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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FULL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

RICHARD NICOLELLO,
Presiding Officer

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

Monday, February 26, 2018
1:15 P.M.

1

2 A P P E A R A N C E S:3 RICHARD NICOLELLO,
4 Presiding Officer5 HOWARD KOPEL,
6 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

7 DENISE FORD, Alt. Deputy Presiding Officer

8 STEVEN RHOADS

9 DEBRA MULE

10 C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

11 VINCENT MUSCARELLA

12 ELLEN BIRNBAUM

13 LAURA SCHAEFER

14 THOMAS MCKEVITT

15 KEVAN ABRAHAMS,
16 Minority Leader

17 ROSE MARIE WALKER

18 JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

19 JOSHUA LAFAZAN (Not present)

20 ARNOLD DRUCKER

21 JAMES KENNEDY

22 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

23 CARRIE SOLAGES

24 SIELA BYNOE

25 MICHAEL PULITZER,
 Clerk of the Legislature

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I would
3 invite my colleagues to join us on the dais,
4 please.

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

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
8 Before you all have a seat, if you would
9 please rise again. I would like to have a
10 moment of silence for a number of things
11 unfortunately. For the victims of the
12 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, for
13 New Hyde Park Village Trustee Don Barbieri
14 who died suddenly on Friday, and for Leah
15 Kazinski, 16 years old, who died in a
16 go-kart accident, daughter, granddaughter,
17 brother of a New Hyde Park fire fighter.
18 Please, a moment of silence.

19 (A moment of silence was
20 observed.)

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you
22 Clerk, would you call the roll,
23 please?

24 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. Roll
25 call. Deputy Presiding Officer Howard

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2 Kopel?

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

4 CLERK PULITZER: Alternate Deputy

5 Presiding Officer Denise Ford?

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

7 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Siela

8 Bynoe?

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

10 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

11 Carrie Solages?

12 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

13 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Debra

14 Mule?

15 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator C.

17 William Gaylor III?

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

19 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

20 Vincent Muscarella?

21 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

22 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Ellen

23 Birnbaum?

24 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

25 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia

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2 DeRiggi-Whitton?
3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
4 Here.
5 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator James
6 Kennedy?
7 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.
8 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
9 Thomas McKevitt?
10 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.
11 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
12 Schaefer?
13 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.
14 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator John
15 Ferretti, Jr.?
16 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.
17 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
18 Arnold Drucker?
19 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Here.
20 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
21 Rosemarie Walker?
22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.
23 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator
24 Joshua Lafazan? He's not here.
25 Legislator Steven Rhoads?

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

3 CLERK PULITZER: Minority Leader
4 Kevan Abrahams?

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Presiding
7 Officer Richard Nicoletello?

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Here.

9 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
10 quorum, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
12 We are going to take things a little bit out
13 of order today to consider something that's
14 of importance to I think most of the people
15 in this room which is the approval of the
16 nomination of Commissioner Ryder and then,
17 immediately following that, will be the
18 actual installation of our new commissioner.

19 So I would like to call Item 20
20 which is a resolution confirming the
21 appointment of County Executive of Patrick
22 J. Ryder to the position of Commissioner of
23 Police.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
3 Legislator Ford, seconded by Legislator
4 Rhoads. Commissioner, would you like to
5 approach the mike?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good
7 afternoon all; Presiding Officer, Minority
8 Presiding Officer, and all of our
9 legislators.

10 As you know, it's been a long
11 time getting here for this police
12 department. Nassau County Police Department
13 has had an acting commissioner for the last
14 four years. I was given the honor to take
15 over in July when Commissioner Krumpter
16 moved on.

17 We have done an outstanding job,
18 and when I say "we" I mean the men and women
19 that sit to my right that work for me every
20 single day, 24 hours a day and for the
21 people of Nassau County.

22 We have done a great job meaning
23 all of you that have supported us in law
24 enforcement to go forward in doing that.

25 We are in a very good place in

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2 the police department right now. We have
3 moved forward in a lot of great programs,
4 our crime has ended down again last year.
5 We are doing very well this year.

6 Our overtime was cut by almost
7 \$20 million last year. We are going at it
8 the same way this year but never ever are we
9 doing anything to affect the safety and
10 security of 1.3 million people that live in
11 this county. That is our number one
12 priority.

13 We are continuing to make changes
14 in security, recently, in some of the county
15 buildings that we have as early as of today.

16 But with every good deed comes
17 problems and things that we need, hurdles to
18 overcome. And managing our budget, and
19 working together with our partners both on
20 the state and local and federal agencies,
21 our newly named and nominated commissioner
22 out in Suffolk County, Geraldine Hart, a
23 great partner and good person in law
24 enforcement.

25 We will continue to move those

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2 things in the right direction.

3 I am going to kind of jump into
4 something and get it addressed now and
5 hopefully it will answer some of your
6 questions.

7 There are questions about my
8 employment that I had an outside business
9 called Real Time Intelligence Service
10 Limited. I started in 2010 because I am a
11 teacher by trade. That's what I love to do.
12 I teach at our community college. I taught
13 at Dowling. I sit on the advisory board for
14 Farmingdale College and I was asked by the
15 State Department to teach outside the state
16 of New York for the state department to
17 foreign governments like Egypt and Israel
18 and Pakistan and Tajikistan.

19 I took on that responsibility on
20 my own time. I did it with my own equipment
21 and I did it with a Power Point that my
22 lovely wife helped me prepare because I'm
23 not that good at the Intel stuff.

24 I did that on my own and these
25 companies that I dealt with in a short time

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2 I was doing it would not have any business
3 or connectivity to Nassau County that I'm
4 aware of or that I can research and find.

5 I would never ever drag the good
6 name of this county and get myself involved
7 in those types of situations.

8 The second part was a letter that
9 came in this weekend accusing me of sexually
10 harassing female employees in the police
11 department. That letter went to all of you
12 as legislators.

13 I sit here today and I will tell
14 you as my wife of 28 years, my three
15 sisters, and my 18 year old daughter who is
16 being live streamed from college, I did not
17 and would not ever degrade a woman. Ever.

18 I was brought up -- and there's
19 two parts of me, my personal life which I
20 was taught to respect and treat all people
21 equal and fairly. That's what my parents
22 brought me up as.

23 And then there's my police life,
24 where I'm taught to be a professional and
25 remember the job that you were given at hand

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2 take it on and do it the right way by the
3 people of Nassau County. I have always done
4 that. And if I didn't follow those rules,
5 my mother would jump out of the grave and
6 kick me in the butt.

7 I'm here to tell you that none of
8 these accusations are true, and it was
9 investigated this past weekend I believe you
10 all found the findings that it is not true.

11 I thank the County Executive for
12 giving me this opportunity, for giving me
13 the opportunity to stand here and run that
14 investigation down.

15 I would also like to thank a few
16 people before we go into the questions and
17 one is my wife who also went through hell
18 this weekend because of this allegation.

19 I stand by her. I stand by my
20 family and I stand by the best damn police
21 department in the country, the Nassau County
22 Police Department that sits here, and it is
23 here today.

24 I have been a cop for 34 years.
25 I'm in my 35th year, I have done nothing but

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2 give 110 percent to the job that I love.

3 The people in this county expect
4 perfection and we will go for that. We may
5 not get there but along the way we will grab
6 excellence and we will be the best police
7 department moving forward. This is the kind
8 of way we do it. It's 24/7 for me. My
9 phone never shuts off and I think every one
10 of you have known that I'm accessible to any
11 one of you at any time for your constituents
12 because I am graced and blessed that I work
13 for this great county and also blessed that
14 the people in this great county pay my
15 salary and looks over me and wants the best
16 and that's what I'm here to do.

17 So, again, I'm prepared for the
18 questions and I know I will answer them
19 truthfully and honestly.

20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you
21 for your remarks, Commissioner. I was
22 contacted by the County Executive over the
23 weekend.

24 She did mention that they had
25 undertaken an investigation by an outside

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2 entity, that there was a thorough
3 investigation and that there was -- the
4 allegations were completely unfounded. As a
5 matter of fact, factually, there was no
6 support of any of the facts alleged. So we
7 are taking that under consideration.

8 I've also been informed with
9 respect to your outside income that in fact
10 you did everything right when you went and
11 did what you have been doing for the last
12 few years, you crossed your Ts, dotted your
13 Is. There are no conflicts. We have been
14 reassured about that.

15 Every one I spoke to about you
16 said nothing but positive things and as
17 evidenced by the outpouring in this room you
18 are a cop's cop.

19 Our dealings with you over the
20 last few months you have been responsive.
21 You have been unafraid to make commitments
22 and see those commitments through.

23 You have a can-do attitude, you
24 have been proactive. We are very pleased
25 with how you have behaved and your

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2 performance over the last few months.

3 If your performance continues
4 that way, you will make one of the best
5 commissioners that we have had. Any
6 questions?

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
8 Ford.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
10 much. Good afternoon. As chairwoman of the
11 Public Safety Committee, I look forward to
12 working with you and I know that we will be
13 well served by your being our Police
14 Commissioner.

15 I know the members of the police
16 department, both the men and women respect
17 you and admire you. You have the same
18 respect and admiration from the legislators
19 that sit her.

20 I have to say you are an honest
21 guy because I was in your class at the
22 civilian police academy, and I told you,
23 like after the first class that I sat in
24 with your teaching us so many things that I
25 came over to you the next night and I said,

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2 I hope your wife doesn't mind me saying, I
3 fell totally in love with you. Because I
4 thought that you are that good of a person.

5 But in all seriousness, I have to
6 say that I do not doubt your integrity and I
7 do not doubt your character.

8 I think that it's wonderful that
9 you're willing to undertake and accept this
10 nomination and lead such a fine police
11 department. I think we are all in good
12 hands because of you and I thank you.

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Minority
16 Leader Abrahams.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
18 Presiding Officer Nicolello.

19 How are you, Commissioner Ryder?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good.
21 Good.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I can
23 concur with Presiding Officer Nicolello as
24 well as our Public Safety Chair Denise Ford.
25 In the time my office has had an opportunity

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2 to work with you, it's been a breath of
3 fresh air and, from our standpoint, we look
4 forward to being able to work with you in
5 the future.

6 That being said, it's unfortunate
7 in any case where we have to deal with some
8 of the negativity, the cloud that exists
9 that you had brought up in regards to the
10 outside business and the claims of sexual
11 harassment.

12 This should be a day where we
13 talk about how we make Nassau County better,
14 how we hear about your vision, how you can
15 elaborate on how you are going to make
16 taxpayers safer in this century. I think
17 from that standpoint, that's what we should
18 be talking about.

19 We had received the same call
20 from the County Executive in regards to an
21 investigation in regards to the claims and
22 allegations. The County Executive I
23 believe, just for the record, we're going to
24 bring someone from the county attorney here
25 to just establish it for record but not

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2 speaking out of the turn, we believe that
3 the claims that have been made against you
4 in regards to the sexual harassment are
5 fabricated, unsubstantiated, and from our
6 standpoint should not preclude you from
7 moving forward as a police commissioner in
8 the police department.

9 That being said, in regards to
10 the business you established, which
11 according to your testimony you had talked
12 about it being Real Time Services Limited,
13 can you establish for the record when that
14 business was established and how that tied
15 into, if any, with your position in the
16 county and what title you held in the
17 county?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: So I
19 was the commanding officer of the asset
20 forfeiture and intelligence unit. It was in
21 2010 when I was asked by the state
22 department if I would go down and teach to
23 foreign countries about how we can police
24 better law enforcement matters.

25 I formed a corporation. I went

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2 down to the University of Maryland. I spoke
3 on several occasions to Tajikistan, Pakistan
4 Egypt, Israel, and South Africa.

5 At those times I was paid for my
6 services. I would go down in one day in my
7 vehicle on my day off and come back that
8 same day. Those services went into the
9 corporation account, which I pay my taxes
10 regularly.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And not
12 paid by the county, right?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Not a
14 dime or resources came from the county?

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: On your own
16 car, you used your own vehicle, did not
17 overstay in any type of hotel expenses,
18 drove down and came back all on your own
19 dime?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: That's
21 correct, sir.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The
23 business that was established, it's still
24 established today?

25 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: That

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2 is correct, it's been dormant since June of
3 2016.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Would you
5 have any concern or problem with basically
6 closing that business effective upon your
7 appointment today?

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: No
9 problem, I will do that.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Dissolving
11 I should say.

12 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Yes.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good to
14 hear. I have no further questions in
15 regards to the business but I believe our
16 county attorney is here Mr. Kasschau.

17 MR. KASSCHAU: Good afternoon
18 members of the Legislature.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are
20 you, Mr. County Attorney?

21 MR. KASSCHAU: I'm doing very
22 well. Thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just to
24 clear the air, because I think more
25 importantly we allow the Commissioner to

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2 start under the auspices of not having any
3 clouds, there was an allegation that was
4 made that referenced sexual harassment that
5 was done by the Commissioner I guess some
6 time this year or within the last two
7 months.

8 Can you elaborate on the
9 investigation that the administration has
10 conducted in that matter?

11 MR. KASSCHAU: Certainly. The
12 administration of course takes allegations
13 of sexual harassment very seriously. There
14 was an investigation conducted shortly after
15 these allegations were brought to light.

16 The investigation was wide
17 ranging, as wide ranging as the information
18 that was provided and the allegations
19 themselves.

20 The administration ran the
21 investigation to ground. We had outside
22 counsel review the allegations and interview
23 certain individuals and determined that the
24 allegations were unfounded and meritless and
25 recommended that the county close its

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2 investigation which it has.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good.

4 Good. From that standpoint, the

5 investigation was conducted over what period

6 of time?

7 MR. KASSCHAU: Well, by way of
8 background, I don't know if this had come
9 out in earlier testimony, this information
10 was made -- I think sent to each one of the
11 legislators on Friday around 8:30 in the
12 evening. So the investigation was conducted
13 over this weekend.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And you
15 feel based off of that limited amount of
16 time you feel comfortable in saying that you
17 have conducted an investigation that has
18 been able to uncover the pitfalls, for lack
19 of a better term, that could have existed
20 in, what I'm trying to say, you conducted an
21 investigation that has given you enough time
22 to come to the conclusion that you have
23 today?

24 MR. KASSCHAU: I do, and it was
25 run to ground, all of the witnesses that

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2 were interviewed and outside counsel had
3 made that recommendation, yes.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Now, just
5 to ask you, in regards to the business
6 entity which I believe you also sought an
7 opinion from counsel for the Board of
8 Ethics; am I correct in saying that?

9 MR. KASSCHAU: That's correct.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's
11 Mr. Steve Leventhal?

12 MR. KASSCHAU: That's correct.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: In that
14 opinion it talked about the fact that based
15 off of Commissioner Ryder's accounts,
16 basically he has not violated any ethics in
17 Nassau County?

18 MR. KASSCHAU: That's correct.
19 And Commissioner Ryder when he opened this
20 business off the required approvals, he
21 wasn't acting commissioner at that time.
22 This was prior to that date.

23 The counsel for the Board of
24 Ethics ran an opinion finding that there was
25 no prohibited conflict of interest.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And you are
3 satisfied with Mr. Leventhal's account of
4 the situation and, for lack of a better
5 term, the investigation or report he has
6 furnished?

7 MR. KASSCHAU: I am.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't
9 have anything further, Mr. Presiding
10 Officer.

11 At this time I do want to take
12 the opportunity to wish Commissioner Ryder
13 well. The Commissioner as well as the
14 public, please do not take our questions as
15 anything more than just trying to do our due
16 diligence, but, more importantly, I truly
17 believe it will give you the removal of any
18 potential doubt or cloud that could exist
19 and we wish you nothing but the best because
20 we need you to be at your best in order to
21 provide the taxpayers the best and strongest
22 public safety that you can provide.

23 I'm happy to extend our warm
24 welcome to you as well.

25 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank

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2 you, sir.

3 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Is there any
4 other questions or discussion among the
5 legislators? Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
7 just want you to know we are really looking
8 forward to a clean start for all of Nassau
9 County and we see you as a key component of
10 that and we weren't trying to be hard on you
11 but we want to show everyone that we are
12 coming out of the gates full speed.

13 I also want to say, I don't know
14 if people know this, but Commissioner Ryder
15 was part of a Toys for Tots drive which
16 raised the largest amount of toys in the
17 nation, 55,000 from what I hear.

18 He loaded the trucks and talked
19 to the people. I saw you in action and I
20 was extremely impressed and we are very
21 lucky to have you. Good luck.

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank
23 you.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just a
25 follow-up, nothing to do with what I was

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2 asking about before. I talked about this a
3 little earlier in my opening statement.

4 Today should be more about
5 hearing your vision and I know in working
6 with you you have tremendous administrative
7 skills that I think you should elaborate on
8 why you believe it will make you an
9 effective Commissioner as well.

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: So
11 for the last two months, I have been like a
12 caged lion. I need to go, I need to run. I
13 need to do what the people of Nassau County
14 pay me to do.

15 Thursday we will be rolling out
16 our opiate crisis on how we're going to
17 address it. Next week we will be rolling
18 out our social media platform.

19 As you can see by the people
20 behind me, I have rabbis, I have people from
21 the Five Towns area and to the Great Neck
22 area.

23 I have reached out to everybody
24 in this county as much as I can and when we
25 roll out our community counsels, which

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2 again, with the Assistant Commissioner Casas
3 we will be able to get a further reach into
4 these communities. That's what it's all
5 about.

6 We are supposed to be all things
7 to all people. In policing, if we sit
8 behind -- sit in the ivory tower, we are not
9 addressing the needs of the people.

10 We are getting out there, these
11 inspectors that sit there work tirelessly to
12 get out there and address their community.
13 I will continue to do the same.

14 We are going after opiates. We
15 are going after our gangs, which last we
16 came in the lowest amount of homicides in
17 this county in over 25 years. And we are
18 still reducing and going after those
19 numbers. 30 years of lowest crime -- 30
20 percent of the lowest crime.

21 We're going after these issues.
22 We are addressing them. But the most
23 important thing is that I need to keep the
24 dialogue open between all of you that sit
25 here, your constituents and the people in

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2 Nassau County that I'm paid to protect and
3 serve. That's my intent.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:

5 Commissioner, I think I can speak for
6 everybody in this room, your tenacity and
7 how you will vigorously go after what we
8 believe is a crisis in this county and
9 country in regards to opiates.

10 I'm glad to hear you be very
11 candid in regards to going after that and I
12 think I speak for all 19 members up here
13 that we look forward to working with you.

14 Can you just elaborate a little
15 bit more on the community councils and how
16 that will be structured?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: So
18 there are 19 community councils. Each one
19 of those community councils will have
20 anywhere from seven to 10, and they've grown
21 to 12 in some of the districts and it's
22 understandable by the size of the district.

23 Those people, those individuals
24 have an executive committee council number.
25 That person will be the point person within

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2 that community council. They will report to
3 Commissioner Casas who will report to me.

4 We will start, I think it's in
5 two weeks, we will be having our first
6 swearing in, if you will, of our executive
7 members of the councils. All of those
8 council members, most of them are chosen by
9 the legislators.

10 You are the people that represent
11 the district. I am the person that works
12 for you.

13 You are pulling those people into
14 the table. I'm bringing some people to the
15 table. And the County Executive obviously
16 is having some choices at that table.

17 Once we bring them in, we will
18 have a further reach. They will have a
19 direct line, even though we are meeting
20 quarterly, we will have a direct line every
21 single day, 24/7 into our department.

22 If there's an issue that needs to
23 be DPW addressed, obviously it will go to
24 the legislators and back down to where it
25 needs to go.

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2 But if it's a policing matter, we
3 will again consult with all of you here so
4 you will always be in the loop of what's out
5 there and then go after the issue and fix it
6 and start fixing problems more timely. More
7 actionable. Not waiting until it gets
8 worse. That's the idea of OD mapping.
9 That's the idea of social media and that is
10 the idea of our community councils. That
11 reach and addressing problems as quickly as
12 we can.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sounds
14 good. Commissioner, I hate to put you on
15 any particular hot spot, but one of the
16 issues that's very important to one of our
17 legislators is the Sixth Precinct, and
18 obviously we are not looking for any
19 conclusionary response today, but we truly
20 believe that that precinct should be opened
21 or reopened, and fully staffed.

22 What is your commitment or what
23 response can you make to this legislative
24 body in regard to the Sixth Precinct?

25 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: My

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2 job is to prepare. My job is to be ready to
3 move in and do what I need to do in time.

4 The County Executive tells me to
5 go, we go. We are prepared at this time.
6 We've already started to do improvements on
7 the building. We're working down in the
8 basement area. We have other capital
9 projects that we have already met with DPW
10 that need to be addressed in that building.

11 But if you told me to go
12 tomorrow, we can have it up and running
13 within a week.

14 It always effects staffing and it
15 always affects budget, but that's my problem
16 and I have to deal with that and I will find
17 a way to deal with it.

18 Our problem is to make all of
19 you, the issue up there is that we make sure
20 that our people are satisfied in Nassau
21 County. My responsibility is make it work
22 and that's my intent.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.
24 Legislator Birnbaum is clapping. Last but
25 not least, obviously if you could summarize

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2 to the best of your ability some of the
3 largest challenges that you look to face in
4 2018 and beyond as Commissioner assuming
5 confirmation today.

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: The
7 largest obviously from the crime side is our
8 opioid and gang issues that we have here in
9 Nassau County.

10 I think we addressed it fairly
11 well last year. I think we can do better
12 this year. I know we can.

13 We just graduated 167 recruits so
14 that also ties into our energetic young cops
15 out there doing the right thing day in and
16 day out for the people of Nassau County.

17 With those 167 come the biggest
18 issues which is the budget. How we manage
19 our people. That's our job and that's our
20 responsibility.

21 The commanders that sit to my
22 right all of them have been addressing that
23 issue on a daily basis.

24 I can't tell you the amount of
25 work that goes into patrolling, not to make

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2 sure we don't ever jeopardize safety and
3 security, but we make sure we do it
4 efficiently and effectively so that the
5 people of Nassau County are getting exactly
6 what they pay for. We're teaching our cops
7 to put a smile on their face and go out and
8 do their job. There's no negativity that
9 will come from my police department. It's
10 not.

11 We are going to go forward with a
12 positive attitude for next 12 months and, at
13 the end, I'm positive when I stand here at
14 the end of the year given your returns, you
15 will see the work that we have done.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good.
17 Commissioner, I know your reach is not just
18 limited to the police department; your reach
19 goes out to reaching out to our school
20 districts, our community based
21 organizations, our religious institutions.

22 Obviously seeing what's happened
23 in this country over the last ten days, what
24 are some of your ideas in terms of outreach
25 to some of our school districts in regard to

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2 what happened in Parkland?

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: We
4 immediately, that morning, reached out to
5 the County Executive.

6 My job is first to make sure she
7 is addressed so she can address all of you.
8 I immediately gave you up to speed if
9 there's a nexus to here in Nassau County.
10 If there's not, we still have to prepare for
11 the worst. That's what we do in law
12 enforcement.

13 We are currently rolling out the
14 RAV that is going out. We're in 109
15 buildings. There's 56 school districts but
16 there's 450 buildings within those school
17 districts. We are in 109 of those
18 buildings. 19 are going online this week.
19 Again, there's was a break so it slowed
20 things down.

21 The objective when we get more
22 RAV into those schools, and, again, we have
23 done active shooter training with the
24 schools. Our chief of patrol just ran it
25 through Northwell Hospital. We are

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2 constantly going out and assessing our
3 synagogues, our churches and private schools
4 so we can show them what they can do to
5 better prepare. It's called CPTED, it's
6 called Crime Prevention Through
7 Environmental Design. We go out there and
8 prepare those with lighting and improved
9 signage or anything that needs to be done
10 that we can better police them.

11 Then on top of it we train with
12 the active shooter and then we roll our
13 technology like our apps and our camera
14 access.

15 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good. Good
16 to hear. Presiding Officer, I have nothing
17 further.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
19 Rhoads.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
21 Mr. Presiding Officer. Pat, I just wanted
22 to say -- I have no questions for you. I
23 just wanted to congratulate you.

24 Commissioner Ryder is a Wantagh
25 guy, I grew up in Wantagh but the thing I

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2 love most about Commissioner Ryder, even
3 though he hails from Wantagh, he is as much
4 a Hicksville guy as he is a Wantagh guy.
5 He's as much a Roosevelt guy as he is a
6 Wantagh guy. As much a Glen Cove guy as he
7 is a Wantagh guy.

8 I never met someone with a
9 passion and a dedication to serve the people
10 of Nassau County as this Commissioner.

11 I was incredibly pleased when you
12 became the Acting Commissioner under the
13 last administration, even more pleased that
14 you will have the opportunity to lead I
15 think the greatest police department in the
16 country for hopefully a long time to come.

17 And I think there are a few
18 people that are sort of universally well
19 liked particularly here in Mineola.
20 Commissioner Ryder seems to be one of those
21 people because he relates to people and he's
22 willing to get his hands dirty and willing
23 to do the hard work. He's willing to do the
24 work that his own members send out to do.
25 He not going to ask you in the department to

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2 do something he wouldn't do himself.

3 We recently had in our district a
4 community issue that affected probably about
5 three or four blocks down in south Wantagh,
6 had a community council meeting.

7 I called up the Commissioner. I
8 asked if there was an opportunity for us to
9 get somebody down there from the police
10 department. His response was I'll be there
11 myself. That's the kind of guy that he is.
12 Needed a crossing guard outside of Saint
13 Barnabus school. Called up the Commissioner
14 because we're short on crossing guards.

15 He said, I will take care of it
16 even if I have to be there myself to cross
17 the kids and I know that he would. Because
18 that's the kind of dedication and commitment
19 that he has to the people of Nassau County.

20 I'm so happy and so looking
21 forward to the opportunity to work with you.
22 I wish you the best of luck and God speed in
23 leading our department and helping make the
24 lives of the people of Nassau County better.
25 Congratulations, Commissioner.

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2 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank
3 you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
5 Bynoe then Legislator Kopel and Legislator
6 Gaylor and then Legislator Drucker.

7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good
8 afternoon, Commissioner.

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Good
10 afternoon.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So it is
12 indeed my pleasure to be a part of this body
13 who will address your appointment.

14 I am already a big fan of your
15 work. We've worked closely when you were
16 assistant to Acting Commissioner Krumpter on
17 many different community initiatives in
18 terms of technology. We were able to bring
19 in the villages and incorporate their needs
20 into our platform and I think that was
21 phenomenal.

22 I can remember asking for a
23 license plate reader in one of the locations
24 in my district and within that afternoon it
25 was up.

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2 So your expedient, always
3 accessible to the point that we were able to
4 have a two hour conversation on a Sunday
5 about community and police relations and,
6 you know, that's something that's very
7 important to me.

8 I have integrated police into
9 many of the activities that I hold in my
10 community because it is a concern.

11 So today I'm fortunate to be the
12 host of a group of young people that have
13 come out of Westbury high school, the
14 Prosper Group. If you guys would just stand
15 quickly?

16 These young men and women were
17 here today and we held somewhat of a mock
18 legislative session and during that session
19 a lot of questions revolved around the
20 policing.

21 So they have real thought out
22 questions and it's something that's
23 important to them.

24 We talked about that council on
25 the phone for two hours on a Sunday night.

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2 One thing that didn't come to my mind during
3 that conversation that was evident to me
4 today is that I will appoint a young person
5 to that council because their voice is
6 vitally important.

7 I know the experience they will
8 have through that council will bring us that
9 much closer to where we want to be in terms
10 of our community and police relations. I
11 know you are the right man for that.

12 I walked a parade with you and
13 the people on the sidelines were all yelling
14 out Ryder Ryder. These are every day
15 regular citizens who know you because you
16 policed that environment with the heart of
17 the people.

18 I thank you for your service and
19 I congratulate you in advance.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank
21 you.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
23 Kopel.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Commissioner,
25 I just wanted to add my congratulations to

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2 all the others that you have already
3 received and I couldn't be more delighted.

4 I can tell you that from my own
5 experience that the responsiveness has been
6 just wonderful and the level of commitment
7 and the sustained level of energy -- you're
8 not just a one month wonder here.

9 Since you started it has been
10 just a revelation. I really enjoy the fact
11 that in my communities that I represent,
12 it's a real pleasure to get compliments
13 about the police instead of complaints, to
14 see that things are addressed as they
15 happen, as they are needed.

16 I just have one question for you
17 though. You have done a fine job so far on
18 the overtime. I would love to hear if you
19 can tell us what your plans are in the
20 future on the overtime issue.

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: We
22 met with the budget office twice already.
23 We are looking at some projects on how we
24 can reduce the overtime.

25 Again, we don't know the unknown.

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2 We never know what's going to pop up and
3 cause an extra expenditure.

4 What we do know our is staffing
5 levels. As I spoke to the budget director,
6 he also agreed. Our head count has to
7 remain where it is.

8 It was 1,519 last year. It's
9 1,499 is the head count, budget number now.
10 We are still under that by 60 and that
11 includes the 60 that are in the police
12 academy.

13 We have projections with putting
14 the class, again, with the county exec's and
15 this board's approval, we are putting a
16 class in in April of another 60. That will
17 get me in the head count. If we get to the
18 head count, I can manage my people. If I
19 manage my people I can reduce overtime.

20 The cops in this county want to
21 do their job and want to do it right.

22 They give 110 percent. These
23 accolades I get here is because of the men
24 and women that sit to my right and in the
25 back of this room. They do it every day.

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2 They drive those cars and get those
3 compliments that you talk about.

4 That's my job to make sure
5 they're doing theirs and make we'll make
6 sure we manage that budget and get it to
7 where it has to be.

8 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you. I
9 can say I agree with you fully that the
10 accolades go to all the men and women in
11 uniform but leadership counts. Thanks.

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank
13 you, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
15 Gaylor and then Legislator Drucker.

16 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: First I want
17 to say congratulations, Commissioner Ryder.
18 There is no dispute in my mind what kind of
19 guy you are, you are a Lynbrook guy, born
20 and raised in Lynbrook. You have quite an
21 extensive family that still resides in
22 Lynbrook.

23 But on behalf of all the Lynbrook
24 residents, of our district and community
25 that surrounds you that knows you, knows

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2 your family, knew your mother, we are very
3 proud of you today. We wish you all the
4 best. Keep doing what you've been doing. I
5 know you won't let us down. God bless you.

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank
7 you, sir.

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
9 Commissioner. I guess having to echo all of
10 these sentiment would be foolish, so I'm not
11 going to try.

12 But I will say that in typical
13 Pat Ryder fashion, you confronted these
14 spurious allegations over the weekend and
15 handled it with grace and dignity and
16 forthrightness. I wasn't surprised by that.
17 It was typical for you.

18 I've gotten to know you over the
19 pass couple of months and although you hail
20 from the South Shore, us legislators from
21 the north shore feel the same allegiance
22 that you have and the same commitment that
23 you have towards residents all over this
24 county.

25 You have demonstrated to me that

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2 you are taking the police department to a
3 new level; cutting edge innovative ideas,
4 your community, your Commissioner's Council
5 is another idea that's going to be great.

6 One thing that's always impressed
7 me was that you're not only dealing with us
8 as legislators, you deal with particular
9 constituents and I have been to meetings
10 where you talk to people as if you are a
11 regular beat cop. That is something you
12 never lost sight of and it's so refreshing
13 because I've gotten feedback from people in
14 my community that we have a Commissioner who
15 is able to roll up his sleeves and not
16 afraid to sit and talk to people with a
17 myriad of problems and you do that.

18 I think that our county and our
19 police department is going in the right
20 direction with you at the helm.

21 I'm excited for you to be our
22 Commissioner. I guess judging by the number
23 of people in this room today that your
24 confirmation is not really in doubt I guess.

25 But, nevertheless, I'm excited to

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2 have you and you have always been responsive
3 to me personally and I have had a number of
4 opportunities where I've spoken to you over
5 the weekend and you have answered my calls
6 and texts right away. That's something that
7 I have never experienced before and it's
8 very refreshing to me.

9 So I wish you the best of luck as
10 well.

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank
12 you, sir.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Is there any
14 other discussions among the legislators?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 Any public comment?

17 MS. GOTTNER: Susan Gottner,
18 director of the Nassau County New York Civil
19 Liberties Union.

20 Good afternoon, I'm here today to
21 mark the occasion of Commissioner Ryder's
22 induction as the Nassau County Police
23 Commissioner.

24 While I congratulate him on his
25 promotion, I ask that you as the county

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2 Legislature play a robust oversight roll
3 over the law enforcement power over the
4 executive branch.

5 I ask this for several reasons.
6 Number one, Commissioner Ryder is making key
7 decisions concerning the safety of our
8 county.

9 I refer specifically to the fact
10 that he has cooperating with Ice in honoring
11 unconstitutional warrants. This undermines
12 trust and is making us all less safe not
13 more.

14 Number two Commissioner Ryder
15 loves data which means he is a data
16 collector. In policing, this is done
17 through surveillance which requires robust
18 oversight.

19 Concerning immigration, while
20 cooperating with ice is touted as a way to
21 keep us all safer, it is in fact having the
22 opposite effect.

23 There are two very distinct
24 issues here. They are intentionally
25 conflated to demonize immigrants.

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2 This first relates to non
3 criminal undocumented people.

4 The second is identifying and
5 removing criminal MS 13 gang members. These
6 are separate issues.

7 The reason they are separate is
8 because many of the people who have been
9 here from other countries are here because
10 they themselves are fleeing from MS 13.

11 The intentional and repeated
12 rhetorical device of melding MS 13 and the
13 word immigrant is specifically meant to
14 create a generalized public fear and thus
15 support for public policy against all
16 undocumented people.

17 So, in effect, public policy is
18 being driven by public relations messaging.
19 This is no way to govern.

20 Why is cooperating with ice less
21 safe? Because when people don't trust the
22 police, they stop reporting crime including
23 MS 13 crime. They also stop acting as
24 witnesses and view anyone with a uniform or
25 authority as suspect and suspicious and will

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2 not go near them.

3 Myself and my partners work
4 closely with immigrant communities and we
5 know they are afraid. They are afraid to
6 report domestic violence and violent crimes
7 and in general act as witnesses.

8 The District Attorney's Office
9 has repeatedly said that no one who reports
10 crimes or acts as witnesses will ever be
11 asked their status, while they may mean that
12 they can't be naive enough to think that
13 people will trust the DA's office while the
14 police are cooperating with Ice. People
15 don't make that distinction.

16 I encourage you to ask the DA's
17 office for their hotline numbers this year
18 as compared to last year.

19 Importantly, Nassau County
20 residents need to know and hear clearly the
21 authority's cooperation with ice is making
22 us all less safe by undermining trust. Less
23 safe, not more safe, and, as they would have
24 you believe, the current practices give the
25 authorities less information, not more.

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2 They keep more real criminals, not less, in
3 our neighborhoods.

4 Cities all around the country are
5 not cooperating with ice.

6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Please sum
7 up.

8 MS. GOTTNER: Regarding data
9 collection and surveillance equipment, if
10 you don't know the gadgets that the
11 Commissioner is using to police, you should
12 get to know them and do robust oversight
13 over what they are, ask if there are
14 policies around the surveillance that's
15 being done in Nassau County. Find out what
16 is being done. Thank you for your time and
17 please take your oversight responsibility
18 seriously.

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you
20 for your remarks.

21 I can say that individually and
22 collectively we will all be exercising
23 robust oversight, as we always have, it's
24 one of our most important priorities.

25 With respect to ice, at least

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2 speaking for the majority, we urge you in
3 the strongest possible terms to continue to
4 cooperate with ice as with every other
5 federal agency to continue to keep our
6 county safe.

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: If I
8 may just comment. The most important part
9 was left out of that conversation just now
10 was that I have met with them more than
11 probably any other Commissioner has.

12 I have kept the dialogue going.
13 We work closely to make sure we do get some
14 results when we leave the room, and, yeah, I
15 love data but nobody goes through more
16 painstaking lengths to make sure we stay
17 under the laws of this country.

18 We do not violate any laws when
19 we collect that data. We look at numbers.
20 And for defending my men and women of this
21 police department, 365,000 car stops a year.
22 Over 40 arrests a day. Over 3,000 field
23 stops. Over 100,000 calls for service, and
24 complaints .5 that come against my
25 department.

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2 So I commend them for the
3 professionalism and their patience. We work
4 closely with ice but under the rule of law.
5 And as I had numerous conversations, when
6 the law changes, we will work with the law
7 when it changes but that is the way we do it
8 now. Thank you.

9 MS. GOTTNER: If I may rebut
10 this?

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: There is no
12 rebuttal. Is there any other public
13 comment?

14 MS. MEREDAY: Meta Mereday,
15 Baldwin resident. I, too, have worked with
16 Commissioner Ryder and I look forward to
17 working with him. I'm encouraged by the
18 robust discussion that's taking place in
19 this body for those of you who do know and
20 the number of people that are standing room
21 only behind me who don't know, there are
22 issues that are impacting our communities
23 that have not been addressed, or not been
24 addressed successfully.

25 So I'm hoping that this body

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2 which is responsible for the budgets and
3 many of the decisions that the Commissioner
4 has to operate under is given the tools to
5 do that.

6 I heard there was mention with
7 regard to the Sixth Precinct, well, let's
8 talk about the Fifth Precinct.

9 Fortunately, there were those who
10 stood before this body in years past that
11 fought for the First Precinct which for
12 those officers that had to suffer in that
13 facility for so many years. We stood up to
14 this body to make sure that that was taken
15 care of.

16 You can't just put all the
17 responsibility on the Commissioner if you
18 yourselves as our elected officials are not
19 doing your job.

20 And, as I stand here today, for
21 those of you who know, that I can
22 consistently advocate for the unmet needs of
23 our veterans, and I'm glad that we have some
24 of our veterans sitting here today, I have a
25 letter from a veteran who is facing

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2 foreclosure in Bayville.

3 Now it's up to you to decide how
4 we can better police those types of
5 resources so that our officers and our
6 sheriff's department does not have to go and
7 take this man who lost his wife five years
8 ago for fighting for his home in his
9 facility.

10 So, overall, I appreciate the
11 fact that you are going through this process
12 but we need to make sure that our officers
13 and these young men and women sitting here
14 grow up to represent the diversity that we
15 need sitting on this side of the room.

16 Let's work together, let's better
17 utilize our tax earned dollars because we
18 have residents, both residents, particularly
19 our veterans, both young and old who are
20 leaving this county in droves.

21 I urge the residents that are
22 sitting in this room today don't just leave
23 after this confirmation process is over.
24 The real work of this body is going to be
25 done where your money is going to be

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2 incorporated into areas that you may not
3 want to see later in Newsday when it comes
4 out with investigations, scandals, and
5 conspiracies.

6 So let's do a better job for our
7 veterans, for our young people and for the
8 tax payers who are living in fear just in
9 general because they too can be facing this
10 an 72 hour notice that I have been fighting
11 for this veteran and for many others. Thank
12 you.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
14 Ms. Mereday. I'm now going to call the
15 question. All in favor signify by saying
16 aye.

17 (Aye.)

18 Those opposed?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 Carries unanimously.

21 Congratulations Commissioner Ryder.

22 All right. We are going to
23 continue with the business of Legislature.
24 My understanding is the County Executive --
25 I'm not sure what she's going to be

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2 arranging for the terms of the swearing in.
3 We understand she does not want to do it
4 here.

5 I'm not sure where you're going,
6 Commissioner. Is there someone here from
7 the administration? Can you give us some
8 direction? I think there's a lot of people
9 waiting to find out where to go.

10 There is going to be a slight
11 change. We will do top cops right after
12 this. This is Black History Month obviously
13 throughout our country in February and we
14 pause to remember and recognize the
15 extraordinary accomplishments and
16 contributions that African Americans have
17 made to our society.

18 It has been said that we must
19 never forget that black history is American
20 history. The achievements of African
21 Americans have contributed to our nation's
22 greatness.

23 Today we pause to recognize two
24 African-American leaders who have
25 contributed so much to this wonderful county

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2 and our nation. Who wants to go first,
3 Kevan or Denise?

4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good afternoon,
5 everybody. I'm pleased to introduce our
6 nominee and that woman for Black History
7 Month and also in a way a woman of
8 distinction, Annisa Demore. I know she's
9 probably somewhere in the crowd. If you
10 want to stand up here. You were hidden by
11 all the cameras.

12 Ms. Demore has served as a full
13 time member of the communications faculty at
14 Nassau Community College since 1996.
15 Ms. Demore also served as a dean of social
16 and behavior sciences managing seven
17 academic developments.

18 Currently she is president of
19 academic senate which is a great
20 achievement.

21 She has a commitment to education
22 issues and is as advocate for students,
23 veterans, and students with special needs.
24 Annisa has also focused on women's issues.
25 She serves as a member of various

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2 organizations which focuses on mentoring and
3 providing transitional housing for our at
4 risk women and children and she's a member
5 of the NAACP Freeport, Roosevelt chapter.

6 In 2015, Annisa was elected the
7 first African-American woman to the Long
8 Beach City Council. She has distinguished
9 herself as a bridge builder by working with
10 many in the various neighborhoods. She's an
11 articulate and inspirational speaker who is
12 able to get her message across to all
13 regardless of social, economic and racial
14 considerations.

15 Her strength and fortitude is
16 evident in the way she continues to carry
17 herself despite the fact that when she won
18 with the greatest number of votes in the
19 2015 election, she was denied her rightful
20 place as president in the -- as the
21 president of the Long Beach City Council.

22 For decades, the policy in Long
23 Beach had been that whoever gained the most
24 votes would assume the position of City
25 Council President.

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2 Dozens of men achieved this and
3 when it is Ms. Demore's opportunity, the
4 policy was abandoned and she was denied her
5 rightful place.

6 She continues to work on behalf
7 of her constituents and strives for fairness
8 for all. There is a lot that I can say
9 about because Annisa because I am in awe of
10 all of your accomplishments and everything
11 that you have done for all of us.

12 I am proud of the accomplishments
13 and proud of your dedication and your
14 commitment to service but I'm even prouder
15 that I can call you my friend. Ladies and
16 gentlemen, Annisa Demore.

17 MS. DEMORE: Am I permitted to
18 give thanks? First I would like to thank my
19 Legislator Denise Ford and also I would like
20 to thank this entire august body.

21 I will just say this, I have had
22 the opportunity to serve at Nassau Community
23 College for over 23 years.

24 I was actually the first
25 African-American to be a part of the

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2 communications department, and then shortly
3 after I became the first to chair the
4 communications department and then from
5 there I moved into the dean position.
6 Again, making the first, and now last year
7 on the first of academic senate. So all of
8 these things make me proud, but, most of
9 all, when my students come into the
10 classroom, that's the most rewarding thing
11 for me and I will leave you the words when
12 we celebrate Black History Month for the
13 great Nelson Mandela that education is the
14 most powerful tool that we have to transform
15 minds.

16 So it is always an honor and
17 pleasure to really serve all of the students
18 and welcome them into my classroom. Many
19 students who obviously are a part of this
20 county.

21 So I am grateful for this
22 opportunity and I will continue to work to
23 serve our students who deserve so much more.

24 I thank the Legislature for
25 supporting Nassau Community College. We

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2 can't do this without your support and, on a
3 yearly basis, you continue to support us and
4 we will continue to do what we do and that
5 is to provide a quality education for all of
6 our Nassau County residents. So I just want
7 to again say thanks.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
9 Bynoe.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
11 Presiding Officer. Ms. Beatrice,
12 affectionately known as B. Bailey, please
13 approach the podium.

14 I have the honor of suggesting B.
15 Bailey as the honoree for our caucus and it
16 was with great deliberation that I came to
17 this choice. B. Bailey has served her
18 community well.

19 B has served as the president of
20 the NAACP. She is a former trustee of the
21 board of Saint Pauls AME church and she is
22 currently and a library board trustee for
23 the last 17 years.

24 I say former to many of these
25 things in so much as B. Bailey is retiring

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2 out of these positions to move to Maryland
3 and she will be missed because her labor has
4 not been in vain.

5 Her number one commitment has
6 been to equip the youth with pride,
7 integrity and purpose and a sense of self
8 worth. She has done that. She has done
9 that very well.

10 As president of the NAACP, her
11 main focus was to cultivate the youth and
12 bring back into fruition -- sorry, the NAACP
13 Lake View Youth Council as well as the Axel
14 program.

15 That Axel program takes young
16 people across the country to highlight and
17 showcase their talents and gifts.

18 Not only has B done that for the
19 people of Lake View but other NAACP
20 organizations that do not have an Axel
21 component, she has taken those young people
22 along with her as well. They have traveled
23 the United States and they have competed and
24 won many many different honors and awards.

25 She has also served as a

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2 president of the Tanglewood Civic

3 Association.

4 One of the things that did was to
5 move the library from the Tanglewood estate
6 and bring it into the main hub of the
7 community right on Woodfield Road where
8 there was an older school established. They
9 have refurbished that library. If you are
10 ever in that area it is breathtaking. It
11 has quaint little nooks and crannies so the
12 kids can sit and read and actually receive
13 information through different programs that
14 the library allows to use the library for
15 those purposes.

16 So the library is still in the
17 phase of building. Most recently they were
18 able to build out their second floor and
19 equip the space with a lot of equipment and,
20 again, another space for the community to
21 use.

22 So, B, your work to evident. It
23 is evident and it's very much appreciative.
24 We will miss you in Lake View and the
25 surrounding areas and we wish you well.

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2 You said something the other day
3 at the NAACP luncheon where President Hazel
4 Dukes has said, it's not about the date you
5 were born and the date you will leave this
6 place, it's what you have done with the
7 dash. Apparently you heard her and you made
8 that a point to live that out.

9 So your dash is well served and
10 so please enjoy your time in Maryland and at
11 this time I turn the mike over to you to
12 share any sentiments you would like.

13 MS. BAILEY: I'm honored and
14 thankful for this award and I'm really
15 especially grateful that it comes from my
16 favorite legislator, Siela Bynoe, who is
17 very accessible and has participated from
18 day one from within the community. That's
19 sad to say rare that we have people that
20 come into our community and actually ask us
21 what we want. So I'm especially grateful
22 for that.

23 Just a side note, the school that
24 the library moved into, it was the former
25 Woodfield Road school, the colored school.

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2 We didn't repurpose the library. It's still
3 a foundation for education and we are proud
4 of them. Very proud of that. That school
5 was closed during desegregation. So we
6 brought it back to its original purpose
7 which is education and it's helping our
8 young folks which is close to my heart.

9 I would love to see more
10 diversity here as well. I will continue
11 where ever I go to strive for better
12 communities and better opportunities for our
13 children. I thank you again. I'm so
14 grateful. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I think I
16 would like to invite them up here, if that's
17 all right, invite Beatrice and Annisa up
18 here as well as the County Executive who I
19 think is the room and we will then, after
20 that, we will be proceeding to the swearing
21 in.

22 I invite Commissioner Ryder and
23 his family if they would like to join us in
24 the well area here which is where we will be
25 having the installation.

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2 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: I

3 (state your name).

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: I

5 Patrick Ryder.

6 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: Do

7 solemnly swear.

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Do

9 solemnly swear.

10 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: That I

11 will support the Constitution of the United

12 States.

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: That

14 I will support the Constitution of the

15 United States.

16 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: The

17 Constitution of the State of New York.

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: The

19 Constitution of the State of New York.

20 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: The

21 Nassau County Charter.

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: The

23 Nassau County Charter.

24 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: And the

25 Rules and Regulations of the Police

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2 Department County of Nassau.

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: Of
4 the Police Department County of Nassau

5 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN: And
6 that I will faithfully discharge the duties
7 of my office.

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER: And
9 that I will faithfully discharge the duties
10 of my office.

11 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN:
12 According to the best of my ability.

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER RYDER:
14 According to the best of my ability.

15 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CURRAN:
16 Congratulations Commissioner Ryder.

17 COMMISSIONER RYDER: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: As is
19 tradition at the Legislature at our Full Leg
20 Legislative meetings and on a monthly basis,
21 we honor Nassau County's top cops.

22 Ladies an gentleman, it's a
23 wonderful tradition that we have to honor
24 our top cops each month to recognize members
25 of law enforcement for their skills courage

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2 and professionalism that made have made and
3 continue to make Nassau County the safest
4 largest suburban county in the country.

5 Today we are going to be
6 recognizing top cops as well as the top
7 detectives and I would invite up to start
8 things off Jimmy McDermott the President of
9 the Nassau County PBA.

10 MR. MCDERMOTT: Good afternoon
11 everyone. I want to thank the Legislature
12 once again for honoring our top cops every
13 month. I have one question, where is
14 Tajikistan, I don't think it's a country. I
15 think he made it up. I think before he can
16 be confirmed he has to spell it.

17 I also want to salute you on a
18 fine selection. He is a good man. You saw
19 it on display here. He will do good things
20 along with the unions. I promise you that.

21 I'm doing top cops for February
22 of 2018. On New Year's Eve Fifth Precinct
23 Officers Steven Martucci, Jason Smith,
24 Anthony Degregorio along with Police Medic
25 Brian Ferrucci responded to an aided case in

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2 Elmont.

3 When they arrived there they met
4 with Michelle Lewis who was nine months
5 pregnant. They did a quick assessment and
6 determination that they couldn't get her to
7 the hospital and the baby was going to be
8 born there.

9 They worked together with the
10 police medic and ensured the baby's safe
11 arrival into the world and because of their
12 professionalism, the officers and medics
13 were happy to report that the baby, stay
14 with me, Nevaeh Lewis, Nevaeh is heaven
15 spelt backwards. She entered the world at
16 7:34 p.m. on New Year's Eve weighing in at 7
17 pounds 4 ounces. I wanted to thank the guys
18 again. Good work.

19 COMMISSIONER RYDER: So what we
20 just went through, I can't spell Tajikistan,
21 but what we just went through is exactly why
22 I'm here. It's the men and women of this
23 police department. They proudly serve the
24 Nassau County people every single day, 24/7.
25 They are the best police department in the

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2 country hands down and I'm proud to be part
3 of it and I congratulate them on a nice job.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We
6 congratulate you also. Also we recognize
7 acts of courage and acts of bravery, I can
8 tell you in this case you probably had
9 skills you didn't know you had and for some
10 of up here we probably would have passed
11 out. I don't know if anyone wants to come
12 to the mike and say a few words.

13 MR. MCDERMOTT: They are young
14 and humble. Thank you very much.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: I, too, just
16 want to say I think it took a lot of courage
17 to be able to go through this delivery. I'm
18 sure it's something that you never expected
19 to do and I know with all the training, the
20 excellent training you get in the police
21 academy, something like this you can never
22 really prepare for and I think you probably
23 helped, you brought a little baby Nevaeh in,
24 and I'm sure her mother truly appreciates
25 your support and your help and everything

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2 you did.

3 Commissioner Ryder, now we can
4 honestly say, Commissioner Ryder, for your
5 first official act in honoring our top cops.
6 It truly is a remarkable day. I thank each
7 and every single one of you.

8 MR. MCDERMOTT: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We also
10 honor each month our top detectives and I
11 would invite to the podium president the DAI
12 John Wighaus.

13 MR. WIGHAUS: Thank you. Good
14 afternoon. I'm John Wighaus, president of
15 the Nassau County Detectives Association.

16 I would like to thank Presiding
17 Officer Nicolello, Minority Leader Abrahams
18 and the Full Legislative body for confirming
19 Commissioner Ryder today and also for taking
20 the time out to honor one of our detectives,
21 Detective Anthony Chico.

22 During the four month period, the
23 first squad receives numerous cases
24 pertaining to a rental scam.

25 The victims reported seeing

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2 advertisements at various business in the
3 Uniondale and Hempstead area for a rental
4 house located at 418 Locust Avenue in
5 Uniondale.

6 When they contacted the listed
7 number on the advertisement, the interaction
8 involved meeting with the subjects providing
9 a small sum of money as a form of security
10 deposit and/or first month's rent.

11 When it became time for the
12 victims to move into the apartment, the
13 victims were unable to contact the subjects
14 because the cell numbers provided were now
15 out of service and the subjects also
16 provided numerous fake names to the assorted
17 victims.

18 Using all the investigative tools
19 available to him, Detective Chico successful
20 identified and arrested the subjects
21 responsible for their scheme to defraud the
22 innocent victims; as a result seven cases
23 were closed with these arrests.

24 These subjects will no longer be
25 able to prey upon the unsuspecting Nassau

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2 County residents.

3 Again, I would like to thank the
4 Full Legislature for your continued support
5 of the Nassau County Police Department.

6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
7 president Wighaus. I want to congratulate
8 and thank Detective Chico. It's so often
9 that these scams and these types of things
10 prey on the most vulnerable in our society.

11 It's so rewarding and outstanding
12 that you were able to apprehend these
13 individuals that were pulling this scam.

14 Congratulations and thank you.

15 MR. WIGHAUS: Thank you.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: John, I
17 want to take the opportunity to thank you
18 you and Detective Chica for your work and
19 obviously bringing these great stories about
20 how we are protecting Nassau County
21 residents obviously this happening in my
22 first legislative district, the residents of
23 district one thank you tremendously.

24 I know you don't do it for the
25 thank yous or for the recognition, you do it

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2 because it's your job and you do it because
3 you're good at it. So we thank you for
4 continuing to protect us and obviously we
5 look forward to congratulating you here on
6 the dais today as well. Thank you again.

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I apologize
8 to all of you who are waiting for the main
9 calendar, especially our veterans, we had a
10 lot of extraordinary things happening today.

11 I'm going to jump into the
12 calendar at this time to call an item.
13 There are a number of you who have been
14 waiting patiently for us.

15 It's Item 22, Resolution 25 of
16 2018. It's a resolution requiring the
17 County of Nassau Police Department to note
18 the resolution requiring the Nassau County
19 Police Department to notate an arrestee's
20 veteran status on police reports and all
21 other documents associated with the
22 veteran's arrest.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: So moved.

24 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by

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2 Legislator Gaylor, seconded by Legislator
3 Ferretti. That item is before the
4 committee. Legislator Gaylor or Ferretti,
5 do either of you want to take the lead on
6 this?

7 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
8 Presiding Officer Nicoletto.

9 First of all, I would like to
10 thank all of the veterans who are here to in
11 support of this legislation.

12 Special thanks to Director
13 Esposito for the hard work you have done for
14 our veterans.

15 This bill is a very important
16 bill. We have to ensure that the resources
17 that are currently dedicated to our veterans
18 are being utilized, and that's what the
19 intent of this bill is.

20 This bill will require the police
21 department to inquire upon any minor offense
22 to inquire as to whether the person is a
23 veteran, and if you are indicate so on the
24 arrest report by putting a checkmark in a
25 box indicating that the person being

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2 arrested is a veteran.

3 This will allow us to direct that
4 person to the veterans treatment court where
5 they can receive the proper treatment that
6 they deserve.

7 Just as an example: A veteran in
8 my district was arrested for a minor offense
9 and he was locked up overnight for opening a
10 can of beer in a 7-11. This is the kind of
11 offense where the veteran should have been
12 directed to the treatment court so we can
13 get them the help they deserve, that they
14 need, that they are entitled to under the
15 law. That's what this bill is going to
16 address. It's going to ensure that the
17 veterans get the treatment they are entitled
18 to. I'm happy to sponsor it. Thank you.

19 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you,
20 Presiding Officer. As Legislator Ferretti
21 indicated, this is a bill to identify early
22 on those that have some form of military
23 service or veteran status.

24 This bill will then provide some
25 visibility as to their status as that person

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2 who was arrested, that veteran who was
3 arrested proceeds to the criminal justice
4 system.

5 It will help them and their
6 attorneys make themselves available of the
7 resources that are available to them at the
8 district court including the veterans
9 treatment court.

10 So this is early identification
11 of veterans status at the onset of an
12 arrest.

13 I would also like to take this
14 opportunity to thank and to note that the
15 Nassau County Bar Association has issued a
16 letter in support of this bill also and we
17 thank the bar association for their
18 continued support in that regard.

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We have with
20 us Mr. Leventhal who is the president of the
21 bar association, so Mr. Leventhal if you
22 would like to say a few words.

23 MR. LEVENTHAL: Mr. Presiding
24 Officer and honorable members, it is my
25 honor today to address you in my capacity as

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2 president of the Nassau County Bar
3 Association.

4 The Criminal Justice System is a
5 blunt instrument for social change. It is
6 in the normal course reactive and punitive
7 rather than preventive and remedial.

8 Today we have an opportunity to
9 sharpen that instrument and make it a tool
10 for addressing the social issues that for
11 our veterans sometimes lead to arrest.

12 These issues often have their
13 roots in the sacrifices that those veterans
14 made in defense of our nation.

15 The Nassau County Bar Association
16 applauds your efforts to repay those
17 sacrifices with compassion and
18 enlightenment. The adoption of this
19 resolution will not only serve veterans in
20 desperate need, but will also serve the
21 community in deterring recidivism.

22 The bar association by unanimous
23 vote of its board of directors has endorsed
24 the proposed resolution that is before you
25 today.

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2 Therefore, on behalf of the 4,500
3 members of the association, I respectfully
4 recommend the resolution of adoption.

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
6 I also have a copy of the letter that was
7 submitted on behalf of the Nassau County Bar
8 Association and we will make that part of
9 the record. Hand it over to the clerk.

10 Do any other legislators have any
11 comments or questions or discussion?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 Hearing none, I'm going to open
14 it up to the public. Does anyone want to
15 speak with respect to this bill?

16 MR. MCFEE: Hello. My name is
17 Dan McFee and I'm the commander of the
18 Veterans of Foreign War of Long Beach
19 New York.

20 When I returned from combat in
21 Vietnam, my uncle, Thomas Dowd brought me
22 into the VFW. I'm glad to see his daughter
23 today as a successful Nassau County
24 legislator.

25 This is not about me or him or

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2 the VFW even. We all know and he was a
3 retired detective, would tell you the same
4 thing, people who go to prison for anything
5 usually do not end up successful because it
6 leaves a mark upon you and your record and
7 going to try to get a city job or at that
8 time at least was an automatic failure. You
9 were not getting it.

10 Everybody knows that young people
11 do silly things. Myself and my comrades
12 here are all in our '70s, if you are going
13 to ask us to go on an ambush in the middle
14 of the night, we will all be looking at each
15 other and say, who wants to go?

16 Young people go, all right, they
17 pick up their rifle and they go. They come
18 home and do something silly. They had too
19 much to drink. They got into a fight.

20 When I was a young guy and you
21 did something silly the police would take
22 your car keys away, say I'm leaving them in
23 the veterans hall or come pick them up
24 tomorrow. Those things don't exist anymore.
25 Today there are eyes watching eyes. Making

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2 sure that everything, the I's are dotted and
3 the Ts are crossed.

4 I'm hoping here today, and I'm
5 sure it is going to happen that Nassau
6 County is going to protect our veterans
7 because many of them are in need.

8 When you go into the military,
9 especially if there's a war going on, they
10 don't look too much to see what your record
11 was before; whether you graduated from
12 college; whether you graduated from high
13 school. The need for soldiers in combat
14 supersedes everything.

15 When the wars are going down and
16 there are too many people in the military
17 all of a sudden it becomes two years of
18 college, you know? That's all great going
19 in.

20 But coming out are some of those
21 same men that they took in who are not
22 prepared for life or adulthood.

23 I'm hoping today that Nassau
24 County will take that big step and hopefully
25 move even further in the future to protect

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2 these young veterans.

3 Because if you get locked up,
4 chances are you're going to get locked up
5 again somewhere because you are going to
6 have something against you, you're not going
7 to be able to get that job, not be able to
8 get that housing, looked upon in society as
9 another crazy veteran.

10 You people have the power to
11 protect those men and women. I hope you use
12 it today. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.

14 MR. ESPOSITO: As you all know
15 I'm very shy and I really don't like to
16 speak. Ralph Esposito, I'm the director of
17 Veterans Services of Nassau County.

18 We've come a long way in this
19 county since I have taken office and I am so
20 proud of our veterans court and our mentors
21 we established at that court which is going
22 on right now that I should be down there
23 speaking with them, which I will in a little
24 bit.

25 But I want to thank you all for

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2 the 70,000 veterans that this county has.
3 This really means a lot and it means a lot
4 of all my comrades, myself, and I want to
5 thank you all, you have all been kind to us.
6 You are always there for us. Thank you all.
7 God bless you all and have a great day.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Is there any
9 other public comment?

10 MS. MEREDAY: Meta Mereday,
11 Baldwin resident. Advocate for veterans and
12 I too support this endeavor but as I stated
13 in the previous discussion under the Rules
14 Committee, it's hopeful that this is just a
15 start that we will actively build upon to
16 provide the resources again that our
17 veterans need, that our veteran services
18 director Ralph Esposito needs, and all those
19 veterans that are assembled here and the
20 families and the communities that they
21 represent so that we can provide proactive
22 as well as reactive services for our
23 veterans both old, young, male, female, et
24 cetera.

25 We need to work together. We

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2 need to better utilize our funding resources
3 to build up the veterans services agencies,
4 incorporate our public and private sector
5 resources so we can do a better job, so that
6 we don't have to increase the number of
7 mentors but we can work towards addressing
8 the zombie homes and to keep our veterans
9 from leaving here and making sure that our
10 veterans who have been here continue to stay
11 here and have all the services they need.

12 So I thank you for taking this
13 step but we need to take many more steps,
14 reactivate and to fund programs like the
15 Veteran Owned Business Act that's still
16 sitting on the books but we need to get the
17 resources to build the clearing house to
18 build that base to provide the
19 opportunities, the employment opportunities,
20 and the business opportunity for our service
21 disabled and veteran owned businesses.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
24 Any other public comment?

25 MR. SCHMITT: Hello. My name is

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2 Matthew Schmitt. I'm going to say thank you
3 for letting me speak today.

4 Just part of the police
5 department, we actually just formed a new
6 organization in the police department called
7 the Nassau Police Veterans Association.

8 I want to tell we approve of this
9 bill to go past for many reasons. We see
10 both sides of it. We are police officers
11 and are veterans.

12 For the veteran side, there are
13 many times where there's guys dealing with
14 PTSD or dealing with other issues, and they
15 have a uniform on and they don't want to
16 show that they have these issues.

17 Fortunately, a lot of times when
18 they get arrested they're at their bottom.
19 When they're at their bottom, they need
20 somebody to help them out or reach out where
21 this will do it because on the bottom now,
22 when you check that veteran box or however
23 it's going to be notated, somebody is going
24 to come to them and say, hey, listen, is
25 everything okay? Why did this happen?

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2 Sometimes that's all it takes to
3 help somebody out because a lot of times I
4 know for example because I went through it
5 myself because I served over in Iraq, I had
6 my issues.

7 It took me a long time to realize
8 to come out and say I had an issue. A lot
9 of guys don't want to do it, especially
10 young guys coming back.

11 Not only it's not only just the
12 young guys, it is also older generations
13 too, when it comes down to the fact, it's
14 not going to just come out, it's going to
15 eventually gradually because things bring it
16 out.

17 I want to thank you for
18 supporting the veterans. If anybody has any
19 questions or need support also, as an
20 organization, we are here to help anybody
21 community wise. Please reach out to us as
22 veterans and also as police officers.

23 Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
25 Is there any public comment?

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2 (No verbal response.)

3 Hearing none, all in favor of
4 this item signify by saying aye.

5 (Aye.)

6 Those opposed?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 It carries unanimously. Well
9 done.

10 For those of you who have come
11 for public comment, I apologize it's a
12 little bit of an extraordinary day with the
13 police Commissioner, his confirmation, and
14 his installation here. So there's been
15 somewhat of a delay.

16 We will start off with Mr. Pete
17 Gaffney.

18 MR. GAFFNEY: Good afternoon. My
19 name is Pete Gaffney, Westbury, New York.

20 Basically I have been attending
21 many of these Nassau County Legislative
22 meetings and the open comments. I continue
23 to ask for community policing.

24 The reason for this is basically
25 drivers today, they are out of control, all

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2 shapes, sizes, young, old, men, women and it
3 just seems they got a speed racer mentality,
4 me first.

5 Drivers are ignoring the rules of
6 the road, excessive speeding, ten, 20 miles
7 an hour or more over the speed limit, not
8 stopping at stop signs, making illegal turns
9 on major roadways, cutting through corner
10 stores just to beat a red light, not to
11 mention all the talking and texting on cell
12 phones while driving.

13 Ironically, the people don't
14 realize that the timing of traffic lights
15 are adjusted to the posted speed limit.

16 So the person who drives at the
17 speed limit is going to reach the same point
18 as the speeder.

19 Many drivers, they're altering
20 and/or covering their license plates to
21 avoid tickets.

22 Also there is an increase of out
23 of state license plates all to avoid paying
24 for the privilege of driving legally in
25 New York including insurance.

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2 There's even a company in Queens
3 that for a fee they will register your
4 vehicle out of state for you.

5 Current law in New York State is
6 if you are driving a vehicle more than 30
7 days in the state, it needs to be registered
8 in New York.

9 All of these scams subject law
10 abiding residents to increases in insurance,
11 taxes, and also surcharges.

12 Pedestrians are just as bad.
13 Whatever happened to cross at the green and
14 not in between?

15 By having community policemen and
16 policewomen writing summons and utilizing
17 speed cameras should change the majority of
18 the public's behavior and increase the
19 county's coverages.

20 Once the public understands that
21 if the law is broken there will be
22 consequences.

23 Besides, when police are visible
24 in the community, statistics and history
25 prove that crime is prevented and goes way

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2 down within that community. Also residents
3 feel secure that the police are nearby.

4 I do applaud the Garden City
5 council for taking the initiative for
6 requesting speed cameras within their
7 community. The county and other towns
8 within Nassau County should do the same.

9 Years ago people complained about
10 seat belts and air bags. They were made
11 legal. Now they are accepted and they are
12 the norm.

13 We need to enact the existing
14 laws and rules and regulations to just
15 change the public's behavior. I mean I'm
16 just tired every day of reading or seeing
17 some of these horrific pictures in the
18 newspaper of car crashes when someone's
19 loved one dies including pedestrians. Thank
20 you.

21 By the way, in Sunday's Newsday,
22 there was a driver who had a license expired
23 32 years ago. He was caught for the second
24 time in 24 hours. Previously his license
25 had been suspended 46 times in June of 1986

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2 and revoked in 1987 and he's still driving.
3 Unbelievable. Thank you for your time.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
5 Mr. Gaffney. Legislator Schaefer.

6 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Just a
7 quick comment. Mr. Gaffney, thank you for
8 coming and for all the information that you
9 provide and I'm sure for a lot of research
10 you are doing on your own time.

11 So I think you know I'm going to
12 recommend you for the Commissioner's
13 community council because I think that is
14 going to be at least one additional place
15 you can go and you can speak directly to the
16 people that are working in the police
17 department with regard to all of these
18 issues and hopefully some of them can get
19 resolved and we can find some solutions
20 that, with your contribution, that might
21 make a difference because I know it's
22 necessary. So thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Jamie
24 Bogenshutz.

25 MS. BOGENSHUTZ: Good afternoon.

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2 My name is Jamie Bogenshutz and I'm the
3 executive director of Yes Community
4 Counseling Center in Massapequa and
5 Levittown.

6 It's kinds of sad that the
7 cameras are gone. The crowds have left, and
8 the reality is we probably won't be getting
9 into the forefront of the news until there's
10 a tragedy.

11 Here we are again. While my face
12 is certainly not a new one, especially not
13 in this venue, some of you may be new to
14 this discussion, so hopefully you have been
15 apprised of our history and the history of
16 youth services as it relates to funding.

17 It is a sad and disgraceful
18 history. It cuts to our most vulnerable and
19 needy of your constituents and a cut that
20 will have profound and long lasting
21 consequences for many years to come.

22 Some of you may be thinking why
23 is she here? Why is she speaking on behalf
24 of the thousands that our entire system
25 serves in this county?

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2 The answer is simple. You see,
3 it's not about me. Never been about me.
4 Not about my colleagues. It's about the
5 people that are not here before you.

6 It's about our communities. It's
7 about our kids. It's about our parents.
8 Those voices have been silenced. They are
9 silenced due to family chaos, abuse,
10 domestic violence, drugs, fear, finances and
11 everything else you read about every day.
12 So we are their voices.

13 We will continue to be those
14 voices until someone not only hears, not
15 only makes verbal promises, but until
16 someone puts words into action and does
17 something to make a change, a positive and
18 long lasting change. A restoration of the
19 25 percent cut that was made to youth
20 services.

21 We are living in a truly chaotic
22 time. It is clearly strikingly apparent
23 that we all most do more. Too many of our
24 children are dying. As things stand at this
25 moment with a 25 percent reduction to our

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2 program, youth services in Nassau County
3 will come to a screeching halt in September.

4 No other departments in this
5 entire county has been decimated like this
6 one and at what cost?

7 How many lives will be
8 compromised?

9 Does this make sense to any of
10 you?

11 While the county is struggling to
12 find answers and provide resources to our
13 most vulnerable children, how does our
14 county even consider just for a moment that
15 this is a prudent response to a fiscal
16 crisis? What is a child's future worth?

17 We understand the need to
18 responsibly budget. We understand the logic
19 of discretionary compared to mandated.

20 We understand the dilemma of
21 fiscal accountability and responsibility.
22 But we do not understand nor can we accept
23 that eliminating services at this critical
24 time is a logical, practical, or fiscally
25 sound at any level.

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2 Youth services are preventive.

3 They serve to identify emerging issues and
4 intervene in lives before a tragedy occurs,
5 before another child dies, or becomes a
6 statistic.

7 They serve as a resource that
8 should not be compromised, that cannot be
9 compromised, unless of course we are
10 prepared to gamble with the future of our
11 children. I, for one, am not willing to
12 gamble.

13 It is up to you. It is up to you
14 to demand and restore this funding be put
15 back in place. It is up to you to stand up
16 and ensure that all our children and their
17 families are protected. Develop a plan,
18 identify the resources and ensure that is a
19 bipartisan priority. We know that this can
20 be done because it has been done before.

21 We know it is not easy but we
22 also recognize doing what is right in spite
23 of everything else is never easy.

24 You are the strategists. You are
25 our negotiators. You all know the ins and

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2 outs of this process. You can make this
3 happen and, yes, you are also parents,
4 grandparents, mentors, and you are roll
5 models.

6 CLERK PULITZER: Ma'am, your time
7 is up.

8 MS. BOGENSHUTZ: I know, I'm on
9 my last sentence. You can make this happen.
10 You and your constituents are depending upon
11 that, we are watching waiting for you to
12 accomplish this for them. Your children,
13 our children, they are worth it. I think we
14 all can agree on that. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
16 Jamie. Pat Boyle.

17 MR. BOYLE: Hello. My name is
18 Pat Boyle and I work with Gateway Youth
19 Outreach in Elmont.

20 It was funny, in the middle of
21 December I guess I came before you thanking
22 you, thank you for not cutting us. I really
23 appreciate it. That was great. We are
24 going to have a good year. Everything is
25 fine.

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2 Then, around Christmastime, just
3 in time for presents, we got a 25 percent
4 cut.

5 Now, I understand everything that
6 happens with regard to budgeting and
7 everything else. I know you have pressure
8 from NIFA, I know you have pressure from
9 what the budget is as far as the County
10 Executive goes.

11 I hear all of those things but we
12 are talking pennies in the scheme of things
13 here to keep 43 agencies up and moving and
14 doing what we need to do for the young
15 people of this community.

16 43 agencies, about \$1.2 million.
17 You can't even put that into percentages in
18 a \$3 billion budget. I know where you're
19 having problems. I'm kind of worried
20 because you know are kind of our last
21 resort.

22 Let me give you some examples of
23 what happened recently. We were told by the
24 administration, the now administration, the
25 County Executive, that we weren't going to

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2 get any cuts. Throughout the whole time we
3 met with her with the whole group and we
4 were told no cuts. Then everybody starts
5 pointing fingers and blaming one another for
6 why the cuts came down.

7 No. Just stick to what you said
8 in the beginning. Don't cut us. There is
9 really absolutely no reason for it.

10 Then I meet with the new Deputy
11 County Executive of Health and Human
12 Services. Seems like a very good person,
13 seems extremely intelligent, but knows
14 nothing about what we do and how can I tell
15 that? When we said to her, what do you
16 think -- how are we going to get this money
17 back in the budget again? Have you tried
18 fund-raising? Come on.

19 I have a meeting at four o'clock
20 today to go begging somebody at the state
21 for money. I never stop fund-raising. I
22 wish I could put more time into the kids
23 that I work with and everything that I'm
24 doing but, because of these small cuts into
25 everything, that's the way it goes.

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2 Here's the bottom line, I like
3 numbers just like Commissioner Ryder likes
4 numbers. We had 800 kids in our program
5 this year.

6 These cuts come through which I
7 use this money for matching money for state
8 grants and for everything else. That money
9 that you are cutting out is cutting out
10 money from everywhere else's well too, and
11 sometimes three and four times over it's
12 cutting it out.

13 The bottom line is, we need to
14 get that money back into the budget again so
15 we can do that. I want to do that.

16 Parents. I had a Black History
17 Month celebration last week, two weeks ago.
18 There was probably about 150, 170 parents in
19 the audience.

20 I'm wrapping up I promise. I
21 told them about what's going to happen with
22 25 percent cuts to the budget and what's
23 going to happen in that particular school
24 Dutch Broadway School, we're going to have
25 to close the program. 200 kids out in the

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2 street. That's what is going to happen. Do
3 you think any of those parents were very
4 happy about that? You can rest assured they
5 weren't.

6 Do you think -- when I just
7 mentioned it to our commanding officer at
8 the Fifth Precinct before, he goes, there is
9 a possibility of not just those 200 but
10 another 200 and another 200 because of the
11 cuts that are going to come through. I am
12 going to have 600 more kids on the street
13 between three and six and the high school
14 people that work with them. He was not a
15 happy camper. He didn't like to hear that.
16 It's going to cost him a fortune to be able
17 to do what you can do in no time flat.

18 You are our advocates. You are
19 the only ones I see out there right now.
20 We've worked well together in the past. I
21 hope we can do it again in the future.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
24 Pat. Jeffrey Reynolds.

25 MR. REYNOLDS: Good afternoon. I

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2 want to thank you for the opportunity to be
3 here today and congratulations on approving
4 Pat Ryder. I think he's going to make a
5 great Commissioner. He certainly had his
6 door open for all of us that are working in
7 the opioid crisis.

8 Almost every single one of you
9 have held Narcan trainings, community based
10 Narcan training, so we help folks learn how
11 to prevent overdoses, thank you for that.

12 It shouldn't be the best we can
13 do. Narcan training should be the least we
14 can do.

15 The best we can do is making sure
16 that we are taking seriously, prevention,
17 access to treatment, and support for young
18 people in recovery.

19 When we talk about the opioid
20 crisis and we talk about the commitment to
21 ending the crisis, youth services, the
22 services that are again on the chopping
23 block are part of that equation. Connect
24 the dots.

25 When kids don't have access to

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2 after school programs, our community based
3 council programs, or shelters like the ones
4 we run, they wind up using substances and
5 starts with alcohol and moves to marijuana
6 and then pills and ultimately to heroin and
7 Fetanyl.

8 Then we open the pages of Newsday
9 and we're shocked that the numbers continue
10 to increase.

11 For all of you and all of have
12 you spoken out forcefully about the crisis,
13 I can't find an elected official who says
14 this is a crisis we should do something
15 about. This is part of that. We are
16 counting this as part of the equation.

17 Your willingness to stand up for
18 youth services will speak volumes about the
19 way you view this crisis. This crisis has
20 been the great equalizer.

21 This is the thing that's tied
22 together kids and families from every socio
23 demographic group across this county.
24 Everyone shares the pain alike.

25 It's something that has

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2 reinforced white middle class parents.
3 Youth services are important, not only for
4 the kids in Hempstead, Freeport, and
5 Roosevelt, but for all of us because they
6 keep our community safer.

7 I heard Pat talk a little bit
8 about overtime. Part of the reason you have
9 so much police overtime is because we have a
10 drug problem. We have a drug problem
11 because we are not doing good prevention,
12 not supporting families, not helping folks
13 get into the treatment.

14 Instead of providing services,
15 all of us are sitting here begging for our
16 programs back, year after year after year.

17 It shouldn't be this way and I
18 hope you guys will take a stand on the next
19 time you talk about the opioid crisis, make
20 sure you connect the dots and this has to be
21 part of the conversation.

22 I thank you for everything you
23 continue to do. We are counting on you to
24 help us this time as well. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,

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2 Jeffrey. Theresa Buhse, Long Island Crisis
3 Center.

4 MR. POZA: Obviously I'm not
5 Theresa. My name is Hernand Poza. I'm here
6 representing Long Island Crisis Center. I'm
7 a member of the Board of Directors.

8 Teresa had to leave because she's
9 at funding related meeting now.

10 The decision by the county to cut
11 youth funding by 25 percent is going to have
12 devastating results to youth severing
13 agencies and, more importantly, the clients
14 that rely on their services.

15 Long Island Crisis Center is
16 Nassau County's only generic 24/7 crisis
17 intervention and suicide prevention hotline.

18 We serve as the entry point to
19 the county's runaway and homeless youth
20 network working very closely with the
21 county's Office of Youth Services and Family
22 and Children's Nassau Haven, the only
23 shelter specifically for youth in Nassau
24 County.

25 Statistics show that more than

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2 4,000 youth run away or thrown away or are
3 pushed out of their homes each year here in
4 Nassau County.

5 When a young person who is in
6 need of housing contacts our hot line, our
7 crisis counselors help them explore safe
8 alternatives, often ending in a referral to
9 housing at Nassau Haven.

10 Cuts to youth services will
11 result in more children living on our
12 streets.

13 In addition to serving as an
14 integral part of the runaway and homeless
15 youth system, our Long Island Crisis
16 Center's counselors are also the intake
17 department for Nassau County's mobile crisis
18 unit which goes out to client's homes in
19 times of crisis to evaluate and deescalate
20 these dangerous situations whenever
21 possible. This saves the county thousands
22 of dollars in unnecessary trips to the
23 emergency room which would, in short time,
24 easily make up this million dollar cut.

25 Suicide is the number two leading

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2 cause of death for young people between the
3 ages of 14 and 24.

4 In 2017, Long Island Crisis
5 Center's volunteer crisis counselors
6 received almost 3,000 calls from clients
7 that were either suicidal themselves or were
8 concerned about someone who was suicidal.

9 Cutting our funding by 25 percent
10 will greatly reduce our ability to provide
11 this life saving work that no one else in
12 the county is doing.

13 Each one of the agencies that
14 receives funding from the Office of Youth
15 Services offers unique and necessary
16 services which go a long way in shaping the
17 lives of Nassau County youth today. It
18 would be very short sighted to not restore
19 the small amount of funding that it would
20 take either to continue what we have been
21 doing for so long and so well. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
23 Thank you. Joanne Borden.

24 MS. BORDEN: Good afternoon.
25 Some Republican legislators claim

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2 transgender people are already protected by
3 our law, but that is contradicted by the
4 county attorney and even this Legislature's
5 own Republican attorney. I personally filed
6 letters with the clerk, Mr. Pulitzer.

7 Every local and national
8 transgender organizations, many lawyers,
9 believe Nassau does not protect transgender
10 people from harmful discrimination.

11 Some Republicans claim
12 masquerading predators or transgender women
13 themselves will molest other women in the
14 ladies room, some claim the privacy of young
15 girls will be invaded in restrooms and
16 locker rooms.

17 Have you heard any complaints.
18 Every county and state surrounding us, and
19 over half the US, more than 180 million
20 people live with transgender rights laws,
21 some since 1993. And we do not hear any
22 complaints or problems because there aren't
23 any.

24 A chart below my distributed
25 speech has listed police and HR people's

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2 statements to that fact.

3 There are no reasons for
4 withholding human rights from us; only
5 excuses. All medical scientists and
6 researchers will testify to the fact that
7 transgenderism is not chosen.

8 If it were, I would surely have
9 chosen something else, something with which
10 every one else approves, where I would not
11 suffer the guilt or shame of hiding who I
12 was for 84 years.

13 I would surely not have wasted my
14 energy coming here for the last eight years
15 is asking for justice. Justice, simply
16 asking to be treated like everyone else.

17 Some say this issue will cost you
18 your job. They are wrong. This has passed
19 in hundreds of legislatures. It is
20 sometimes a loud issue but not a very
21 important one.

22 Experience has taught us that. I
23 ask you for common sense. It has been in
24 hundreds of municipalities that opponents
25 should not risk a majority or even a seat

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2 over this issue.

3 Pass the Human Rights Law, it's
4 the American thing, the Godly thing to do.
5 Thank you for listening.

6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
7 John Budnick.

8 MR. BUDNICK: Good afternoon,
9 Honorable Chair, Mr. Nicolello, Honorable
10 Minority Leader Abrahams, Deputy Leader Mr.
11 Kopel, and Assistant Leader Ford. It's an
12 honor and pleasure to see you and talk to
13 you.

14 Let me go through a number of
15 issues. First of all with regard to youth
16 activities. I don't want to see children's
17 blood on anybody's hands. You know we will
18 have so much more in expenditures because of
19 police officers in the courts from the
20 District Attorney's Office, from the
21 probation department, if we do these
22 reductions. Please do what you can.

23 Speaking as a former Nassau
24 County Assistant District Attorney, a
25 Diplomat of the Nassau College of District

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2 Attorneys at the University Of Houston,
3 speaking as former special assistant to the
4 Nassau County Board of Supervisors, please
5 consider my professional recommendation that
6 you address these issues before they create
7 more problems.

8 Second of all, I'm going to hand
9 up a couple of things; first of all, it's
10 from a group that's called FIST for our
11 Families in Support Of Treatment.

12 I had a chance to meet with Dr.
13 Reynolds, among other people, to go up to
14 meet numerous state senators and assemblymen
15 to talk about the need for drug and alcohol
16 treatment. We need it.

17 Suffolk County and Hauppauge now
18 has courtesy of State of New York a drug
19 treatment rehabilitation center.

20 We used to have one until 2007
21 when somebody forgot to pay the rent for the
22 Michael N. Petito Memorial Topic House.
23 Then somebody forgot to tell the County
24 Attorney's Office in 2007 to defend the
25 landlord tenant proceeding. It was

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2 terrible.

3 We still don't have a replacement
4 for that for those who are in drug alcohol
5 abuse problems in our county.

6 I'm going to hand up something
7 about that and also hand up something about
8 the City of New York advertised last week
9 that they would be having in this chamber
10 March 8th a hearing about their plan to
11 start taking water out of the various water
12 supply wells that are now dormant in eastern
13 Queens County.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: They
15 cancelled that.

16 MR. BUDNICK: That's what I
17 understand. I don't know if they changed it
18 and have a new day, I sent letters to
19 various members of the board sending a copy
20 of that.

21 I just want all of you to keep on
22 top of that, please, for all of us here in
23 Nassau County.

24 I thank you very much. There are
25 some other things but they will wait until

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2 the next time. May the good Lord bless you
3 and keep you.

4 Please remember two things I
5 mentioned the last time I was speaking here.
6 We have a serious physical problem in family
7 court that's going to get worse as of
8 October 1st. Unmanageably worse with the
9 influx of hundreds, perhaps thousands of
10 what had been youthful offenders, which will
11 then be juvenile delinquents, and that
12 building just to the south of 100 Supreme
13 Court Drive, the building is going very,
14 very slowly.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Mr. Budnick,
16 sum up.

17 MR. BUDNICK: Thank you for
18 putting up with me.

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I agree with
20 you. It's the slowest construction project
21 I have ever seen.

22 MR. BUDNICK: God bless you one
23 and all.

24 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Mr.
25 Budnick, that's in my district so believe me

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2 I'm well aware of the slow pace it's going
3 at myself. I'm staying on top of it.

4 I have spoken to the County
5 Executive's office about it and hopefully it
6 will be moving along a little bit faster so
7 it's also done in conjunction with the
8 state, so it just makes things difficult.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Diane
11 Sheffield.

12 MS. SHEFFIELD: Hello. I'm here
13 to put a face on the families that are
14 affected by your cutting. Please bear with
15 me. When my daughter was in the eighth
16 grade she started cutting herself. She told
17 me it was the cat. I didn't believe her.

18 I was a single mom and I had a
19 mother in a nursing home and I felt all
20 alone and I didn't know where to turn.

21 Somehow, I'm not even sure how I
22 ended up with Yes Community Counseling. It
23 saved not only my daughter's life but mine
24 and my son's as well.

25 We hit rock bottom after going

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2 there, going to Nassau County emergency.

3 Sitting in the psych ward over night with my
4 daughter wondering how we got here, where we
5 were going to go.

6 It was a long battle to try to
7 figure out what happened and keep her from
8 going down the wrong path.

9 My daughter very well could have
10 ended up being a statistic. She could have
11 committed suicide. She could have had a
12 drug overdose. She didn't. Thank God for
13 the counselors we had at Yes that worked
14 with her diligently every week who supported
15 me when I just wanted to go home and I
16 crawled into bed and cried.

17 I'm happy to report to you now,
18 my daughter is 21. She's graduating from
19 college in May with a dual degree; actuarial
20 science and economics and past four AXI
21 exams.

22 For the people in the Massapequa
23 school district that say we have to be
24 college and career ready in kindergarten. I
25 say baloney.

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2 My daughter didn't start to look
3 at her life and where she was going to go
4 until she was in 11th grade. Because of the
5 support she got from her social worker and
6 everybody else at Yes she was able to put
7 her life together and get serious in 12th
8 grade and work her butt off to get accepted
9 to the college of her dreams and she's
10 worked her butt off for four years there to
11 make something of herself and met a
12 wonderful boy who I hope they have a great
13 future together.

14 My family is together and whole
15 and we're all healthy and it wouldn't be if
16 it wasn't for Yes.

17 Now is not the time to be cutting
18 funding for services like this. Now is the
19 time to be increasing it. What my daughter
20 went through is ten times if not more worse
21 now. She did mouse musicals in
22 kindergarten. She didn't have to be
23 studying things that third graders did when
24 she was there.

25 The stress we put on these

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2 children is unbelievable. You wonder why we
3 have things that are happening is because
4 we're expecting kids to not be kids but grow
5 up too soon and if we don't have services
6 like this available to them when they need
7 it, we are going to have more Parklands,
8 more overdoses, more suicides, more broken
9 families, as other people said, that's going
10 to cost our community more money in other
11 services.

12 I just want to be on the record
13 for saying my family owes our lives and our
14 future to Yes and I can't thank them enough.
15 Please, I beg you, please, don't cut the
16 funding. Find more funding for services
17 like this.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
19 Diane. Just one correction, you said that
20 we cut the funding. That is not true. We
21 passed a budget that was fully funded, all
22 of the youth services. So the cuts did not
23 come from this legislative body. No
24 legislator on this body voted for them or
25 would vote for them.

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2 The next speaker is Emie
3 Funderburke-Ivey.

4 MS. FUNDERBURKE-IVEY: Hi. Good
5 afternoon. I'm here for two reasons.

6 I'm the director of the Long
7 Island Youth Foundation. In the summer we
8 hold a summer camp and we usually serve
9 about 200 to 250 students.

10 It's come to our attention that
11 the camps are required to have a license.
12 Normally many of the camps that I service,
13 many of the kids I service come from
14 economic deprived communities throughout
15 Nassau and most of us are holding camps.
16 It's just not myself.

17 The licensing is \$1,000 per year
18 for these camps to have these licenses. I
19 guess I had a big meeting with the health
20 department regarding the licensing and asked
21 and they said I need to speak with you all.

22 I asked, if you're going to
23 require that all the camps in Nassau County
24 are going to be licensed whether or not
25 they're located in these communities that

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2 are servicing youngsters that would probably
3 never have camp that you give us a waiver or
4 discount in the price if you may.

5 Maybe instead of it being \$1,000
6 for nonprofits, maybe you can give a waiver
7 where it's a cheaper price. Or give a
8 waiver where we don't have to pay for the
9 licensee.

10 I was told that the licensing is
11 for the reason of swim and things of that
12 nature, but the kids swim in the public
13 pools here that have certified lifeguards
14 and I don't understand the reasoning behind
15 the pricing, but I'm asking if you would
16 investigate it and perhaps see if the
17 pricing can be adjusted for those of us who
18 provide services for kids that would
19 normally not have camp, most of the camps
20 that are getting these licenses are getting
21 about 4,000 to \$6,000 per month per student.
22 Where I only get \$400 for the entire summer
23 per student.

24 So I'm asking if you would please
25 investigate that and look through that and

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2 see how you can work with us this summer so
3 that the pricing for that is not so
4 astronomical, and not to mention it's for
5 every year.

6 The next thing I'm here about is
7 the CDBG funds. I'm a recipient for that.
8 We get our award letter sometimes in late
9 June, early July and funding is not
10 available until January.

11 This year we are still out of
12 funds. We have not received the CDBG funds
13 as of yet.

14 I notice on your agenda here some
15 of the organizations are starting to get
16 funds. I wanted to ask, why is it
17 piecemeal? If some of them are getting it,
18 why aren't the rest of us getting our funds?
19 I mean, we have to spend this money before
20 we get the money back so that means I have
21 already spent and have the receipts for the
22 money because they award us the grants, they
23 start September 2017, and then we usually
24 get the funding some time in early January.
25 We haven't gotten any funds.

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2 So I'm just asking is there some
3 kind of way you can look into that because
4 it is unfortunate we have already spent the
5 money and we are going to go broke waiting
6 for this money to come back to us.

7 I can see on your agenda that you
8 have begun to fund some of the
9 organizations. I just want to know, when
10 will my funding come through?

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Minority
12 Leader.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Emie, how
14 are you?

15 MS. FUNDERBURKE-IVEY: How are
16 you.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'll start
18 with CDBG. Your grant funding was part of
19 what year? The most recent, the one that
20 just passed?

21 MS. FUNDERBURKE-IVEY: Yes.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So then
23 I've already asked our finance person to
24 take a look into that. Her name is Michelle
25 Darcy. She's standing right over there.

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2 She'll get your information and find out
3 where yours sit.

4 I didn't know there was a delay
5 with paying back the money but what you are
6 bringing back to our attention is quite
7 concerning. Let's see if we can get to the
8 bottom and figure out why.

9 And you've contacted them and you
10 haven't heard anything back?

11 MS. FUNDERBURKE-IVEY: As a
12 matter of fact there was a meeting here for
13 new grant cycle. It was just last week.
14 I'm sorry, the week before, and we all met
15 here and they were very apologetic.

16 Many of the agencies that
17 received the funding was asking the same
18 thing.

19 Here we are putting in a new
20 application and we haven't even satisfied
21 the old application. When I speak with the
22 hud office, the same thing is being said to
23 me that it's on hold. We need to speak with
24 you all because I guess it goes to the
25 legislative. It's been signed, so I have

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2 been told, but it just says you have it
3 here.

4 These are only a small amount of
5 organizations that have been -- I guess the
6 money has been availed to them. We are
7 waiting for that money.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Legislator
9 Bynoe and I were talking, obviously when
10 this came up, we talked about the process in
11 terms of making sure the Legislature was
12 notified, that's why we were talking back
13 and forth and Legislator Bynoe was very
14 extensive in her questioning and being
15 polite and she was really -- asking pretty
16 heavily in regards to making sure we
17 received the proper notification.

18 What you're saying to us, again,
19 it doesn't seem like we received it based on
20 what you're telling us again.

21 MS. FUNDERBURKE-IVEY: It was a
22 public notice and they asked us to all come
23 in and we did. It wasn't many people. It's
24 always like that.

25 I guess my disappointment is that

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2 the grant actually started in September. We
3 know going in that we will not get the
4 funding until maybe six months in but when
5 you get past six months and start talking
6 about a year. It's like, as a nonprofit,
7 for me to even put up that kind of money and
8 wait for it to be returned, I understand all
9 that, but now we should be able to get our
10 money back.

11 Since was it was already awarded
12 to me. I signed the contract. I should be
13 able to pull down the money. That's why I'm
14 here. We're not able to pull down and we
15 are going into March.

16 We started in September and we
17 are now in March. You can imagine my
18 finances at this point is getting very
19 strayed for the fact that we put up the
20 money.

21 We do after school and we service
22 over 200 kids. So we started the program in
23 September as normal. Now we just need to
24 pull down the funds. I just need to know
25 where we are in that process because --

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. I
3 see several people from the administration,
4 but for the time being I will have Ms. Darcy
5 reach out to you.

6 Before you go, the fee in regards
7 to the summer camps. Who have you spoken to
8 in regards to that fee?

9 MS. FUNDERBURKE-IVEY: The
10 Commissioner for the Department of Health.
11 I'll just lay this out just quickly for you.
12 They do not go out and make sure actively
13 that everybody has a license unless there's
14 a complaint.

15 So this summer, since they didn't
16 like the food that we were serving and there
17 was a complaint and then that's when they
18 said, okay, now you have to get a license.

19 Then I complained, well, if
20 you're not going to hold everybody's feet to
21 the fire for these licenses -- needless to
22 say, I understand why everyone is not trying
23 to get a license because it's \$1,000 per
24 year.

25 So if you are servicing kids, and

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2 most of us -- and I say black and brown
3 communities, summer camp is something that
4 we are very big on but we don't get the kind
5 of funds that come from other summer camps.

6 So \$1,000 to get a license that
7 takes about three months to get, \$1,000 is a
8 lot of money. And I would have to pay that
9 every year.

10 So that's why I'm asking if there
11 could be some kind of waiver for nonprofits.
12 We are a 501C3. Maybe discount it.
13 Something that can help us so every one is
14 covered through the licensing process. At
15 this point, every one is not -- doesn't have
16 a license.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: There is a
18 couple of different things. We're talking
19 up here among ourselves, but if you can give
20 our office a call, give Robin a call, and we
21 can obviously for this year see if we can
22 reach out to the Department of Health and
23 find out how many summer programs are in the
24 same position you're in.

25 But then, for the future years,

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2 obviously talk about how we can revamp it so
3 the little guys that are trying to run their
4 programs are not hit with this exorbitant
5 thousand dollar cost.

6 I know your program and I know
7 how hard you work at it. I think from that
8 standpoint we can come up with some type of
9 solution so that everybody, whether big or
10 small, all paying the thousand, maybe some
11 people pay a little less, some a little bit
12 more depending on size of their program and
13 camp.

14 MS. FUNDERBURKE-IVEY: I agree.
15 Thank you again.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You got it.
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
19 We're going to proceed to the calendar
20 starting with Item 21, Resolution Number 24
21 of 2018. It's a resolution confirming the
22 appointment of the County Executive of Nancy
23 Stanton Molaro position of Commissioner of
24 Information Technology.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So

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2 moved.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
5 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, seconded by
6 Legislator Walker. The appointment is
7 before us.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Do you want
9 to statement?

10 MS. MOLARO: Nancy Stanton
11 Molaro. I'm very excited for this
12 opportunity. I thank you and the County
13 Executive and I'm looking forward to it.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: The one
15 thing I would ask you to look into, we used
16 to have, go to my P.C., and for one reason
17 or another in the last year or so, the
18 contract was terminated and we've been using
19 VPM which is not anywhere near as quality a
20 project. So if it's possible to return to
21 Go to My PC.

22 MS. MOLARO: It is possible. We
23 have a PO that should be complete any day
24 and I would be happy to help with that.

25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Great. Any

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2 questions? Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: In
4 some of the contracts that we have with IT
5 it seems that either they're very late or
6 the provider is very limited, not a sole
7 source, but it seems to be a real issue that
8 I would really appreciate if you can take a
9 look at.

10 Again, a lot of times they are
11 late as well. We just want -- we would all
12 appreciate it if we had an explanation as to
13 why we're renewing or not, or more as to
14 what vendors are available. IT seems to
15 stick out in my mind as one of the
16 departments that we have had an issue with
17 that.

18 MS. MOLARO: Okay. Certainly.

19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
22 questions or discussion among the
23 legislature?

24 MS. KRISSEL: Legislator, if I
25 could just be just heard, stepping out of my

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2 role as the County Attorney here, just as
3 someone who works with Nassau County IT all
4 the time. Nancy Stanton is always available
5 for every little thing, every big thing.

6 It's really an extremely
7 professional interchange. She delegates and
8 does it herself if nobody is right there and
9 it's really a wonderful wonderful
10 appointment.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: That's great
12 news and coming from you that's a very high
13 compliment. Any other questions or
14 discussion? Legislator Birnbaum.

15 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Hi. Just a
16 question about dealing with outside
17 contracts.

18 Are we planning on adding
19 additional staff to IT so that we don't have
20 to rely on a lot of outside contractors?

21 MS. MOLARO: I have several
22 waiting to be approved now and that is
23 absolutely the goal to bring in more staff
24 and do away with some of the subcontractors.

25 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Thank you.

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.

3 Any public comment?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 All in favor of Item 21 signify
6 by saying aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 Those opposed?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Passes unanimously.

11 Congratulations.

12 Now I will move to the consent
13 calendar. All these items have gone through
14 the committees. So all these items have
15 been approved or discussed with the majority
16 and minority and there is unanimity so we
17 are going to move on these:

18 Item 2, Ordinance 7; Item 3,
19 Ordinance 8; Item 4, Ordinance 9; Item 6,
20 Ordinance 11; Item 7, Ordinance 12; Item 8,
21 Ordinance 13; Item 9, Ordinance 14; Item 10,
22 Ordinance 15; Item 11, Ordinance 16; Item
23 14, Resolution 17; Item 15, Resolution 18;
24 Item 16, Resolution 19; Item 17, Resolution
25 20; Item 18, Resolution 21; Item 19,

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2 Resolution 22; Item 23, Resolution 26; Item
3 24, Resolution 27; Item 25, Resolution 28.

4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So moved.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
7 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Legislator
8 Bynoe. Those items are before the
9 Legislature. Do we have any discussion?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 Is there any public comment?

12 Mr. Budnick.

13 MR. BUDNICK: Honorable members
14 of the County Legislature, with regard to
15 number 16, proposed Resolution 19. I think
16 that's a wonderful idea to provide to the
17 village of Westbury money to procure a bus.

18 I don't know if this money is a
19 grant pass through or not, but I do believe
20 that one of the things that is absolutely
21 necessary in that general area is for their
22 to be bus service from there to what is now
23 called North Hempstead Town Beach, formerly
24 known as Hempstead Harbor Beach which is in
25 the process of being fixed up due to federal

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2 grant money and state grant money very
3 nicely, but there is no way especially for
4 young people, young teens, and senior
5 citizens who don't operate motor vehicles to
6 be able to get there.

7 That's a problem throughout the
8 Town of North Hempstead and perhaps we can
9 keep in mind trying to address that through
10 resolutions such as this.

11 Also, with regard to number 18,
12 Proposed Resolution 21. There is an
13 inherent problem here in that there is a
14 group that I used to be on the Nassau County
15 Board of Directors of, that is providing to
16 the District Attorney's Office money and
17 they are also an advocacy group with regard
18 to crimes.

19 There is a potential for either a
20 conflict of interest or the appearance of a
21 conflict of interest that would be averted
22 if these monies were sent through another
23 agency.

24 Finally, on Number 22 I just have
25 a question as to whether or not this is

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2 going to result in all of Cedermere being
3 returned to the public use or not if anybody
4 knows.

5 Because the past several years,
6 Cedermere has been left out to private
7 agencies and they were supposedly fixing
8 this facility which is the former home of
9 William Kullen Bryant, the famous civil war
10 and newspaper hero of that age.

11 I hope it is leading to there
12 being more of a chance for the members of
13 the residents of the County of Nassau to be
14 able to utilize the entire facility as a
15 result of Resolution Number 22, proposed
16 Resolution 22, Number 19 on your calendar.

17 Thank you for your time and thank
18 you for putting up with me. Have a nice
19 day.

20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
21 Any other public comment?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 Hearing none, all in favor
24 signify by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

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2 Those opposed?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 Those items carry unanimously.

5 Item 1, Ordinance Number 6, a
6 bond ordinance providing for a capital
7 expenditure to finance the capital projects
8 identified therein within the County of
9 Nassau and authorizing \$3,125,000 bonds of
10 the county to finance such expenditure.

11 I will move that.

12 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Seconded by
14 Legislator Kennedy. Do you have something
15 to say?

16 MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold, Public
17 Works. As I mentioned at the last meeting,
18 this is a bond ordinance for the lighting
19 repairs that are needed at Mitchel Field and
20 Christopher Morley Park, probably thousand
21 for Morley Park remainder for Mitchel Field.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
23 I can personally attest to Christopher
24 Morley needing the upgrades. The lighting
25 has been substandard. There's a structural

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2 issue there. Parts of the park it's dark.
3 It's much needed.

4 The amendment here is to
5 designate the additional 500 to Christopher
6 Morley. So we need an amendment on this
7 item.

8 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
11 Legislator Birnbaum, seconded by Legislator
12 Ford. On the amendment, do we have any
13 discussion?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 Is there any public comment?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 All those in favor of the
18 amendment signify by saying aye.

19 (Aye.)

20 Those opposed?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 That amendment carries.

23 Now for the item as amended, any
24 discussion, further discussion?

25 (No verbal response.)

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2 Is there any public comment?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 All those in favor of the amended
5 item signify by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 Those opposed?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 That carries unanimously.

10 Now jumping to Number 5 which is
11 Ordinance Number 10, a bond ordinance
12 providing for a capital expenditure to
13 finance the capital projects identified
14 herein within the County of Nassau and
15 \$500,000 of bonds of the county to finance
16 such expenditure.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So moved.

18 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
20 Legislator Bynoe, seconded by Legislator
21 Gaylor. That item is before the committee.
22 I believe the amendment here is to designate
23 these funds for the African-American Museum.

24 MR. ARNOLD: That is my
25 understanding also.

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2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So we need
3 an amendment.

4 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: So moved.

5 LEGISLATOR MULE: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
7 Legislator Drucker, seconded by Legislator
8 Mule. On the amendment. Do we have any
9 discussion?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 Is there any public comment?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 All those in favor of the
14 amendment signify by saying aye.

15 (Aye.)

16 Those opposed?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Carries unanimously. Now on the
19 amended item, any further discussion?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 Is there any public comment?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 All those in favor of the amended
24 item signify by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

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2 Those opposed?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 That item as amended has passed.

5 We have another amendment.

6 Number 12, Ordinance Number 5, an ordinance
7 supplemental to the annual appropriation
8 ordinance in connection with the police
9 headquarters fund and a transfer of
10 appropriations.

11 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So moved.

12 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
14 Legislator Ferretti, seconded by Legislator
15 McKevitt. This item needs an amendment
16 also. The amendment will modify the
17 departmental budgets as well as the
18 supplemental appropriations regarding the
19 police headquarters fund.

20 Motion to amend?

21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
23 Second.

24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
25 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator

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2 DeRiggi-Whitton. The amendment is before
3 the Legislature. Do we have any questions
4 on the amendment?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 Is there any public comment?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 All those in favor of the
9 amendment signify by saying aye.

10 (Aye.)

11 Those opposed?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 The amendment passes.

14 Now the amended item is before
15 the Legislature. Do we have any questions
16 on this amendment?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 Is there any public comment?

19 (No verbal response.)

20 All those in favor signify by
21 saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Those opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 The amendment passes unanimously.

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2 There is one item left on our
3 calendar. However, we are not going to call
4 it now, we are going to call it in a few
5 moments. It has to do with the Coliseum
6 lease.

7 Actually I'm not going to do that
8 just yet. There are emergencies. So let's
9 deal with the emergencies and then we will
10 go back to the Coliseum. So we will call
11 the emergencies.

12 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you.
13 Emergency 4-2018, an emergency resolution
14 declaring an emergency for immediate action
15 upon a local law to amend title 79-A of the
16 Miscellaneous Law of Nassau County to
17 provide relief from fees charged by various
18 departments of county government to the
19 victims of Super Storm Sandy.

20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
23 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
24 Ford. That item is before the committee.
25 All those in favor of the emergency signify

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2 by saying aye.

3 (Aye.)

4 Those opposed?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 The emergency has been
7 established. Clerk Item PR9 of 2018, that
8 actually is not PR9 of 2018. This is item
9 90 of 2018, a local law to amend title 79A
10 of the Miscellaneous Laws of Nassau County
11 to provide relief from fees charged by
12 various departments of county government to
13 the victims of Super Storm Sandy.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
17 Legislator Ford, seconded by Legislator
18 Rhoads. The item is before the committee.
19 Do we have any discussion about this?

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very
21 much, Presiding Officer. As somebody who
22 represents an area that was greatly impacted
23 by Sandy and knowing a lot of issues still
24 facing the residents, we actually, if you
25 think about it, it's five and a half years

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2 after the storm hit, and I still have
3 residents that are not home, that their
4 houses aren't being rebuilt.

5 There are people that emptied out
6 their savings and used every dime they could
7 get their hands on, people paying
8 foreclosure, still paying taxes, mortgages
9 on houses. They can't live and they have a
10 myriad of problems. And for us to pass it
11 truly sends a message that they have not
12 been forgot, not by this Legislature. That
13 we will continue to support them and work
14 with them in any way we can.

15 While some of these fees may not
16 be that much, it is money that they don't
17 have. We're going to help them save it and
18 I think it's just letting them know that we
19 have their best interests in mind. I thank
20 you very much for passing this.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
22 Rhoads.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
24 Presiding Officer. With regard to
25 Legislator Ford's comments, the reality is,

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2 I don't think that anybody thought when that
3 storm first occurred that five and a half
4 years later we would still be talking about
5 families still in the process of trying to
6 recover and it and in some cases just
7 starting the recovery process.

8 It has been incredibly
9 frustrating sitting here at the county level
10 with a program that was paid for through
11 federal funds and is administered through
12 the state like New York Rising is to see the
13 frustration, to see the snail's pace at
14 which benefits moved after all the promises
15 to try and get families back into their
16 homes as quickly as possible.

17 It seems as though the next storm
18 came and many of those families were
19 forgotten.

20 As Legislator Ford said, I want
21 folks in all of our south shore districts to
22 realize that they have not been forgotten
23 here.

24 Even though the waiver of county
25 fees, the extension of the waiver of the

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2 county fees may not amount to a significant
3 amount of money relative to what they lost
4 in terms of the cost of rebuilding their
5 homes and elevating their homes, it is at
6 least the one small thing we can do short of
7 calling attention to their problems to state
8 and federal officials.

9 It's the one thing we at the
10 county level can do and I appreciate the
11 support of my fellow legislators in passing
12 this extension today.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
14 Legislator Rhoads. Any other discussion?
15 Legislator Ferretti.

16 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Legislator
17 Ferretti.

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you,
19 Presiding Officer. I second what my
20 colleagues just said with regard to being in
21 favor of passing this amendment.

22 I just want to bring to light,
23 even those who have rebuilt their homes,
24 many of them, I know this from my experience
25 in the County Clerk's Office, were forced to

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2 take out SBA loans to do so.

3 So even if they have rebuilt
4 their homes, they have to now satisfy those
5 loans and this amendment would waive those
6 recording fees as we are all aware are quite
7 high. So I absolutely support this. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
10 Anyone else?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Any public comment? Mr. Budnick.

13 MR. BUDNICK: Good afternoon
14 Honorable Members the County Legislature.

15 I didn't know this was going to
16 be on. I have had about a half a dozen
17 people that I know who are currently
18 suffering horrendously still left over from
19 Sandy.

20 One of them just recently gave up
21 their house, just gave it up, a house once
22 worth over \$750,000 on the water in
23 Massapequa and they moved to Clocks
24 Boulevard, which is not the nice desirable
25 are in Massapequa because they had to given

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2 the physical situation.

3 Other people on Nimrod Street
4 down in Seaford similarly had similar
5 circumstances. They moved to south
6 Huntington.

7 These houses are still there.
8 They are still blotting the landscape that
9 our people who are literally trapped in
10 their houses.

11 This bill will help these people.
12 I salute you one and all and say God bless
13 you. Thank you so much.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
15 public comment?

16 (No verbal response.)

17 Thank you Mr. Budnick.

18 Hearing no other public comments,
19 I will call the question.

20 All those in favor of Clerk Item
21 90 signify by saying aye.

22 (Aye.)

23 Those opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 That item carries unanimously.

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2 I will ask the Clerk to call the
3 procedural resolution.

4 CLERK PULITZER: A resolution to
5 establish a committee on the Inspector
6 General and ratifying the action of the
7 Clerk of the Legislature pursuant to Article
8 1-C of the County Government Law of Nassau
9 County to cause to be published a notice of
10 vacancy for the position of Inspector
11 General.

12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Motion,
13 please.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
17 Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel, seconded by
18 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer Ford.
19 That item is before the committee. This
20 procedural resolution is to establish a
21 committee on the Inspector General and names
22 both Legislator Ford and Legislator Drucker
23 to the committee to serve along with
24 Minority Leader Abrahams, Deputy Presiding
25 Officer Kopel and myself.

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2 The resolution also allows for
3 the posting and advertising of the Inspector
4 General position on the official website of
5 Nassau County. The official newspaper of
6 Nassau County which is Newsday and such
7 other sources as the committee shall
8 determine. Any questions?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Is there any public comment?

11 MS. MEREDAY: Good afternoon.

12 Meta Mereday, Baldwin. I am encouraged by
13 this decision and I definitely support it.

14 I hope though that the outreach
15 for potential candidates is a lot broader in
16 terms of the caliber and the significance
17 for this particular roll.

18 This was a long time in coming
19 and in some instances depending on
20 historically which way the election would
21 have gone, it may not have happened at all.
22 So I'm a realistic.

23 But I'm hoping that we are moving
24 forward and I want to be positive and
25 proactive in making sure as many diverse

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2 candidates are reviewed and given the
3 opportunity to be part of this process.

4 So I do salute this body in
5 working together to make it happen and
6 looking forward to seeing the furtherance of
7 opportunity that will be inclusive of those
8 constituencies that have heretofore not been
9 included in the contracting process for
10 Nassau County so that it can address the
11 many issues that have been brought to the
12 forefront by earlier testimony as it
13 pertains to our underserved in the county.
14 So I thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
16 Ms. Mereday. Any other public comment?
17 Mr. Budnick.

18 MR. BUDNICK: It will be
19 mercifully quick. I would suggest that one
20 the things that should be done is a notice
21 be sent out to all of those who have been
22 members of the Nassau County District
23 Attorney's Office over approximately the
24 last 45 years or so because you will find
25 virtually no finer group of people who will

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2 be able to fill that type of a job as an
3 Inspector General than perhaps these people
4 throughout Nassau County and the surrounding
5 area. Thank you. By the way, please omit
6 me, I have no interest in that.

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
8 Any other public comment?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 Hearing none, all those in favor
11 signify by saying aye.

12 (Aye.)

13 Those opposed?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 The procedural resolution passes.

16 As I started to say before, we
17 are going to skip for now the item on the
18 coliseum put the Full Legislature in recess
19 so that we can have a Rules Committee on the
20 same item and then reopen the Full
21 Legislature.

22 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
23 Committee recessed at 4:08 p.m. and
24 reconvened at 4:10 p.m.)

25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I will now

1 Full Legislature/2-26-18
2 call Item 13, an ordinance authorizing the
3 County Executive on behalf of the county to
4 execute an amendment to the amended and
5 restated Coliseum lease between the County
6 of Nassau, as landlord, and Nassau Events
7 Center, L.L.C., as tenant.

8 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: So moved.

9 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
11 Legislator Kennedy, seconded by Legislator
12 Drucker. The proposed amendment is before
13 the Legislature.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Mr. Meyer,
15 go ahead. Ready when you are.

16 MR. MEYER: Good afternoon,
17 Presiding Officer. How are you?

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Very good.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. MEYER: Josh Meyer, West
21 Group Law, 81 Main Street, Suite 510, White
22 Plains, New York.

23 So I am here today to present
24 this on behalf of the administration. Just
25 by way of quick background, Nassau Events

1 Full Legislature/2-26-18
2 Center who is a tenant under the existing
3 Coliseum lease has requested this amendment
4 to enable them to finalize an agreement with
5 the Islanders to return the Islander games
6 to the Coliseum and provide for additional
7 capital improvements without any county
8 contribution for such funding.

9 NEC has advised the county that
10 the closing of the agreement for the
11 Islanders to play the games at the Coliseum
12 is conditioned on the passage of this
13 amendment.

14 Under the terms of the proposed
15 amendment, the county will afford NEC the
16 following relief under the terms of the
17 Coliseum lease:

18 The first is the AHL team
19 requirement. The county will waive the
20 requirement that NEC enter into an agreement
21 to cause an American Hockey League AHL team
22 to play at the Coliseum for 15 years.

23 If the Islanders fail to play
24 either a minimum of 54 games at the Coliseum
25 over the next three seasons, or two

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2 substantially all home games in Nassau
3 County or Suffolk County in any season
4 thereafter to June of 2032, then NEC will
5 use good faith efforts to bring back a
6 professional hockey team to the Coliseum.

7 The second aspect of the relief
8 in the amendment is the enhancement on rent
9 relief. Enhanced minimum rent is a million
10 dollar penalty paid to the county by NEC for
11 the failure to bring Islander games to the
12 Coliseum.

13 The county agrees that the
14 monthly enhanced minimum rent payments now
15 being paid under the Coliseum lease shall
16 cease as to July 1st, 2018 with the proviso
17 that the Islander's agreement requires the
18 Islanders to play 60 games or more at the
19 Coliseum, then the enhanced minimum rent
20 shall cease as of February 1st, 2018 and
21 shall continue to cease for so long as the
22 Islanders play the minimum 54 games at the
23 Coliseum over the next three seasons and;

24 Two, the Islanders are scheduled
25 to play and substantially play all of their

1 Full Legislature/2-26-18
2 home games in Nassau County or Suffolk
3 County in any season thereafter through June
4 30th, 2027.

5 I would note that this amendment
6 will not become effective until NEC delivers
7 to the county written confirmation that its
8 entered into an agreement with the Islanders
9 to play the minimum of 54 season games over
10 the next three seasons at the Coliseum.

11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Let's touch
12 on the AHL requirement for a moment.

13 My understanding is that to place
14 a team at any particular site within a
15 certain geographic area every NHL team would
16 have to approve; is that correct?

17 MR. MEYER: That is correct.
18 That is the understanding. There is an a 50
19 mile radius for any team, minor league team
20 to play at any location; in this case, the
21 Bridgeport team would be within a 50 mile
22 radius.

23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: And you
24 would have to get again the unanimous
25 consent of every NHL franchise?

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2 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

3 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: For example,
4 the Islanders, who apparently will be
5 playing at Belmont, I would assume will have
6 no desires since their minor league team
7 will continue to play in Bridgeport, to
8 house an AHL team 15 miles away.

9 So they could veto, even if we
10 were able to attract some other AHL team
11 from somewhere across the country, so they
12 could veto that?

13 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So I think
15 the argument the Islanders or the NEC would
16 make was that this is almost an
17 impossibility.

18 MR. MEYER: That's correct. The
19 rangers could or any team could at this
20 point, yes.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: With respect
22 to the number of games, under the lease the
23 NEC was required to produce the Islanders
24 for six games per year which would be a
25 maximum of four regular seasons and two

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2 preseason.

3 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So over the
5 ten years the total we could have gotten,
6 total required to get was 40 regular season
7 games?

8 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We have gone
10 through a year already so at this point
11 going forward, the total they would be
12 required to produce would be 36 games.

13 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Under this
15 agreement we get 54 games in a shortened
16 time period?

17 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: And the
19 potential for postseason action, correct?

20 MR. MEYER: Agreed, yes.

21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Then there's
22 the other issue which is this, we anticipate
23 Belmont going forward and we expect it to go
24 forward, but some of us think that the
25 projected time line may a little aggressive

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2 and there are other unknown contingencies so
3 there may be a possibility beyond this
4 agreement of having the Islanders play at
5 the Coliseum?

6 MR. MEYER: Absolutely, that is
7 correct.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So those
9 would be the reasons to support this; is
10 that correct?

11 MR. MEYER: Yes, agreed, and
12 Belmont wasn't considered at the time this
13 was entered into, the original lease was
14 entered into, and just for the reasons you
15 stated, that's correct.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Anyone else
17 have any questions of Mr. Meyers?
18 Legislator Abrahams.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
20 Presiding Officer Nicolello. Josh, just
21 some quick questions and I think the
22 Presiding Officer started to touch on them a
23 little bit.

24 You had mentioned that if any NEC
25 fails to bring the Islanders into the

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2 Coliseum for last than 54 games they would
3 do a best faith effort to be able to -- I
4 didn't catch the answer on the ending part
5 of that?

6 MR. MEYER: Which one was that?

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If they
8 failed to bring 54 games to the Coliseum
9 over the next three years it would be a best
10 good faith effort to do what?

11 MR. MEYER: I'm not sure that I
12 said anything about the good faith effort,
13 if they failed to bring the AHL team, then
14 they would use good faith efforts to bring
15 back professional a hockey team. That's
16 under the AHL provision.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So after
18 the three years, if they fail, after the
19 three years, they would attempt to try to
20 bring back an AHL team?

21 MR. MEYER: At any time within
22 that period, they fail to provide the -- to
23 play the 54 games that the Coliseum or if
24 hockey is not played in Nassau or Suffolk
25 County, they will use good faith efforts to

1 Full Legislature/2-26-18
2 bring a professional hockey team of some
3 sort to the Coliseum.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I
5 understand.

6 MR. MEYER: So that could be AHL
7 or some other professional hockey.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The
9 Presiding Officer started to talk about
10 this. Let me ask your thoughts on
11 elaborating on the fact of removal of the
12 AHL clause versus a deferment over the life
13 of the agreement.

14 Can you explain to the
15 Legislative body why we would chose to just
16 outright remove the clause rather than just
17 defer it to a later time?

18 MR. MEYER: I believe it was a
19 negotiated agreement with NEC.

20 They had come to the county.
21 They are not required -- they could pay
22 their penalty to the county for failure to
23 bring the Islanders here.

24 They offered to bring the
25 Islanders here for the 54 games over the

1 Full Legislature/2-26-18
2 compressed time period. It was an arm's
3 length negotiation with them.

4 Belmont wasn't considered and
5 contemplated at the time the agreement was
6 entered into.

7 They came to the county,
8 requested the relief. At the time that they
9 entered into the negotiation, this is what
10 the administration felt was in the best
11 interest. They could have deferred it.

12 But, like I said, it was an arm's
13 length negotiation. So they could have
14 chosen to waive it or defer it as you said.

15 This cleans the slate with regard
16 to the AHL for reasons that we could talk
17 about in executive session. There are
18 difficulties associated with either
19 deferring it or potentially defaulting the
20 Islanders in connection with the AHL
21 requirement.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I know we
23 have discussed in other meetings the
24 deferment versus the removal but -- and part
25 of my understanding is that an AHL team

1 Full Legislature/2-26-18
2 could not play here because obviously AHL
3 teams and NHL teams do not play in the same
4 proximity of each other; that was the
5 understanding that was given?

6 MR. MEYER: Not at the same
7 venue.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But in my
9 research I think that's inaccurate because
10 the San Jose Sharks and the San Jose
11 Barracudas do play in the same venue.

12 MR. MEYER: Yes, that's correct.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Same arena.
14 So I'm not too sure if that logic makes any
15 relevance to what we're --

16 MR. MEYER: I think there is some
17 understanding, there are certainly NHL teams
18 and two venues that do that.

19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: But the
20 correspondence that we had gotten was that
21 it's not possible to do it. But it is
22 possible because it happened in San Jose.

23 MR. MEYER: It is possible but
24 potentially that 50 mile radius did not
25 affect those arenas so it was not an issue.

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2 They could play in the same arena. So those
3 circumstances would be different than they
4 are here. But it could be -- but this opens
5 up and frees up the Islanders ability to
6 play at this arena and not to be impacted by
7 the potential for conflict with the AHL
8 team.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: We were
10 also told it was a matter of scheduling by
11 folks over at NEC that scheduling would
12 become very difficult to do if you have AHL
13 and NHL team there.

14 How is this that San Jose is able
15 to not have any problem scheduling but we
16 are? Is it the Coliseum at a greater amount
17 of use that we are aware of than the other
18 facilities?

19 MR. MEYER: Not necessarily. It
20 just eases in the scheduling of it. Would
21 it be impossible? That's one aspect of it
22 that it would impact it. It's not
23 impossible.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. I
25 think ultimately obviously the county --

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2 first and foremost, we all want the
3 Islanders back. I think we've missed the
4 Islanders not being here for several years.

5 I talked to the businesses along
6 Hempstead Turnpike, Merrick, they all want
7 the Islanders back. They all believe it's
8 vital to the future of the county and even
9 if it's for a brief period of time, who
10 knows, it could be even longer. I think
11 that would be satisfactory.

12 That being said, for us. It's a
13 bit concerning that the administration was
14 able to go forward by outright removing a
15 clause which really we didn't have to do.

16 I mean, I think we kind of
17 negotiated against ourselves. The Islanders
18 were not happy in Brooklyn.

19 I think both sides of the aisle
20 proved that. Whether it was the Islanders
21 or NEC or Barclay, they all substantiated
22 that were not happy in Brooklyn.

23 In essence, we basically gave up
24 a clause in the contract not for a deferment
25 during this period of time, we gave it up

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2 forever.

3 Yes, NEC has brought in the Nets
4 and they have gone well above their
5 requirement of bringing in Grammy award
6 artists, I don't -- I can't wrap my mind
7 around the fact that we gave up something
8 but in the same vein we gave up something
9 knowing full well the Islanders had nowhere
10 else to go.

11 MR. MEYER: The Islanders had
12 every right to play that fourth year, 2018,
13 2019 season at Barclays. They have that
14 absolute right. So they're bringing those
15 12 games next season, and that could have
16 been negotiated differently. They didn't
17 have to come back here. They could have
18 continued to potentially play at Barclays.

19 But the main goal, to bring the
20 Islanders back here, that's the decision
21 that was made. And it's not as you
22 indicated respectfully that that's a done
23 deal, that's the proposed amendment before
24 this board.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So if I'm

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2 understanding you correctly, it was integral
3 in the deal that we give up the AHL clause
4 and remove it from the contract to be able
5 to get the Islanders to come back for 54
6 games?

7 MR. MEYER: That was one aspect
8 of the negotiations, yes.

9 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So if that
10 aspect of the negotiations was not
11 considered, we wouldn't have the Islanders
12 potentially playing 54 games over the next
13 three years, were would they have gone?
14 They would have stayed at Barclays for that
15 period of time?

16 MR. MEYER: The Islanders had the
17 absolute right to play in that fourth season
18 and they are currently in negotiations.
19 They haven't finalized the negotiations to
20 come back here. This is a condition
21 precedent, the passage of this amendment, in
22 order for the Islanders and for Brooklyn
23 Sports Entertainment.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So if I'm
25 understanding you correctly, Nassau County

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2 taxpayers are supposed to believe that
3 despite what they have been reading about in
4 the paper about the Islanders not being
5 happy at Barclays, we thought that would
6 jeopardize our potential to bring them back
7 to Nassau if we pushed for deferment and not
8 an outright removal of this clause?

9 MR. MEYER: That's a possibility
10 that was in -- as I said, there were a
11 number of issues in the negotiations and
12 that was one issue.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
14 Josh.

15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
16 DeRiggi-Whitton.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
18 Thank you. Josh, anticipating Islander fans
19 coming to the Coliseum, I had a number of
20 calls about the parking, not only the price
21 but that it's impossible to get a receipt
22 for the parking. I don't know if you have
23 been aware of this or have anything to do
24 with it, but I think it's a real fiduciary
25 question because the county is supposed to

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2 get a certain percentage of it, and keeping
3 track of it with some kind of clicker. It
4 seems like a very antiquated system.

5 I know it's a little outside of
6 your realm, but if there's any way we can
7 ask for maybe an audit of the parking
8 revenue or something just to make sure we're
9 getting the fair share for that.

10 MR. MEYER: Sure. And you're
11 saying that the patrons are not able to
12 receive a receipt on-site?

13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
14 Absolutely not. And supposedly they have a
15 clicker that people are keeping track,
16 taking cash. There no automated way of
17 counting that money.

18 It's a lot of money now that the
19 fees are so high. The county does get a
20 percentage contractually.

21 The other question I have and
22 it's completely hypothetical but say that
23 the interests at this point might want to
24 sell their interests with the contract with
25 the Coliseum.

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2 How is that going to go forward?

3 MR. MEYER: Pursuant to the
4 existing lease, the county has any approval
5 rights over any assignment of the rights
6 under the lease.

7 It's five years from the date of
8 substantial completion that the county would
9 have that right subsequent to that and
10 subject to significant due diligence
11 obviously to whomever it would be assigned.

12 And, after that, the county would
13 still do their due diligence but the
14 entities, the current tenant has the ability
15 to assign subsequent to that time.

16 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
17 Okay. So in that case then it wouldn't come
18 before the Legislature?

19 MR. MEYER: No. Within the first
20 five years from substantial completion which
21 was last April.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
23 if it happens after the five years it would
24 not come before the Legislature, am I
25 understanding you correctly?

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2 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

3 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
4 we would really -- where would that stand as
5 far as things like Kevan was just
6 mentioning, would we have any say as to how
7 many Islander games we would get? Would we
8 have any say in that lease with the new
9 owner potentially?

10 MR. MEYER: With the new owners,
11 they would still be required to abide by
12 this amendment and the terms of the existing
13 lease, absolutely, and the county would
14 still do their full due diligence on
15 whomever and they have that right to do the
16 full due diligence on whomever would take
17 over the assignment.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
19 the assignment can't happen for five years,
20 correct?

21 MR. MEYER: Correct.

22 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: And
23 if it does, they would have to withhold all
24 of the agreements in the present --

25 MR. MEYER: Absolutely. And

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2 subsequent to that five year period. They
3 have to abide by the terms of the lease
4 including this amendment.

5 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: If
6 there is anything that you can find out
7 about that parking just let me know because
8 I did say I would try to request an audit, I
9 don't know if you would that or how we can
10 try to get a better handle on it.

11 MR. MEYER: Absolutely and there
12 are provisions where they're required to
13 give us the back up and documentation for
14 all of that, but in terms specifically about
15 the receipts, the patrons will follow-up
16 with that.

17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
18 appreciate it. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
20 Drucker was next.

21 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you,
22 Presiding Officer Nicolello. Just to
23 continue in the same vein minority that our
24 Minority Leader was questioning you about,
25 we been informed that there is currently a

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2 negotiation concerning an updated deal that
3 would involve the Islanders playing
4 significantly more games at the Coliseum.

5 Can you talk about that and tell
6 us what the nature of that negotiation is
7 and where we're at?

8 MR. MEYER: I don't have
9 information on that. As I indicated,
10 Brooklyn Sports Entertainment that operates
11 the Barclays Center as well as operates the
12 Coliseum is in negotiations with the
13 Islanders, those agreements have not been
14 finalized. This amendment is a condition
15 precedent to them finalizing their
16 agreement.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I realize
18 that but can you tell us about how many more
19 games they're interested in playing?

20 MR. MEYER: No. We do not have
21 that information at this time. Their
22 minimum is the 54 set forth here.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: It seems to
24 me here that the sentiment I'm seeing -- and
25 I even read something today from Mr. Yormark

1 Full Legislature/2-26-18
2 himself referring to the Islanders as a rent
3 a team going forward. Kind of a disparaging
4 remark I think indicating they're
5 unhappiness and uneasiness and the Islanders
6 continuing to play in Brooklyn and welcoming
7 the opportunity for them to get out the door
8 as fast as possible.

9 With that being said, I'm
10 concerned as our Minority Leader was
11 indicating, why are we so quick to waive
12 that clause?

13 It couldn't have been a
14 dispositive deal breaker. Couldn't we have
15 deferred it? It seemed we are cutting off
16 our nose despite our face in that regard.

17 MR. MEYER: As I said, there were
18 a number of provisions that were requested
19 and relief requested associated with the
20 lease. This is what it was narrowed down
21 to. This was one aspect of it.

22 As a number of people have said,
23 the number one goal was to get the Islanders
24 back to the Coliseum.

25 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But we knew

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2 we were going to get them back for some
3 games.

4 MR. MEYER: That's not
5 necessarily true. The NEC paid the penalty
6 monthly for the first year of their
7 agreement post substantial completion, and
8 they might have continued to pay that
9 penalty if it was in their economic interest
10 to bring the Islanders back.

11 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: And they
12 stood to make a lot more money renting out
13 that Barclays Center each night for concerts
14 more so than the 7,000 fans that showed up
15 for the Islander game.

16 MR. MEYER: That's possible.

17 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
19 Bynoe.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you,
21 Presiding Officer. On the same point of
22 absolving them of their requirement to
23 maintain an NHL commitment, or commitment to
24 find a team to play.

25 So, absent of an AHL team, I'm

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2 left to question how do they maintain their
3 relevancy? How will they be relevant,
4 Nassau Coliseum, have they provided us a
5 plan as to how they will conduct business
6 once the Islanders have left and gone to
7 Belmont? Because this seems pretty far
8 sited in the sense that they're not seeing
9 out into the future.

10 We, as the fiduciary of this
11 county, we have to look beyond the
12 Islanders. I think it's great and the
13 overall goal is to get the Islanders here.

14 But we need the revenue that
15 comes in from the Coliseum. If they are not
16 relevant or we're not keeping their feet to
17 the fire so that we know there is an end
18 game, something that we can generate revenue
19 down the road, I'm concerned. I am
20 concerned.

21 So was there any plan that was
22 provided to identify how they will conduct
23 business thereafter since we will no longer
24 require an AHL team?

25 MR. MEYER: There is not a

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2 specific plan they have provided. What I
3 think we need to keep in mind is that the
4 AHL team by any stretch of the imagination
5 was not a revenue windfall for the county.

6 There was a requirement of the
7 original RFP. The proposers at the time
8 said this is not going to be a windfall,
9 they're cheaper tickets, they're not
10 accessibly well attended in many instances.

11 The NEC is actually backfilled
12 prior to the AHL team requirement going away
13 with the G league team, which is the minor
14 league basketball team.

15 So that's potentially equivalent
16 is what we understood and the lease itself
17 is drafted in a way to incentive the tenant
18 to generate as much revenue as possible
19 during any given lease year because the
20 county gets a percentage of that and they
21 keep the remainder. That's why it was
22 drafted the way it was and they're
23 specifically incentivized to continue to
24 increase their revenue.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So that G

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2 league team, the Nets, I don't think that
3 they're selling a whole bunch of tickets and
4 your saying that would be the equivalent of
5 having an AHL team there?

6 MR. MEYER: From our
7 understanding it's not as significant a
8 difference from a revenue perspective
9 between the G league and the AHL.

10 The main event in the lease was
11 to maintain professional hockey in Nassau
12 County in some fashion. If the Islanders
13 weren't coming back from Barclays we have
14 AHL team here.

15 Now I would say potentially, say
16 potentially, in Belmont you would have the
17 Islanders and the county will continue to
18 get that benefit of professional hockey and
19 the sales tax, the entertainment tax is
20 generated from that.

21 But, as I said, the main event
22 was to keep professional hockey in Nassau
23 County in some fashion and that is
24 potentially what will end up happening.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Yes. I agree

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2 with the sales tax, those things are a
3 benefit to the county if they're out in
4 Belmont, and more importantly the residents
5 are able to easily access games and I get
6 that.

7 I just hope that this is not some
8 way of an exit strategy from the Coliseum at
9 some point no longer existing.

10 I can't, in my mind's eyes, see
11 it, with Belmont coming with all the bells
12 and whistles, they're going to be brand new
13 state of the art arena, and we are not
14 protecting our interests.

15 I just think that we could have
16 done a better job coordinating this.

17 MR. MEYER: And just to address
18 that, we do have the protection from the
19 annual minimum rent that we are entitled to
20 receive in the lease the \$4 million right
21 now.

22 So we've protected ourselves on
23 the downside on that and believe that we've
24 incentivized the county to increase -- the
25 tenant to increase the upside to the revenue

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2 share provision in the lease.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Minimum is
4 minimum, right, and so we want to see a best
5 case scenario. We don't want to see any
6 minimum revenue derived from the Coliseum.
7 I will leave it at that.

8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I would
9 actually agree with you, Legislator Bynoe,
10 in terms of the Belmont when and if it
11 actually gets built it's going to be a very
12 strong competitor for the Coliseum. I'm not
13 sure exactly how that's going to work out to
14 the betterment of Coliseum. I don't think
15 it is actually.

16 But just a couple of other
17 points. The Sharks, the San Jose Sharks and
18 I guess the Barracudas, which I'm assuming
19 is their AHL team play at the same arena.

20 The difference here is this, the
21 Islanders already said they are not moving
22 their Bridgeport Sound Tigers out of
23 Bridgeport.

24 So the only AHL that you could
25 get here is an AHL team from another

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2 franchise.

3 So the question is, would the
4 Islanders ever, assuming they are playing at
5 Belmont, approve of another franchise as an
6 AHL team playing at the Coliseum as somewhat
7 competition? For example, the Rangers, they
8 would never want the Rangers to be playing
9 in the Coliseum, it would be direct
10 competition.

11 I think it's not exact
12 comparison. I seriously doubt that the
13 Islanders would ever allow any other AHL
14 team to play at the Coliseum when they're
15 playing at Belmont.

16 Second, in terms of where the
17 Islanders are going to go, the AHL, Gary
18 Bettman does not want them at the Coliseum,
19 let's be clear about that. He's been clear
20 about that for years.

21 The only reason he has agreed to
22 this is the Governor has exerted some
23 pressure on him, the Coliseum is substandard
24 by NHL standards. The NHL requires 7,500
25 seats, require a certain number of luxury

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2 boxes.

3 The NHL does not want the
4 Islanders here. If it comes back to the
5 Islanders being here for any length of time,
6 I think the NHL's impetus will be for the
7 Islanders to go elsewhere and play in an
8 arena that's up to standards.

9 The sport right now is booming.
10 They put a franchise in Las Vegas, filling
11 it up every night.

12 They're putting another one in
13 Seattle in another year or so.

14 So I think from the NHL's
15 perspective in a market where you have the
16 Rangers and Devils, if the Islanders move
17 elsewhere, I don't know if they would
18 necessarily be all that upset.

19 Then, one of the reasons the NHL
20 is doing this Bettman is doing this because
21 Governor Cuomo exerted his pressure, but
22 he's also committed to putting \$6 million
23 into the facility.

24 That's money going into the
25 facility that the Nassau County taxpayers

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2 will ultimately benefit because we own the
3 facility and it makes a more attractive
4 venue.

5 I think that we touched on some
6 of the issues, but I don't think we touched
7 on the whole picture.

8 You have the Governor involved,
9 you have him exerting pressure which is what
10 made this take place and the \$6 million is
11 contingent upon it.

12 Long term, you know, you can make
13 a guess as to whether the Islanders are
14 going to come back or not, it is a guess,
15 and it is a spin of the roulette wheel, and
16 we may be back in a position where we push
17 the Islanders away again. That's the way
18 I'm looking at it.

19 MR. MEYER: And the way the NHL
20 is structured, they want the team to go to
21 the best facility because they all share in
22 the overall revenues being generated by each
23 team. So they're incentivized to make sure
24 it goes to what they consider the best
25 facility. Legislator Abrahams.

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2 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
3 Presiding Officer Nicoletto. And just to
4 summarize, I think I agree with everything
5 Presiding Officer Nicoletto said in regards
6 to San Jose, the Sharks and Barracudas.

7 My only point in bringing that up
8 is that it was brought to my attention that
9 obviously that the AHL -- it wouldn't happen
10 because AHL teams don't play in the same
11 venue which, if the Islanders were
12 interested in bringing the Soundview Tigers
13 here they could, there is nothing
14 prohibiting them from doing that.

15 The second point is that, again,
16 and I truly believe that the fact that we
17 are waiving and not deferring, for the long
18 term of this agreement, and it may be
19 pennies on the dollar, I never saw a cost
20 benefit analysis that would give us some
21 level of confidence that what we would have
22 seen with an NHL team and the Islanders, if
23 they remained in Brooklyn, what that cost
24 benefit analysis would have done, I never
25 saw that. I requested it from

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2 representatives of NEC but I never saw it.

3 That being said, I would have
4 liked to have seen what that would have
5 meant because it seems like to me by waiving
6 the clause and rather deferring it, going to
7 Legislator Bynoe's point, once Belmont is
8 built, are we going to be sitting with a
9 building that goes dark?

10 I can't see how the venues at the
11 Coliseum now, why they would show up if
12 there's a brand new state of the art
13 facility that can house more people that
14 sits down the road. And, to me, it may not
15 be apparent now because, yes, we are getting
16 the Islanders back for 54 games, which is
17 phenomenal, but it may become very apparent
18 in 2025 or 2027 when the Islanders are moved
19 into their new facility and we're having
20 trouble booking new kids on the block to
21 come to the Coliseum.

22 So, that being said, I'm
23 extremely concerned about the waiving rather
24 than the deferring. I thought we could have
25 accomplished the very same thing by

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2 deferring it rather than waiving it, but
3 that's not what's before us today.

4 We have to consider obviously the
5 risk of voting no instead of fighting for an
6 actual deferment versus the Islanders
7 packing up their bags and saying, you know
8 what, we're not going to play at the
9 Coliseum, we'll just stay at Barclays.

10 That's kind of what we're faced
11 with and that shouldn't be but that's the
12 reality.

13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
14 Rhoads.

15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
16 Presiding Officer. Josh, just a quick
17 question what happens if there's a labor
18 stoppage, or a lockout?

19 MR. MEYER: Labor stoppage or
20 lockout beyond controllable circumstance
21 under the lease, so they would receive
22 relief from playing the games under those
23 circumstances. That's outside of their
24 control and so they receive that relief for
25 the time period necessary for those

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2 situations.

3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Well, a lock
4 out by definition is under, well, it's under
5 the team's control certainly.

6 MR. MEYER: Depends if it was NHL
7 wide -- it's only if it's outside of their
8 control. If it's within their control, then
9 they don't receive relief for it.

10 If it was league wide, then they
11 would receive relief.

12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Again, we
13 don't anticipate again there being any labor
14 stoppage, but, again, when you are
15 contemplating these leases, you're trying to
16 contemplate all possible scenarios.

17 So we would lose out, we wouldn't
18 get the games and we also wouldn't get the
19 enhancement of a rent?

20 MR. MEYER: That's correct. But
21 it depends on the circumstances of it.

22 If it was outside the control, it
23 would be one thing; if it was within their
24 control, they would not get that relief,
25 that's correct.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I guess
3 obviously I mean we are all in the same
4 situation where we absolutely want the
5 Islanders to come back, we have been
6 advocating for the Islanders to come back,
7 we had press conferences, lobbied for the
8 Islanders to come back.

9 It strikes a sour note with me
10 that a month after we sat at the Coliseum
11 and had a press conference with the Governor
12 with the Islanders with Brooklyn Sports
13 Entertainment announcing the return of the
14 Islanders, knowing that the team is already
15 selling tickets to the Coliseum and has
16 accepted money for tickets that are being
17 sold at the Coliseum, to come back now and
18 say, well, unless you pass this, there's no
19 deal and we are still somehow at the
20 negotiating table.

21 It seems sort of like closing the
22 barn door are the horses are gone and I'm
23 just concerned that we're selling ourselves
24 short here.

25 Even with respect to the good

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2 faith efforts to bring back professional
3 hockey teams to the Coliseum through June of
4 2032 if the Islanders, after they play the
5 54 games, decide that they're not going to
6 play in Nassau or Suffolk if Belmont falls
7 through, we've lost the enhanced minimum
8 rent through the AHL team requirement even
9 though NEC is still responsible to make
10 their good faith efforts to bring back a
11 professional hockey team; is that right?

12 MR. MEYER: So that the enhanced
13 minimum rent is for the Islanders and if
14 they're not playing in Nassau or Suffolk
15 anymore, the county would get that million
16 dollars.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So if there
18 was no AHL team, NEC would be default --
19 that's the -- pursuant to the lease as it
20 exists now?

21 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I kind of see
23 it as we don't have a choice.

24 MR. MEYER: Which as I said
25 raises its own set of issues which we can

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2 discuss in executive session but that is the
3 choice.

4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I have no
5 other questions. Thank you.

6 MR. MEYER: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Do we have
8 any other questions or discussions for
9 Mr. Meyers?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 Thank you very much, Josh. Do we
12 have any other comments or discussion among
13 the legislators?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 Do we have any public comment?
16 Mr. Budnick.

17 MR. BUDNICK: Good afternoon
18 Honorable Members. Thank you for putting up
19 with me again.

20 I heard I thought in the
21 announcement of the caption for this matter
22 that there was some mention made of either
23 including capital or physical changes
24 potentially at the Coliseum.

25 I just wanted to make sure we're

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2 not waiving the rights of the County
3 Department of Public Works; County Fire
4 Marshal's Office; County Department of
5 Health; et cetera, to okay any demanded
6 changes by the Islanders in this case of the
7 physical plant that is the Coliseum. Thank
8 you. That's my question.

9 MS. MEREDAY: Meta Mereday. With
10 regard to the situation I see that you've
11 kind of placed yourself in, my concerns have
12 to be with the fact that we've already spent
13 millions of dollars doing work at the
14 Coliseum and good, bad or indifferent,
15 however the Belmont situation shakes out,
16 it's been publicized that the Islanders are
17 coming back to the Coliseum, but I didn't
18 hear anybody mention anything about the fact
19 that we've already put a significant
20 investment of taxpayer dollars into the
21 Coliseum itself and talking about the impact
22 on the community.

23 Nobody has talked about the roads
24 themselves that lead to the Coliseum those
25 communities that have already been impacted

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2 and there are number of alternatives that
3 maybe NEC can look into in addition to just
4 this focus on the Islanders because that is
5 a facility that we are collectively
6 responsible for.

7 So, in speaking with regard to
8 what the public interests are we need to
9 start broadening the scope. We too often
10 seem to put too many eggs in one basket, and
11 then when you drop that basket you end up
12 with the yolk on your faces but it impacts
13 us the taxpayers.

14 So, you really have to look at
15 what is the overall anticipated revenue that
16 you've been expecting from this whole return
17 of the Islanders. And when and if, it looks
18 like more when than if, Belmont gets built
19 even with all its bells and whistles, the
20 Coliseum itself, again, it was a memorial
21 Coliseum built to recognize our veterans,
22 and I never hear that incorporated in the
23 statement when we talk about the Coliseum,
24 but what are you going to be doing that's
25 going to impact building out the resources

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2 and the activities within that Coliseum?

3 The whole San Jose market is
4 different, so there is no point in comparing
5 what happens in the San Jose market with
6 what happens here in Nassau County. We have
7 to be a little more forward thinking in
8 continuing to look at what we're putting our
9 money out for originally to address those
10 issues.

11 So it would be nice to hear about
12 those types of things because the funding
13 that is supposed to be designated for even
14 Uniondale for that road which is a major
15 roadway to the Coliseum for many residents
16 that live on the South Shore, so let's look
17 at how we can broaden the scope and make the
18 Coliseum work, whether it's with Belmont or
19 without Belmont, but let's start looking at
20 what the taxpayers need to have for
21 themselves.

22 And if you said you are going to
23 bring the Islanders, back make it happen.
24 Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Ms. Mereday, I

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2 just want to correct you on something. The
3 renovations at the Coliseum, they were not
4 done with taxpayer money. Brett Ratner and
5 NEC, they paid for it with private funds,
6 \$120 million in the renovation of the
7 Coliseum.

8 MS. MEREDAY: But they were
9 issued pilots.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: I don't think,
11 were they significant?

12 MS. MEREDAY: Any payment in lieu
13 of taxes is significant.

14 LEGISLATOR FORD: But it's county
15 land it wouldn't be taxable anyway. Most of
16 the revenue we would from the Coliseum would
17 be basically the rent that they pay and if
18 they have events there we have a different
19 type of contract now so that whatever they
20 have, we would get greater revenue from like
21 the sodas and food and stuff like that.

22 MS. MEREDAY: Right. But as I
23 sat here -- sorry to cut you off, I hear the
24 Presiding Officer talk about the pressure
25 that the governor exerted, and this \$6

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2 million he said specifically would benefit
3 the taxpayers of Nassau County.

4 The taxpayers are still waiting
5 to get benefits from a lot of the decisions
6 that are made here.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: But the \$6
8 million actually that the governor spoke
9 about was to do the renovation to the
10 Coliseum in anticipation of the Islanders
11 coming back to play a certain number of
12 games prior to them moving to Belmont once
13 that goes through.

14 There had to be some work done I
15 think for the ice and -- I'm not a hockey
16 person, like something to help them play
17 there.

18 But that's through New York State
19 funding. I think that with all of us, we
20 are just concerned we all had dreamt that
21 the Islanders would come back to the
22 Coliseum and stay, but obviously that's not
23 going to be case.

24 They are going to play a certain
25 number of games, it's our understanding.

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2 That's why I guess we have to vote on this
3 whether or not to waive that \$1 million fee
4 that they would have had to pay if they
5 didn't have so many games played as the AHL
6 team.

7 So we're hoping that maybe if
8 this passes that the Islanders would then
9 come to the Coliseum as they have indicated
10 that they are selling tickets based on that
11 that they will come back and play a certain
12 number of games.

13 I'm concerned about Belmont
14 myself. What is it going to do to the
15 Coliseum? I think the comments that were
16 made up here that that will be more state of
17 the art, easier access, it's right on the
18 Long Island Railroad, near highways and
19 stuff, so what is going to be the future of
20 the Coliseum?

21 MS. MEREDAY: But again no one is
22 talking about even that impact on the
23 residents in Elmont, who spoke about that
24 issue, with regard to Belmont, and, again, I
25 did not hear here anyone speaking about

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2 good, bad, or indifferent the impact on the
3 residents.

4 But you're talking about, you're
5 supposed to be representing the interests of
6 the taxpayer. So it's not saving money if
7 it's not improving their quality of life,
8 then there is an issue for those of us who
9 have to pay the taxes here if we're not
10 hearing that our elected officials are not
11 speaking to our interests.

12 Because I didn't hear anyone
13 speak to the interests of the taxpayers, the
14 residents that have to put up with the
15 increases in that area.

16 Memorial Sloan Kettering is
17 building that facility there. There is
18 going to be another retail market there.

19 LEGISLATOR FORD: Which also has
20 been settled between the two partners and
21 stuff like that. But just bear in mind
22 also, despite everything in the future of
23 the Coliseum, the one thing about the
24 Coliseum, it was owned by the county and it
25 was in very, very bad condition.

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2 So it needed to be renovated,
3 fixed, cleaned up, whatever.

4 The fact is, it would have cost
5 us many tens of millions of dollars to
6 renovate the Coliseum with taxpayer funding.

7 Now we had somebody who did come
8 in and renovate it and gave us a brand new
9 Coliseum that can be used for a variety of
10 reasons and we need to then look at this
11 moving forward in economic development to
12 see what we can do.

13 MS. MEREDAY: That's all I'm
14 saying, but we have to look at the
15 infrastructure and we have to consider the
16 residents in those communities who are
17 continuing as we speak to suffer with bad
18 roads, poor lighting and things of that
19 nature and we still have to pay the taxes
20 here.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: I agree.

22 MS. MEREDAY: That's what I
23 wanted to say. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
25 Any other public comment? Minority Leader

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2 Abrahams.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Josh, I
4 know you have been back and forth to the
5 podium, and I don't know if this is the
6 venue and I know the hour is becoming late
7 but we would like, if you could, in speaking
8 for the majority as well, brief both sides,
9 maybe not today, but maybe our counsels.

10 I think Legislator Ford kind of
11 alluded to the fact that obviously we all
12 read in the paper about the settlement
13 between Blumenfeld and I guess it's Forest
14 City in this case.

15 MR. MEYER: That's correct.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: If you
17 could share with our counsel some type of
18 briefing on what means and how that will
19 impact the Islanders coming back and
20 obviously the Islanders coming back with the
21 understanding that they're coming back with
22 utilizing the parking and also Memorial
23 Sloan Kettering, whatever you can share with
24 our counsels I think that would be
25 beneficial to both sides.

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2 MR. MEYER: Absolutely. I will
3 be happy to do that.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
6 Ferretti.

7 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Josh, thank
8 you for your testimony. The county has
9 already received \$1 million in penalties
10 from NEC, correct?

11 MR. MEYER: Just shy of one
12 million, \$83,000 a month since last April,
13 that's correct.

14 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: But it will
15 be \$1 million, they're going to continue
16 paying?

17 MR. MEYER: They just paid the
18 February enhancement in rent and until the
19 Islanders agreement is signed and received,
20 what is in their 54 games or 60 games, they
21 would continue to pay that through the end
22 of the current lease year which is June.

23 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: And the
24 current agreement caps that at \$1 million
25 for ten years, correct?

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2 MR. MEYER: It's \$1 million a
3 year, the fifth year it actually goes up by
4 ten percent to \$1.1 million.

5 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: So what is
6 the total if they were to never play a game
7 at the new Coliseum, what would be the total
8 that they would be on the hook for?

9 MR. MEYER: If they never play
10 again including these next three years are
11 you saying?

12 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Correct.

13 MR. MEYER: It would be basically
14 nine years, a million dollars a year for the
15 next four years, plus \$1.1 million times six
16 years, almost \$9 million.

17 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Okay. By
18 waiving the million dollar minimum payment
19 penalty?

20 MR. MEYER: That's correct.
21 That's if, like I said, the requirement was
22 to play the six games. That's being
23 compressed right now, but that's correct
24 based on your question.

25 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Do you have

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2 any projections as to what the financial
3 benefit the county gets per game from an
4 Islander game, being their sales tax, the
5 per ticket tax, et cetera?

6 MR. MEYER: Right. We don't have
7 that at this time.

8 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: But it's
9 fair to say that 54 games would mitigate a
10 substantial portion if not all of the money
11 not collected on the --

12 MR. MEYER: We believe that to be
13 the case and that's what NEC has conveyed to
14 us, yes.

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I think
17 that's it. Thank you again, Josh.

18 MR. MEYER: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
20 questions?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 Hearing none, I'm going to call
23 the question. All in favor of this item
24 signify by saying aye.

25 (Aye.)

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2 Those opposed?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 The item carries unanimously.

5 That being said, I don't believe we have any
6 more business. So I take a motion -- I'm
7 going to place this meeting of the
8 Legislature in recess.

9 (Whereupon, the Full Legislative
10 Committee recessed at 4:58 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 13th day of March, 2018.

FRANK GRAY