opposition to  
20 this plan.

21 The church itself is short on  
22 parking spaces for the church as it stands  
23 right now, and the new plan calls for a  
24 variance which would leave them another 150  
25 parking spaces short for their services and

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 the school and everything else that they  
3 want to build here in this residential  
4 neighborhood are knocking down homes in that  
5 regard.

6 I was hoping that you, as our  
7 representative on the county, could  
8 certainly reach out to the Nassau County  
9 Planning Committee, and discuss and let them  
10 know of our dissatisfaction.

11 We are certainly going to turn up  
12 at the meeting there as well. I know that  
13 the Nassau County Planning Commission makes  
14 a recommendation to the town and, our  
15 position is as the neighbors, and your  
16 constituents is certainly to know that we  
17 are opposed to that. We are interested in  
18 seeing the Nassau County recommendation be a  
19 denial for the variances required.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I'm familiar  
21 with the proposal, it's been brewing for  
22 some time. I know that you're back before  
23 the Board of Zoning Appeals, if I'm not  
24 mistaken, on April 26th.

25 I know that the Planning

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Commission is meeting on Wednesday. If you  
3 want to hang around, because we're almost  
4 done with the meeting, I'm happy to speak  
5 with you about it.

6 MR. HEALY: Okay. And I know  
7 there are two of my other neighbors that  
8 want to address you as well. I won't take  
9 up any more of your time, but let me defer  
10 to them and let them address their further  
11 concerns.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Sure.

13 MS. BENEDETTO: Hello. My name  
14 is Karen Benedetto. I live at 2095 Annette  
15 Avenue in Merrick. As John was saying, some  
16 of you may know that the South Nassau  
17 Hellenic Community, doing business as St.  
18 Demetrius Church, is looking to build a  
19 structure that would house 13 classrooms.  
20 First of all, it would be 25,684 square  
21 feet. It would house 13 classrooms, a  
22 library, a terrace, a museum, a gymnasium,  
23 multi-purpose gathering hall which would  
24 hold 316 occupants, a commercial kitchen  
25 suitable for catering, administrative

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 offices, and additionally, they're  
3 requesting a variance for 146 off street  
4 parking spaces. A refrigerated dumpster  
5 which also is required for catering. We are  
6 here really to employ your help, your  
7 support, and most importantly your voice.

8 Our homes and our whole  
9 life-style is being threatened. This  
10 proposed addition to shift the community  
11 from a residential to a commercial will  
12 radically and forever alter the character of  
13 this neighborhood that we bought into.

14 It will affect the safety of our  
15 children and all residents. It will  
16 increase traffic on the local streets and  
17 that deficit of 146 parking spots will turn  
18 our neighborhood streets into a parking lot.  
19 If I wanted to live in Queens, I would have  
20 bought in Queens, which is fine, but imagine  
21 coming home and having to drive around for  
22 10 minutes trying to find a parking space.  
23 That is not suburbia and that's not why we  
24 pay the taxes we pay.

25 On a personal note, 25 years ago,

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 when we each bought into this quiet tree  
3 lined neighborhood so that we could raise a  
4 family and enjoy our quality of life, I  
5 mean, picture yourself living across the  
6 street from a 26,000 square foot building  
7 and a parking lot that wasn't there when you  
8 purchased your home, with horns beeping,  
9 lights flashing, the trucks will be  
10 unloading loading buses. It is will mayhem  
11 every day of the week. But, be very  
12 truthful, would you want this in your  
13 neighborhood?

14 There are commercial locations  
15 for a building such as this but it does not  
16 belong in our residential neighborhood.

17 As John said, the Nassau County  
18 Planning Commission denied this proposal May  
19 18th, 2016, and I have a copy of their  
20 decision. They are having another one but  
21 there haven't been that many changes. So I  
22 have a copy for you to read it.

23 They already have a 15,202 square  
24 foot beautiful church for their worship,  
25 fellowship, and their community needs. We

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 have no objection to the existing church.  
3 It's beautiful.

4 However, by comparison, the  
5 Merrick library, which is 14,000 square  
6 feet, it services and supports all of the  
7 south Merrick community with over 10,000  
8 residents.

9 The church, with this proposal,  
10 will take over 40,000 square feet to service  
11 and support maybe a thousand parishioners.  
12 Please keep in mind it does not service the  
13 Merrick community.

14 MS. BERGMAN: Good afternoon.  
15 Before I begin, I would just like to take  
16 the liberty just to say -- my name is Nancy  
17 Marie Bergman, I would just like to say that  
18 this is the first time that I'm actually in  
19 the Legislative chambers and addressing the  
20 legislators today.

21 It's really an honor, not only  
22 being a Nassau County resident, but also  
23 being an American that we have this type of  
24 a forum that we can actually have our voices  
25 heard.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 My name is Nancy Marie Bergman,  
3 and I reside at 9 Cornell Place in Merrick.  
4 I'm here today to provide information to  
5 this legislation with an additional concern  
6 from our community concerning the St.  
7 Demetrius Church and their proposal to build  
8 a two story cultural center.

9 The environmental impact would be  
10 devastating. With the demolition of five  
11 homes, we will be facing particle pollution  
12 which will compromise everyone's health. We  
13 have documentation from the United States  
14 Environmental Protection Agency of air and  
15 radiation to support this.

16 Additionally, there will be noise  
17 pollution, light pollution and more exhaust  
18 fumes.

19 We have been in contact with  
20 several environmental agencies in regard to  
21 the impacts this will have in our community.

22 A professional engineer, Daniel  
23 Karpen, has expressed a deep concern due to  
24 the fact that there is an underground fresh  
25 water stream that runs geographically under

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 the streets where this proposed building  
3 will be.

4 All of these findings will reduce  
5 the value of our homes; the homes we bought  
6 in this neighborhood. Not across the street  
7 from a parking lot, not across from a  
8 commercial building but other homes in a  
9 neighbor.

10 I urge you to look at the  
11 pictures that we have brought today which we  
12 will show after session.

13 In regards to the concerns for  
14 the safety of our children and the  
15 residents, we need to address the traffic  
16 situation. In the surrounding streets of  
17 St. Demetrius, we have many children, some  
18 whom we have identified with special needs.

19 The traffic pattern has increased  
20 on Hewlett Avenue over the last few years.  
21 We have pictures to support.

22 There has already been a  
23 significant amount of traffic in the  
24 neighborhood as Hewlett Avenue is a through  
25 street to the church and businesses, and the



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Long Island Railroad at the location on  
3 Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway.

4 There may be three of us here  
5 today but there are hundreds of Merrick tax  
6 paying residents, and I will repeat,  
7 hundreds of taxpayer Merrick residents that  
8 are in an uproar over this proposed project.  
9 All actively fighting to keep our  
10 neighborhood intact.

11 Now, we are aware that there is a  
12 RLUIPA Act to protect the civil rights to  
13 worship and we are not here today talking  
14 about the church who was outgrown its site,  
15 but we are here today talking about a profit  
16 events center that is owned and will be  
17 owned by the church.

18 We appreciate you giving us this  
19 forum to express our community concerns. We  
20 need action now and we need it from you, the  
21 leaders here in this room. Our community  
22 has sent, as John has mentioned, numerous  
23 letters to state and local politicians from  
24 starting with the governor of this great  
25 state, to all who are here in this room,

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2 which is Legislator Rhoads and Legislator  
3 Gonsalves.

4 We are welcoming your response,  
5 we implore you to give us your answers. We  
6 would like to further this discussion  
7 separately or collectively. Thank you for  
8 your time.

9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.

10 MS. BENEDETTO: I just wanted to  
11 say one other thing, by demolishing those  
12 five homes, by doing so, the county's tax  
13 revenue will decrease and then in turn  
14 causing our taxes to increase which is a  
15 very big consideration as well.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: If you  
17 have any paperwork to deliver to us, you can  
18 give it to the clerk and he will make sure  
19 it's circulated.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I'm not sure  
21 how many speakers we have left, Presiding  
22 Officer, but if you wait until the end of  
23 the meeting, I will be happy to speak with  
24 you if you have time.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The next

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 speaker is Rusty Rodes who I believe left.  
3 Then we have Aiden J. Kaplan? I don't think  
4 he is here either. Steven Fegora Smith?  
5 Aaron Watkins Lopez. He is here.

6 MR. WATKINS LOPEZ: Aaron Watkins  
7 Lopez with the Long Island Bus Riders Union.  
8 First of all, I just wanted to thank  
9 Legislator Rhoads for joining us last week.  
10 I went up Vision Long Island. We delivered  
11 about 600 letters to the Assembly, the  
12 Governor's Office, as well as all the  
13 senators on Long Island.

14 There was some good news. The  
15 Assembly did talk about the possibility of  
16 \$10 million being allocated to non-MTA so it  
17 would be split between us, Suffolk County,  
18 and Westchester. The only thing is, really,  
19 the senate needs more of a push. They're  
20 still talking about this. Still in  
21 negotiations. So we do have about seven  
22 days before this budget is put out and this  
23 money is given to us or not.

24 Something that did come up in the  
25 meetings that Legislator Rhoads brought up

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 and I would just like a little bit of  
3 clarity on was, the possibility of the  
4 county giving \$1.2 million to NICE Bus.

5 He mentioned in the meeting that  
6 the majority caucus is working with the  
7 administration. I just wanted to know where  
8 this money was coming from. What is the  
9 possibility that this is recurring revenue,  
10 and what are we doing to continue to  
11 advocate for the additional revenue streams  
12 that are found. Because, as great as it is  
13 for \$1.2 million, and as great as it would  
14 be if the state gave about 3.3 to Nassau  
15 County, it still doesn't fill the deficit  
16 and doesn't fill the naturally recurring  
17 deficit of \$7.5 million that NICE Bus  
18 managed to cut.

19 So what are we going to do to  
20 make sure this isn't the same conversation  
21 we've been having for five years next year?  
22 So I just wanted to know if anybody could  
23 give me a little more clarity of where this  
24 money is coming from, can we get it next  
25 year, and what are we looking for next

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 year's funding?

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Aaron,  
4 it's something that we need to keep working  
5 on. You know that Legislator Rhoads went up  
6 to Albany on our behalf. Unfortunately I  
7 couldn't go but I wanted to go because I was  
8 at Vision Long Island. When we said that we  
9 would continue to work hard to make sure  
10 that we had the resources to fund bus  
11 service, not just for this year but for the  
12 years in the future. Because this is very  
13 painful going through this every year.

14 MR. AARON WATKINS: Absolutely.

15 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: So we're  
16 not going to give up. We're going to see.  
17 But it's \$10 million that they're talking  
18 about.

19 MR. AARON WATKINS: If we split  
20 it by ridership, we'll get the lion share  
21 but it's still only about 3.4.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: It's not  
23 enough.

24 MR. AARON WATKINS: It's not  
25 enough. But I do want to know what was this

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 \$1.2 million that was brought up. I think  
3 if we're talking about this in a room with  
4 50 advocates and we're talking about it with  
5 the senators, we should kind of know what  
6 this money is, so we can continue to  
7 advocate for it. So I just want to know if  
8 you could tell us.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Aaron,  
10 it's my understanding that the state will  
11 match whatever we put in.

12 I think the bottom line is \$1.5  
13 million, and I'm still not sure where that  
14 \$1.5 million is coming from, but if we were  
15 able to come up with \$1.5 million, then the  
16 state promises or says they will commit, put  
17 it that way, to match it with another \$1.5,  
18 but that brings us to \$3 million. Takes us  
19 maybe till next year at the same time. So  
20 we're back in the same ball game. Let's see  
21 where we can go with the state in getting us  
22 that additional money. I thank you for your  
23 efforts. I know it's hard.

24 MR. WATKINS LOPEZ: Thank you.

25 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Scott Wolf

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 still here? No. Joe Diamond? No. Meta  
3 Mereday. You're next.

4 MS. MEREDAY: Meta Mereday,  
5 Baldwin. On April 27th of this year, it  
6 will be I guess one year of the enactment  
7 with regard to the Section 1, Title 18 of  
8 the law that took two years. And thanks to  
9 Legislator Curran and, as you all say, the  
10 other side, for those of us on this side,  
11 we're on one side.

12 With regard to increasing the  
13 inclusion for service disabled veteran owned  
14 businesses, for me, it's almost like a  
15 discrimination of omission where we're not  
16 including veteran owned businesses as well,  
17 but since we have not really achieved any  
18 real benchmarks as it pertains to including  
19 service disabled veteran owned businesses,  
20 it really doesn't sadly make a difference  
21 whether we say it's service disabled or  
22 veteran owned business.

23 So my question continues to be,  
24 where is the rubber meeting the road?

25 Particularly hearing from the

1                   Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2       representatives from corrections with regard  
3       to the infrastructure problems that have  
4       been going on at the jail for a number of  
5       years, particularly that facility. This is  
6       the perfect opportunity for us to use our  
7       invasion and creative genius to try to look  
8       at getting funding to not only repair the  
9       infrastructure in the jail system but to  
10      also increase opportunities for veteran  
11      employers as well as veteran employees to  
12      actually do some work that's going to secure  
13      and reinforce our communities.

14                   As I'm sure you said, Presiding  
15      Supervisor, you don't necessarily want the  
16      overcrowding to extend outside the facility  
17      into your own home. So what exactly do you  
18      plan to do about it? Setting up another  
19      committee? Having another commission  
20      established? That's not going to be the  
21      answer.

22                   Just as the previous speaker who  
23      had been so eloquent in trying to get  
24      funding to address the NICE Bus cuts which  
25      are significantly going to impact residents



1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 and workers who rely on those buses solely  
3 for their life-style, their whole  
4 livelihood, including many of our veterans  
5 who unfortunately are not able to assess  
6 even the additional buses and vans that were  
7 provided to DAV to get north.

8 I know I myself have had to  
9 transport the widow of a veteran from the  
10 south north to north shore just to get to  
11 her pain management clinic.

12 So I'm not here just standing  
13 here speaking because I want to spend the  
14 time, all though all of you are very  
15 entertaining and enlightening in some  
16 occasions, but I do have to do some things  
17 as I said to maintain my own property as  
18 well as to try to support my ongoing efforts  
19 to address the increasing unmet needs in our  
20 veteran community.

21 So I'm hoping that since it took  
22 two years to get the legislation on the  
23 books, that we're now one year out that we  
24 can have something significant in terms of  
25 some real items.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Again I have provided you with  
3 the information in terms of my background  
4 that we can provide these opportunities,  
5 particularly since we so many planes that  
6 fly over us from JFK, I don't understand why  
7 we have more businesses that are operating  
8 and working on the construction and  
9 development at both JFK and LaGuardia.

10 I have also given my information  
11 to the correction representatives in the  
12 hopes that we can come together to bring  
13 some significant programming that we can get  
14 funding from the state as well as the  
15 federal government to shore up our prison  
16 facilities, but also provide opportunities  
17 for those who are in the prison system so we  
18 can bring down the ongoing recidivism that  
19 we have also impacted.

20 So that's pretty much it. As I  
21 said, the last thing I'm hoping that we can  
22 revisit the whole mother daughter situation  
23 as it pertains to a lot of our real estate  
24 because that could be one, at least one  
25 solution, to addressing the increase of

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 flight that we have with our veterans who  
3 are leaving this community.

4 They are leaving Long Island,  
5 leaving Nassau County, even though they are  
6 attending our prestigious institutions of  
7 education. They cannot afford to live here.

8 Just in one instance it took us  
9 over eight months to get a waiver to get a  
10 permit to build a dormer on top of a home  
11 because rather than for challenging mother  
12 and daughters already in their community,  
13 that shouldn't be the case. Because my  
14 focus on trying to keep veterans from losing  
15 their home before they become to the point  
16 where they have lost their home and then  
17 they get very depressed and disillusioned  
18 and they add to the numbers that are  
19 increasingly now, according to Soldier's  
20 Project, close to 30 veteran soldiers who  
21 are committing or attempting to commit  
22 suicide every day. Domestic violence,  
23 substance abuse, sexual assault is on the  
24 rise in the military and within our veteran  
25 community.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 If we continue to just --

3 CLERK PULITZER: Ma'am, your time  
4 has expired.

5 MS. MEREDAY: If we just continue  
6 to just bypass and shake our heads and say  
7 this is such a shame and we do nothing about  
8 it, we are not longer at fault, we are  
9 responsible. Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
11 Ms. Mereday. Have a good day.

12 MS. MEREDAY: You too.

13 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: John  
14 Budnick.

15 MR. BUDNICK: John Budnick, 122  
16 Von Huenfeld Street, Massapequa Park.

17 Madam Chair and members of this  
18 august Legislature, you folks and our county  
19 are being starved of funding by the way New  
20 York State does its business.

21 I noted last week that there was  
22 a proposal to stop the bleeding from our  
23 county budget of about \$21 million a year  
24 because the state pushes those amounts of  
25 Medicaid payments back upon the county.

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17

2 Pushed them back on all the counties in New  
3 York State. There was a proposal introduced  
4 by Congressman Faso from upstate New York to  
5 end that.

6 I don't know what is happening  
7 with that or if it bears any potentiality  
8 for bearing fruit, but the problem we find  
9 the county in, we don't have money to repair  
10 the jail, don't have money to take care of  
11 the buses, we don't have money for many many  
12 necessary items that the state is very often  
13 pushed on to the county and we need to have  
14 the state stop pushing its responsibilities  
15 and these costs back upon the county because  
16 the county has basically only two means to  
17 raise the funds.

18 One is by real estate; one is by  
19 sales tax. That's an impossibility right  
20 now because of the high taxes because of our  
21 schools because, once again, New York State  
22 is not properly funding our schools.

23 I leave these issues to you and I  
24 also believe that consideration should be  
25 given to bringing back having the County

1 Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2 Executive, County Comptroller and County  
3 Attorney be non voting members of this body.

4 Also, I'm asking for two  
5 additional things, bear with me for a  
6 moment. One is creation of Mitchell Field  
7 Historical District to honor those veterans  
8 and all they did in World War II.

9 Mitchell Field was the  
10 headquarters among other things of the  
11 interceptor command. It was also the  
12 headquarters of the Army Air Force  
13 Anti-Submarine Command, one of the planes  
14 out of there saved my uncle from being shot  
15 when he sank right off of Fire Island here.  
16 By scaring the German submarines into diving  
17 instead of them opening up on the survivors  
18 of the torpedoed ship.

19 Also, one more thing, Topic  
20 House, or something like it needs to be  
21 recreated. We have too many young people  
22 dying. Too many people lives destroyed  
23 because there isn't someplace in Nassau  
24 County.

25 We have property at Nassau

1                   Full Legislature/3-27-17  
2       Medical Center, there are several floors  
3       open. There's also new property that the  
4       county is getting just west of Nassau  
5       Community College.

6                   Thank you very much. Thank you  
7       for your time. Thank you for all that you  
8       guys do each and every one of you. God  
9       bless you. And you're underpaid grossly.

10                  CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you,  
11       Mr. Budnick. That ends public comment and I  
12       thank all of you who stayed to be heard but  
13       unfortunately we had a lot of people here to  
14       speak but we're here to stay as long as you  
15       are here to stay.

16                  So thank you and have a good  
17       night and stay safe.

18                  (Whereupon, the Full Legislative  
19       Committee concluded at 4:18 p.m.)  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
my hand this 13th day of April, 2017.

-----  
FRANK GRAY