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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
Presiding Officer

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DONALD MACKENZIE, Chairman

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, October 2, 2017
1:47 P.M

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

DONALD MACKENZIE,
Chairman

STEVE RHOADS,
Vice Chairman

VINCENT MUSCARELLA

DENISE FORD

LAURA CURRAN,
Ranking

KEVAN ABRAHAMS

SIELA BYNOE

MICHAEL PULITZER
Clerk of the Legislature

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

DOUGLAS LANDSMAN 5

VICTORIA ROBERTS 8

1 Public Safety Committee/10-2-17

2 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Calling the
3 members of the Public Safety Committee to
4 order. I would ask that the clerk please
5 call the roll.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman. Public Safety roll call.
8 Legislator Siela Bynoe?

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
11 Kevan Abrahams?

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

13 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
14 Laura Curran?

15 LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
17 Denise Ford?

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
20 Vincent Muscarella?

21 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Vice Chairman
23 Steven Rhoads?

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Chairman Donald

1 Public Safety Committee/10-2-17

2 MacKenzie?

3 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
5 quorum, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: We have two
7 items on the agenda today and if there's no
8 objection I will read them both together.

9 Clerk Item 362-17, an ordinance
10 supplemental to the annual appropriation
11 ordinance in connection with the Department
12 of Nassau County Probation Department.

13 Clerk Item 367-17, an ordinance
14 supplemental to the annual appropriation
15 ordinance in connection with the Department
16 of Nassau County Probation Department.

17 May I have a motion, please?

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Motion by
21 Denise Ford, seconded by Steve Rhoads. Do
22 you have someone to speak on these two
23 matters?

24 MR. LANDSMAN: Good afternoon,
25 Douglas Landsman, Nassau Probation. The

1 Public Safety Committee/10-2-17
2 first item before you, number 362-17 is a
3 live scan equipment grant. This is a one
4 time \$10,000 grant from the New York State
5 DCJS. It starts right now, October 1st, '17
6 through September 30th of '18.

7 This money will be used for
8 purchasing new digital fingerprint equipment
9 software and peripherals such as scanner,
10 camera, printer to replace our aging eight
11 year old system currently in use.

12 There is a 50 percent cash match
13 up to \$10,000. The equipment is looking at
14 approximately spending \$20,000 based on a
15 quote from the equipment vendor. So the net
16 cost to the vendor would be \$10,000.

17 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: And, I'm
18 sorry, the second item?

19 MR. LANDSMAN: The second item is
20 item number 367-17. This is for the Nassau
21 County Reentry Task Force Initiative. This
22 is a New York State DCJS grant starting
23 October 1st 2017 through September 30th, '18.
24 It's in its second year after being assumed
25 from DSS.

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2 This is CRTF grant is for a
3 period of one year starting at \$201,272.
4 There is no match. It's milestone based.
5 It basically works on evidence based CBIs,
6 cognitive behavioral intervention.

7 The purpose of the grant, while
8 working in collaboration with New York State
9 DOCS, is to assist newly released parolees
10 to reintegrate or transition back into
11 society to become useful and productive
12 citizens.

13 Because many of the newly
14 released parolees have been incarcerated for
15 many years some upwards of 15 years. Many
16 don't have family to rely on.

17 So this program seeks to provide
18 the most basic of assistance, literally
19 toiletries, things that we take for granted
20 every day, all the way through dressing
21 properly for a job interview and job hunting
22 skills. The program also provides metro
23 cards for going to these different programs
24 and for reporting and for going on job
25 interviews.

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2 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Thank you.

3 Are there any legislators who have any
4 questions? Siela Bynoe.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
6 chairman. Hi. Good afternoon. Do we have
7 any data that shows the support or the
8 success of the program?

9 MR. LANDSMAN: Yes. I'm going to
10 introduce Victoria Roberts. She's our
11 coordinator.

12 MS. ROBERTS: The Reentry Task
13 Force works very closely with parole, New
14 York State Department of Community
15 Corrections. During the contract year,
16 10-1-16 through 9-30-17 490 individuals were
17 released on parole in Nassau County.

18 Of the 490 individuals, 225
19 signed up to participate in reentry. Of the
20 225, 67 did not actually participate in the
21 program.

22 The reasons for not participating
23 in the program, they vary from loss of good
24 time, maybe an ice detainer, or maybe
25 absconsion where individuals never actually

1 Public Safety Committee/10-2-17

2 make their report so they never report. So
3 those individuals are lost to contact.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Do we have any
5 success stories that you can share also?

6 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, absolutely.
7 One gentleman that comes to mind immediately
8 is a gentleman that went away at the age of
9 25. He returned home at 57.

10 He became homeless. We were able
11 to place him in housing. There are
12 supportive housing that is available in
13 Nassau County.

14 This gentleman, we secured him a
15 job at a local store. The owner of that
16 store took a liking to this gentleman and
17 today currently he is a truck driver because
18 he was able to secure his CDL. He is in the
19 first time home buyer's program and he is
20 moving forward. That is one individual.

21 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: In the
22 interest of time, I'm going to stop you
23 there. That sounds great. Let's end on a
24 high note. That sounds wonderful.

25 But it would be great to kind of

1 Public Safety Committee/10-2-17
2 get some statistics of how many people came
3 out and were actually able to obtain
4 employment and who may be in school or some
5 kind of data report that would allow us to
6 understand and all the benchmarks that were
7 made and the positive outcomes.

8 MS. ROBERTS: I can provide that
9 information but I can also tell you that we
10 recently held a very successful reentry job
11 fair. The prospective employees that were
12 invited, they knew that coming to the job
13 fair that everyone who would participate had
14 some sort of criminal conviction.

15 We had 143 individuals
16 participate in the job fair. We had 86
17 secure job interviews and 47 secured jobs
18 and 28 maintained their jobs more than 90
19 days.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Beautiful.
21 How many employers participated?

22 MS. ROBERTS: There were
23 11 employers at the job fair and there was
24 one employer that had a large contract that
25 took a lot of the guys. So it worked out

1 Public Safety Committee/10-2-17

2 well.

3 Of the guys that were no longer
4 employed with the employers at the job fair,
5 they went on to different employers.

6 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Very good
7 work.

8 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Thank you
9 very much for providing that information.
10 Legislator Ford has a question as well.

11 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.
12 That really is great news. Congratulations.
13 It really is wonderful to hear this.

14 I'm curious, do you have a time
15 limit that you use with these individuals
16 or, like, say sometimes like somebody may
17 have more difficulty than another person
18 getting housing or finding a job, do they
19 stay in your program or do they have to age
20 out after a certain amount of time?

21 MS. ROBERTS: Okay, we are
22 contracted for a 45 day stabilization
23 period. I'm going to use the word
24 unrealistic at most points because we work
25 with individuals on an ongoing basis because

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2 circumstances change.

3 We may be able to secure housing
4 and/or employment and that changes, so they
5 need more supportive services.

6 So there is a 45 day period but
7 whatever help that is needed, we try to
8 help. As long as they continue to comply
9 with the parole mandates.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Right.

11 Perfect. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Thank you.

13 Are there any legislators who have any
14 questions?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 Is there any public comment?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Hearing none, all those in favor
19 of Items 362 of '17 and 367 of '17 indicate
20 so by saying aye.

21 (Aye.)

22 Any opposed?

23 (No verbal response.)

24 They passes unanimously. Thank
25 you very much for coming down. No other

1 Public Safety Committee/10-2-17

2 items on the agenda. Motion to adjourn.

3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

4 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Motion by

6 Steve Rhoads, seconded by Vincent

7 Muscarella. We are adjourned. Thank you.

8 (Whereupon, the Public Safety

9 Committee adjourned at 1:55 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 16th day of October, 2017.

FRANK GRAY