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4	NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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9	RULES COMMITTEE
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14	RICHARD NICOLELLO, Chairman
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18	1550 Franklin Avenue
19	Mineola, New York
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22	Monday, May 7, 2018
23	1:11 P.M
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2	<u>L</u>	IST	OF	SPEAKER	S	
3						
4	LIEUTENANT G	REG	STE	PHANOFF		8
5	NORMAN GERSM	AN.				10
6	NANCY STANTO	N				1 7
7	META MEREDAY					18
8	DAVID RICH .					19
9	KEN ARNOLD .					2 1
10	BRIAN NUGENT					4 3
11	BRIAN LIBERT					4 4
12	PAUL BRODERI	CK.				4 7
13	VICKI CORDOV	A				5 0
14	LISA LOCURTO					63
15	BRIAN HALL .					7 6
16	ASSISTANT CH	IEF	PRI	EST		9 5
17	GREGORY MAY					9 7
18	NICOLAS SERA	NDIS				102
19	KEVIN WALSH					107
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						

1		
2	INSERTS	
3		
4	By Reference:	
5	Consent Clerk Items:	
6	169, 172, 173, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 185 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 196	
7	197, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, addendum 214.	1
8	Locate in minutes of the Public Safety; Planning/Development; Public Works;	
9	Health and Social Services; Finance Committees dated 5-7-1886	-
10	rinance committees dated 5-7-10	,
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- 2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I'd ask the
- 3 Rules Committee to come to the chamber.
- 4 Let's start the committee off as we always
- 5 do by the Pledge of Allegiance and ask
- 6 Legislator Colonel Bill Gaylor to please
- 7 lead us.
- 8 (The Pledge of Allegiance was
- 9 recited.)
- 10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Mike, would
- 11 you call the roll, please?
- 12 CLERK PULITZER: Thank you. Roll
- 13 call Rules Committee. Legislator Siela
- 14 Bynoe?
- 15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.
- 16 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Delia
- 17 DeRiggi-Whitton?
- 18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Here.
- 19 CLERK PULITZER: Ranking Member
- 20 Kevan Abrahams?
- 21 (No verbal response.)
- 22 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator Laura
- 23 Schaefer?
- LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.
- 25 CLERK PULITZER: Legislator

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Steven Rhoads?
- 3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Here.
- 4 CLERK PULITZER: Vice-Chairman
- 5 Howard Kopel?
- 6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.
- 7 CLERK PULITZER: And Chairman
- 8 Richard Nicolello?
- 9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Here.
- 10 CLERK PULITZER: We have a
- 11 quorum, sir.
- 12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I'm here.
- 13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
- 14 We are all here. Before we start, two
- 15 things I wanted to mention. First is for
- 16 those who are here to speak on Tobacco 21,
- 17 that will be presented in the Health
- 18 Committee first.
- 19 What we do first here is we cover
- 20 the contracts in the Rules Committee that
- 21 will take a little bit of time and I believe
- 22 there may be a committee or two before
- 23 Health. So you have a little bit of time
- 24 before Tobacco 21 actually will be called.
- Secondly, I have a slip from

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Mr. Gene Monahan. There is no item today
- 3 with respect to the fueling of marine
- 4 vehicles. So there's nothing to come and
- 5 speak to us before on this issue today.
- On the Full Legislature on May
- 7 23rd there also will be no item but we do
- 8 have a half hour of public comment so it's
- 9 more appropriate to come and make general
- 10 comments at that time.
- But, again, there is no specific
- 12 item with which Mr. Monahan wants to speak.
- 13 So there is no opportunity today to speak on
- 14 that fire prevention ordinance for Nassau
- 15 County.
- We are going to go right to the
- 17 rules, the contracts in the Rules Committee.
- 18 I'm starting with Contract E-45
- 19 of 2018, a resolution authorizing the County
- 20 Executive to execute a personal services
- 21 agreement between the County of Nassau
- 22 acting on behalf of the Nassau County Police
- 23 Department and Crime Victim Center, Inc.
- 24 D/b/a/ Parents for Megan's Law.
- 25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.
- 3 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 4 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
- 5 Schaefer.
- 6 LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Good
- 7 afternoon. Lieutenant Greg Stephanoff,
- 8 Nassau County Police Department.
- 9 Item E-45-18 is an item, a
- 10 contract with Parents for Megan's Law. The
- 11 contractor will assist the department in its
- 12 goal of the prevention of childhood sexual
- abuse by providing a hotline to access
- 14 information about sex offenders, literature,
- 15 outreach to increase dissemination of sex
- 16 offender notifications and counseling
- 17 referrals to the Nassau Coalition Against
- 18 Child Abuse and Neglect.
- 19 The contract is late. We had
- 20 trouble with the disclosure forms with
- 21 Parents for Megan's Law. They went back and
- 22 forth a little bit with our legal bureau.
- 23 We don't pay by service for them like we're
- 24 not getting anything and paying them.
- We subsidize them as an entity

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 for the things that they do to combat sex
- 3 abuse.
- 4 So they get sources of funding
- 5 and we are one of the sources of funding
- 6 that helps them function.
- 7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
- 8 Lieutenant. They do a fantastic job in a
- 9 very important and serious area. Do any
- 10 legislators have any questions?
- 11 (No verbal response.)
- 12 Is there any public comment?
- 13 (No verbal response.)
- 14 All those in favor signify by
- 15 saying aye.
- 16 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 18 (No verbal response.)
- 19 That item carries unanimously.
- Thank you.
- E-46 we are not going to call
- 22 that at this time. It's tied to an item
- 23 that will go through the committees a little
- 24 bit later on.
- 25 The Rules Committee will return

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 after those committees and consider whatever
- 3 remains to be done.
- E-47 of 2018 is a resolution
- 5 authorizing the County Executive to execute
- 6 an amendment to a personal services
- 7 agreement between the County of Nassau
- 8 acting on behalf of the office of community
- 9 develop and Tabriztchi and Company, CPA.
- 10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So moved.
- 11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second.
- 12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 13 Legislator Minority Leader Abrahams,
- 14 seconded by Legislator Bynoe.
- MR. GERSMAN: Norman Gersman from
- 16 the Office of Community Development. Good
- 17 afternoon, chairman, and members of the
- 18 committee.
- 19 This resolution is here because
- 20 about during 2011 we had a contract with
- 21 this accounting firm and they did the work.
- 22 They analyzed and they reviewed our
- 23 accounting, then they never billed us.
- Someone then in our accounting
- 25 area disencumbered the funds. The

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 accounting firm is due the money. So we
- 3 were instructed to file and submit to you an
- 4 amendment to the original contract so the
- 5 accounting firm can be paid.
- The amendment is \$40,000 and that
- 7 was the balance that was the original
- 8 contract. As I said, the work has been done
- 9 so they deserve to be paid.
- 10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: When was the
- 11 work actually done?
- MR. GERSMAN: 2011, 2012.
- 13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: How is it
- 14 that it didn't work its way back assuming
- 15 that whatever they did that was incorrect,
- 16 failure to make payments, how is it that it
- 17 took six years to get back to us?
- MR. GERSMAN: Well, from what I
- 19 know, I do know that we had contacted them
- 20 several times for them to submit bills.
- 21 They never submitted a bill. When they
- 22 finally did, as I said the money had been
- 23 disencumbered. We went through a process
- 24 with the Comptroller's Office which took
- 25 quite some time whether to determine whether

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 they would pay it or not.
- 3 Finally it was determined that an
- 4 amendment to the original contract should be
- 5 submitted.
- 6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Minority
- 7 Leader Abrahams.
- 8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Presiding
- 9 Officer answered one of my questions. Has
- 10 this contract been paid?
- MR. GERSMAN: No. Not at all.
- 12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: No money
- 13 has been furnished to this firm?
- 14 MR. GERSMAN: No. I have a copy
- of a voucher with me that will be submitted
- 16 once it's approved.
- 17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And the
- 18 \$40,000 is part of the payment of the
- 19 contract or this is the entire contract?
- 20 MR. GERSMAN: That was the entire
- 21 contract.
- 22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Okay. I
- 23 have nothing further.
- 24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
- 25 questions? Legislator Bynoe.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Could you tell
- 3 me exactly what service this firm is
- 4 providing for us?
- 5 MR. GERSMAN: They already
- 6 provided it. They reviewed our finances at
- 7 that point. Most of it was Section 8
- 8 housing and they reviewed and analyzed it
- 9 and actually restructured our financing at
- 10 that time.
- 11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: They were a
- 12 fee accountant or were they the auditor?
- MR. GERSMAN: It was an hourly
- 14 with a contract up to \$40,000.
- 15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: As fee
- 16 accountants or as auditors?
- 17 MR. GERSMAN: Fee accountants.
- 18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So there is an
- 19 aspect of compliance requirement that they
- 20 were looking -- making sure we were --
- 21 MR. GERSMAN: Absolutely. They
- 22 reviewed all our bookkeeping and accounting
- 23 and analyzed it. As I said, we restructured
- 24 according to them and it was important for
- 25 our Section 8 housing, emergency shelter

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 grant housing, and for community development
- 3 as part of the job.
- 4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: It's just odd
- 5 to me that the entity that was charged with
- 6 making sure we were in compliance failed to
- 7 be in compliance.
- 8 Are they doing any other work for
- 9 the county?
- 10 MR. GERSMAN: That I don't know.
- 11 It's odd to be me also that an accounting
- 12 firm wouldn't have a handle on the accounts
- 13 receivable.
- 14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So they were a
- one time service provider or did they
- 16 provide in years thereafter and got paid?
- 17 MR. GERSMAN: No. This is the
- 18 only contract we have had with them as far
- 19 as I know.
- LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Okay. We
- 21 should look at that as performance if they
- 22 were ever to respond again.
- MR. GERSMAN: They performed the
- 24 job, but they just --
- 25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: But there is

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 still a performance requirement, performance
- 3 issue there that they didn't themselves even
- 4 move through their finances properly to
- 5 determine that \$40,000 wasn't paid to them.
- 6 All right, thank you.
- 7 MR. GERSMAN: Correct.
- 8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Deputy
- 9 Presiding Officer Kopel.
- 10 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Yes. One
- 11 question. This is 100 percent federally
- 12 funded I see.
- MR. GERSMAN: Yes.
- 14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Was it already
- 15 funded?
- MR. GERSMAN: It was funded and
- 17 disencumbered.
- 18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: We have the
- 19 money or spent the money or what? Just in a
- 20 general fund at this point?
- MR. GERSMAN: I believe it's in a
- 22 general fund now.
- LEGISLATOR KOPEL: All right.
- 24 Thank you.
- 25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: And their

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 performance was satisfactory?
- 3 MR. GERSMAN: Yes, that's
- 4 definitely so.
- 5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: All right.
- 6 Any other questions?
- 7 (No verbal response.)
- Is there any public comment?
- 9 (No verbal response.)
- 10 All those in favor signify by
- 11 saying aye.
- 12 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 14 (No verbal response.)
- 15 Carries unanimously. Thank you,
- 16 Mr. Gersman.
- 17 MR. GERSMAN: Thank you, Mr.
- 18 Chairman.
- 19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: E-48 of
- 20 2018, a resolution authorizing the County
- 21 Executive to execute an amendment to a
- 22 personal services agreement between the
- 23 county acting on behalf of the Department of
- 24 Information Technology and Sierra Cedar,
- 25 Inc.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
- 3 moved.
- 4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.
- 5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 6 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, seconded by
- 7 Legislator Kopel. It's before us. That
- 8 puts the contract before the committee.
- 9 Let's hear about it.
- MS. STANTON: Nancy Stanton, IT.
- 11 This is for people hosting agreement. We
- 12 are looking for an extension of six months
- and \$180,000 in funds. We are working on an
- 14 RFP now for a new contract.
- 15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any
- 16 questions? Any estimate of when that new
- 17 contract would be ready to go?
- MS. STANTON: Within the next six
- 19 months hopefully.
- 20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So they will
- 21 complete their work and we will be ready to
- go whether it's with them or somebody else?
- MS. STANTON: Correct.
- 24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
- 25 questions?

Rules Committee/5-7-18 1 2 (No verbal response.) 3 Is there any public comment? 4 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday, 5 Baldwin resident. I'm just concerned with 6 regard to this being an extension on an existing contract and hearing that an RFP is 7 8 under development which would require the 9 process to take place that it has to be disseminated, information has to received, 10 11 reviewed, those particular entities who were 12 going to be applying for this would have to be vetted et cetera et cetera. 13 14 So what is the assurance that 15 they will not be coming back in another six 16 months because you're either not ready or don't have a viable candidate? 17 18 I'm doubly concerned that those that sit here on this committee have not 19 20 asked this question. 21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Ms. Stanton, 22 would you like to respond to that? 23 MS. STANTON: The RFP is well

under way at this point. We have gotten

all our feedback from the vendors and we're

24

2.5

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 making a decision. I don't see any reason
- 3 for it not to go.
- 4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
- 5 public comment?
- 6 (No verbal response.)
- 7 All those in favor signify by
- 8 saying aye.
- 9 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 11 (No verbal response.)
- 12 Carries unanimously.
- E-49 of '18, a resolution to
- 14 authorize the County Executive to execute an
- 15 amendment to a personal services agreement
- 16 between the County of Nassau acting on
- 17 behalf of the Department of IT and Quest
- 18 Computer Products, Inc.
- 19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.
- LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.
- 21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 22 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
- 23 Schaefer.
- MR. RICH: David Rich, Executive
- 25 Director of the Traffic and Parking

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Violations. This is a maintenance contract
- 3 for one year. I would just like to let you
- 4 that it was delayed and that was due to the
- 5 vendor had moved and there were some issues
- 6 getting the current insurance certificate as
- 7 well as a notary page missing. So it's
- 8 dated that it started on April 1st instead
- 9 of current.
- 10 Basically the contract is
- 11 maintenance contract for a system that was
- 12 installed back in 1995 that traffic and
- 13 parking uses. Without the maintenance
- 14 contract we wouldn't be able to use the
- 15 actual application.
- We currently have an outstanding
- 17 RFP where with we received three proposals.
- 18 We are looking to replace the system
- 19 hopefully within a year or two.
- 20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: That is our
- 21 question because we have had this contract
- 22 since 1996 according to the backup.
- So it's going out to RFP and
- 24 could be replaced in the next couple of
- 25 years.

1	Rules Committee/5-7-18
2	MR. RICH: Yes.
3	CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
4	questions?
5	(No verbal response.)
6	Is there any public comment?
7	(No verbal response.)
8	All those in favor signify by
9	saying aye.
10	(Aye.)
11	Those opposed?
12	(No verbal response.)
13	It carries unanimously.
14	Thank you, Mr. Rich.
15	E-50, a resolution authorizing
16	the County Executive to execute a personal
17	services agreement between the county acting
18	on behalf of the Department of Public Works
19	and Liro Engineers, Inc.
20	LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.
21	LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second.
22	CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
23	Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator
0.4	

MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold,

Bynoe.

25

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Department of Public Works. E-50 is a
- 3 construction management contract for phase
- 4 43 of resurfacing program. It's a federally
- 5 funded project and as such we are bringing
- 6 in outside consultants to help us with that
- 7 endeavor. Liro was the technically ranked
- 8 proposal at a cost of \$896,000.
- 9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: What does
- 10 technical ranking mean?
- 11 MR. ARNOLD: We have a criteria
- 12 that we go through each proposal on;
- 13 experience of the firm experience, the team,
- 14 schedule, technical approach, and then our
- 15 committee reviews each one of those criteria
- 16 and we have a technical score.
- 17 Once there's a technical score,
- 18 we have a determination of who is the
- 19 highest ranked firm technically and then we
- 20 open the cost proposals.
- 21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: What was the
- 22 last thing you said? Open what?
- MR. ARNOLD: The cost proposals
- 24 after we rank them technically, we do not
- look at costs as part of our technical

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 review.
- 3 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Who is on
- 4 the committee?
- 5 MR. ARNOLD: The committee will
- 6 vary. Typically it's a deputy, a unit head,
- 7 and one or two of the engineering staff.
- 8 Sometimes if we are short staffed we will
- 9 have myself or another deputy on it also.
- 10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
- 11 Rhoads.
- 12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Good
- 13 afternoon, Ken. Quick question. How long
- 14 does that vetting process take place?
- 15 MR. ARNOLD: The review committee
- 16 process?
- 17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Yes.
- 18 MR. ARNOLD: Two to three weeks
- 19 depending on our work load at the time.
- 20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Generally I
- 21 know you indicated it varies, the actual
- 22 membership of the committee, is there a
- 23 minimum membership?
- 24 MR. ARNOLD: We looked at a
- 25 minimum of three minimum on there, usually

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 hopefully two that have professional
- 3 licenses.
- 4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you.
- 5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Are there
- 6 any other questions? Minority Leader
- 7 Abrahams.
- 8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Hey Ken.
- 9 We noticed in some of the disclosures that
- 10 have been provided to the Legislature, just
- 11 some inconsistencies in regards to whether
- 12 or not the entity is being investigated or
- 13 not, have you guys picked up on these
- 14 inconsistencies with these disclosure forms?
- MR. ARNOLD: Liro has a couple of
- 16 subsidiary firms so it's complicated to go
- 17 through which firm has actually
- 18 investigated. We've gone through all that
- 19 and our attorney has spoken to them about
- 20 their investigations and we feel there is no
- 21 issue with the current status of the firm.
- It is difficult because they have
- 23 so many different companies underneath it.
- 24 Some have violations, some don't.
- 25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Counsel is

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 advising me, Ken, that there are some issues
- 3 with their principals not just the sub
- 4 components of their principals.
- 5 MR. ARNOLD: I don't have it in
- 6 front of me, but some of those principals
- 7 are not tied to all the firms so you have to
- 8 be careful. Some principals are working on
- 9 certain subsidiaries and some are not.
- 10 That's confusing with the way Liro is set
- 11 up.
- 12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Is it
- 13 possible, Mr. Chairman, to have Mr. Arnold
- 14 meet with our counsel to clear up some of
- 15 these matters? When is this contract -- we
- 16 haven't started this contract, have we?
- MR. ARNOLD: No. The
- 18 construction contract is ready to go. We
- 19 are just waiting for this go so we can do
- 20 this phase of work this summer.
- It is important to get the phase
- 22 done because we are waiting for this one
- 23 contract to start work.
- 24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: What I'm
- 25 proposing is may -- it seems like we have a

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 pretty hefty rules calendar, is it possible
- 3 to meet with counsel now and bring it back
- 4 up today?
- 5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Sure.
- 6 That's fine. But Legislator Rhoads had a
- 7 question before we move on.
- 8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Out of
- 9 curiosity, Ken, this panel that is created,
- 10 how does one go about getting on the panel?
- 11 MR. ARNOLD: The commissioner's
- 12 office decides who is on the review
- 13 committee. Usually the project manager will
- 14 come to the commissioner's office and either
- 15 the deputy or myself will decide who is
- 16 available to be on the committee based on
- 17 their expertise whether they are running the
- 18 job or not, so on and so forth.
- 19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: But in terms
- 20 of approved contractors, how does that
- 21 process work?
- 22 MR. ARNOLD: We advertise our
- 23 bids in Newsday and on the county website,
- it's open, anybody can submit.
- 25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: That would be

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 at the RFP point?
- MR. ARNOLD: Yes.
- 4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So there's no
- 5 predetermination as to what firms are
- 6 acceptable?
- 7 MR. ARNOLD: We have no
- 8 pre-qualifications.
- 9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Okay.
- 10 Thanks.
- 11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
- 12 DeRiggi-Whitton.
- 13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Ken,
- 14 under the circumstances that we're faced
- 15 with, is there any procedure in place
- 16 reviewing the contracts that were approved
- 17 by former Deputy County Executive.
- MR. ARNOLD: What's the question?
- 19 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Is
- 20 there any mechanism in place that were
- 21 approved by Deputy County Executive Walker
- 22 considering the charges that were bought up?
- MR. ARNOLD: All the contracts or
- 24 particularly to those firms?
- 25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 ones we are going to be voting for today, or
- 3 asking us to approve today. The fact that
- 4 these were approved by someone that's now
- 5 indicted for this, for steering contracts.
- 6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I would just
- 7 caution us, legislators, if you are going to
- 8 make statements like that on the record, you
- 9 better be right, be accurate, and very
- 10 precise, because if you're not you're
- 11 slandering people.
- 12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
- 13 understand. But is there a mechanism in
- 14 place to review the contracts that were
- 15 approved by this Deputy County Executive?
- 16 MR. ARNOLD: All contracts in
- 17 front of you today were reviewed by the
- 18 compliance people of the County Executive's
- 19 Office.
- 20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: But
- 21 this was accepted and approved on November
- 22 11, 2017.
- MR. ARNOLD: But it would not
- 24 have gotten to this state without the sign
- 25 off of the current administration.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: The
- 3 current administration approved this
- 4 contract as well?
- 5 MR. ARNOLD: That is correct.
- 6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 7 Thank you.
- 8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I think
- 9 Minority Leader Abrahams requested a motion
- 10 to table. I'll second it so that we have an
- 11 opportunity for counsel to discuss this with
- 12 you, Mr. Arnold.
- Motion to table before us. All
- 14 in favor of tabling signify by saying aye.
- 15 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 17 (No verbal response.)
- This item is tabled. Mr. Arnold,
- 19 I just ask you also in addition to meeting
- 20 with minority counsel, meet with majority
- 21 counsel as well.
- 22 E-151, a resolution authorizing
- 23 the County Executive to execute an amendment
- 24 to a personal services agreement between the
- 25 County of Nassau acting on behalf of the

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Department of Information Technology and
- 3 IIT, Inc.
- 4 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So moved.
- 5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.
- 6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 7 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Deputy
- 8 Presiding Officer Kopel. Now it is before
- 9 us.
- MS. STANTON: Nancy Stanton, IT.
- 11 This is one of our 16 supplemental
- 12 contracts. We are looking to increase the
- 13 ceiling of the contract by \$600,000. We are
- 14 looking to encumber \$300,000 now. \$220,000
- is for capital for ERP and \$80,000 will be
- 16 used for other projects.
- 17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: My question
- 18 is, we see many of these supplemental
- 19 staffing contracts and this took place well
- 20 before you were commissioner.
- 21 Is there a view or an idea about
- 22 moving more to doing staffing in-house as
- 23 opposed to having these supplemental
- 24 staffing contracts?
- MS. STANTON: We try and we do.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
 2 We use these supplemental contracts for
- 3 skill sets that we don't have in-house.
- 4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So to the
- 5 extent we can develop them in house I think
- 6 it would be the preference of the committee.
- 7 MS. STANTON: Absolutely.
- 8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
- 9 questions?
- 10 (No verbal response.)
- Any public comment?
- MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
- 13 Baldwin resident. My question has to do or
- 14 questions have to do with I guess the point
- 15 that the Presiding Officer was making in
- 16 regard to the supplemental contracts and the
- 17 need to develop from within when we don't
- 18 seem to do extensive outreach definitely
- 19 from a diverse standpoint to recruit
- 20 individuals and/or organizations and
- 21 companies who can provide these types of
- 22 services.
- So, again, I'm asking as it
- 24 pertains to how we can step up our overall
- 25 outreach considering I heard in the previous

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 discussion that they promote these contracts
- 3 through Newsday and the county website which
- 4 as a matter of fact on the county website
- 5 said that today was a Full Legislative
- 6 meeting. So the accuracy of the county
- 7 website and the utilization of same is also
- 8 something that's very questionable despite
- 9 its cost factor.
- 10 So I'm asking on the record what
- 11 exactly is Nassau County doing to increase
- 12 its outreach to be more inclusive possibly
- 13 looking at maybe other types of publications
- 14 that impact the residents that are in the
- 15 county, different types of aspects for
- 16 outreach so we're not paying for all these
- 17 contracts and it might cut do down on the
- 18 need to have all these investigations and
- 19 scandals and last minute companies that seem
- 20 to get these multi-million contracts through
- 21 no vetting at all.
- 22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
- 23 Ms. Mereday. Any other public comment?
- 24 (No verbal response.)
- 25 Hearing none, all in favor

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 signify by saying aye.
- 3 (Aye.)
- 4 Those opposed?
- 5 (No verbal response.)
- 6 That contract passes unanimously.
- 7 Thank you, Ms. Stanton.
- E-52 of 2018, a resolution
- 9 authorizing the County Executive to execute
- 10 a personal services agreement between the
- 11 county acting on behalf of DPW and Arcadis
- 12 of New York, Inc.
- 13 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
- 14 moved.
- 15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second.
- 16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 17 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, seconded by
- 18 Legislator Bynoe.
- 19 MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold,
- 20 Department of Public Works. E-52 is a
- 21 special services contract with Arcadis for
- 22 building construction management on call
- 23 services. Arcadis is one of ten firms we
- 24 have selected for this service for the
- 25 digital work orders assigned to the contract

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 depending on the projects that we have
- 3 in-house.
- 4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Are there
- 5 any violations or citations with this
- 6 contractor?
- 7 Are there any OSHA citations
- 8 relating to this contractor?
- 9 MR. ARNOLD: I'm double checking.
- 10 I'm not sure if there was one issue with the
- 11 firm that we resolved with them. I have to
- 12 go to the back up.
- They had a couple disclosures.
- 14 We were satisfied with everything that they
- 15 responded to us.
- 16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: There was
- 17 apparently an investigation out of state
- 18 with respect to Arcadis contracts. Did you
- 19 look into that as well?
- MR. ARNOLD: Yes, we did.
- 21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: You accepted
- their responses?
- MR. ARNOLD: Yes, they did.
- 24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: It's the
- 25 recommendation of Public Works that we can

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 go ahead with this contract with this
- 3 contractor?
- 4 MR. ARNOLD: Yes.
- 5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Minority
- 6 Leader Abrahams.
- 7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
- 8 Presiding Officer. I think some of the
- 9 questioning that I had was tied to whether
- 10 or not what the county has done just to make
- 11 a note for the record, the principal
- 12 questionnaire form, question ten, was
- 13 answered yes.
- 14 One of the things we have
- 15 highlighted in their response is that on
- 16 February 22nd Arcadis was served with a
- 17 special grand jury subpoena by the Alabama
- 18 AG's Office seeking documents related to its
- 19 contracts with invoices issued to and work
- 20 performed for the Birmingham Water Works
- 21 Board and other government entities in
- 22 Alabama.
- The allegations pertained to a
- 24 matter in which the data that was being
- 25 collected and recorded in health and safety

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 issues and compliance with anti harassment
- 3 non discrimination.
- 4 Also take note that there's the
- 5 letter dated February 6th, 2018 from
- 6 Arcadis.
- 7 I'm sorry, in 2016 the present
- 8 state and federal law enforcement that was
- 9 commenced, there was an investigation,
- 10 corruption investigation commenced in
- 11 Alabama that alleges the former Arcadis VP
- 12 Jerry Jones funneled money to a
- 13 subcontractor who in turn allegedly paid and
- 14 provided benefits to the Birmingham Water
- 15 Board official and member of his family.
- I'm just concerned from the
- 17 standpoint that it sounds like to me this is
- 18 still an on going investigation, correct?
- 19 MR. ARNOLD: I'm double-checking.
- 20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: While Ken
- 21 does that, it seems like we really don't
- 22 know what the outcome has come from those
- 23 outside investigations.
- It begs the point of what
- 25 additional internal compliance controls

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Arcadis is considering while this is going
- 3 on and while they are seeking procurement
- 4 from municipalities, and having these
- 5 controls if they're seeking any have been
- 6 implemented.
- 7 Ken is trying to find an answer.
- 8 MR. ARNOLD: I have to go back to
- 9 talk to my counsel. I didn't do this
- 10 personally myself. This was done by my
- 11 compliance people.
- 12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Motion to
- 13 table.
- 14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Sure.
- 15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second.
- 16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 17 Legislator Abrahams, seconded by Legislator
- 18 Bynoe. All those in favor of tabling
- 19 signify by saying aye.
- 20 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- (No verbal response.)
- The contract is tabled.
- E-54, a resolution authorizing
- 25 the County Executive to execute an amendment

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 to a personal services agreement between the
- 3 county acting on behalf of the Department of
- 4 Public Works and Excel Reporting, Inc.
- 5 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So moved.
- 6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.
- 7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 8 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Legislator
- 9 Rhoads.
- MR. ARNOLD: We are not calling
- 11 53 today?
- 12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I will call
- 13 that in a moment, I apologize, I had marked
- 14 to table under the wrong item. So E-54.
- MR. ARNOLD: Ken Arnold. E-54 is
- 16 a contract amendment with Excel Reporting.
- 17 They're the stenographer firm for our
- 18 planning commission meetings. This is a
- 19 retroactive contract. The contract expired
- 20 at the end the year.
- In year's past we extended the
- 22 contract at the department level, but when
- 23 we looked at this this year we understood
- 24 the way the agreement was written that it
- 25 should come to you for your approval which

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 is why this is late.
- 3 We had it teed up at the end of
- 4 the year to do it internally and determined
- 5 it had to come in front of your body to be
- 6 extended.
- 7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Okay. Any
- 8 questions for Mr. Arnold on this contract?
- 9 (No verbal response.)
- 10 Is there any public comment?
- 11 (No verbal response.)
- 12 All those in favor signify by
- 13 saying aye.
- 14 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 16 (No verbal response.)
- 17 Carries unanimously.
- Let's go back to E-53. It's a
- 19 resolution authorizing the County Executive
- 20 to execute a personal services agreement
- 21 between the county acting on behalf the DPW
- 22 and H2M Architects and Engineers.
- LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.
- 24 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 25 Second.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 3 Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator
- 4 DeRiggi-Whitton.
- 5 MR. ARNOLD: E-53 is another
- 6 building on call contract professional
- 7 services to support the department. H2M was
- 8 one of the highest ranked technically ranked
- 9 firms and that's why we are recommending
- 10 them.
- 11 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any
- 12 questions?
- 13 (No verbal response.)
- Any public /KPHEPL?
- 15 Hearing none, all in favor --
- 16 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.
- 17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I
- 18 want to correct my statement on the record
- 19 of my prior statement which is, I just felt
- 20 that we should possibly take a look at some
- 21 the contracts that were accepted by Deputy
- 22 County Executive Rob Walker and in stating
- 23 so I just mentioned he was indicted for
- 24 obstruction of justice. I just want to make
- 25 sure it was clear not that it was not for

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 contracts -- it was being mentioned that he
- 3 was being investigated for contract
- 4 steering.
- So, again, my concern, I
- 6 understand that the new administration is
- 7 also looking at these but, as a legislator,
- 8 maybe I would feel better if we had some
- 9 process in line to have someone else on the
- 10 record say that they also accept these
- 11 contracts, just to cover any question of us
- 12 going forward. So thank you.
- 13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
- 14 Basically we are at the stage of voting on
- 15 this item. All in favor signify by saying
- 16 aye. Signify by saying aye.
- 17 (Aye.)
- 18 Any opposed?
- 19 (No verbal response.)
- The contract carries unanimously.
- E-55 of 2018 is a resolution
- 22 authorizing the County Executive to execute
- 23 an amendment to a personal services
- 24 agreement between the county acting on
- 25 behalf of the Department of Parks,

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Recreation, and Museums and Steve Dassa
- 3 Entertainment.
- 4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So moved.
- 5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.
- 6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 7 Minority Leader Abrahams, seconded by
- 8 Legislator Rhoads.
- 9 I'm going to call the second one
- 10 because I think they are similar.
- E-57 is a resolution authorizing
- 12 the County Executive to execute a personal
- 13 services agreement between -- sorry, I
- 14 jumped again.
- 15 56, a resolution authorizing the
- 16 County Executive to execute an amendment to
- 17 a personal services agreement between the
- 18 County of Nassau acting on behalf of the
- 19 Nassau County Department of Parks,
- 20 Recreation and Museums and Gregg Raffa.
- Motion, please.
- 22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So moved.
- LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.
- 24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 25 Legislator Bynoe, seconded by Legislator

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Schaefer. Now both are before the
- 3 committee.
- 4 MR. NUGENT: Brian Nugent, Deputy
- 5 Commissioner of Parks.
- These are two contracts to amend
- 7 the booking agencies for our shows at
- 8 Lakeside Theatre, noon time concerts. Steve
- 9 Dassa will be doing the noon time concerts
- 10 as well as a show at Chelsea Mansion and a
- 11 lake side show. Gregg Raffa will be doing a
- 12 U-2 concert tribute act at Lakeside Theatre.
- 13 All of those are procured via an
- 14 RFP that was issued two years ago. We plan
- 15 on reissuing it this year.
- 16 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any
- 17 questions?
- 18 (No verbal response.)
- 19 Is there any public comment?
- 20 (No verbal response.)
- 21 All those in favor signify by
- 22 saying aye.
- 23 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 25 (No verbal response.)

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Those contracts carry
- 3 unanimously.
- 4 We will call the next two
- 5 together as well. E-57, E-58, resolutions
- 6 authorizing the County Executive to execute
- 7 personal services agreements between the
- 8 County of Nassau acting on behalf the County
- 9 Attorney's Office and Bee Reporting Agency,
- 10 Inc. And Veretext Legal Solutions.
- 11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.
- 12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 13 Second.
- 14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 15 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
- 16 DeRiggi-Whitton.
- 17 MR. LIBERT: Brian Libert, County
- 18 Attorney's Office. These are two contracts
- 19 for court reporting services. They are used
- 20 in all litigation to the County Attorney's
- 21 Office and the county does get standards
- 22 rates from these services.
- 23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any
- 24 questions? Legislator Rhoads.
- 25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Just a quick

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 question. I notice obviously we have
- 3 several personal service agreement for
- 4 transcription services, for court reporting
- 5 services.
- 6 Has there been any investigation
- 7 by the administration -- I don't know if
- 8 it's possible, that instead of doing these
- 9 piecemeal, wouldn't we be getting a better
- 10 deal if we put out a proposal for all of the
- 11 court reporting services for the county.
- MR. LIBERT: I can check on that,
- 13 but my understanding is in the past, and I
- 14 think we did one within the last two years
- where we did put out an RFP to the whole
- 16 county and any court reporting service that
- 17 responded had the opportunity to bid. The
- 18 way I understand it, the business is open
- 19 for anyone that wants to respond.
- 20 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Of course it
- 21 is, the question that I have is, since there
- 22 are multiple agencies that are using court
- 23 reporting services, instead of the
- 24 individual agencies reaching individual
- 25 deals on behalf of the county with

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 individual companies, wouldn't it be more
- 3 cost efficient and more effective to simply
- 4 have all of the departments or agencies use
- 5 one court reporting service?
- 6 MR. LIBERT: I don't think that
- 7 it would be possible to use one single court
- 8 reporting service, but to the extent you're
- 9 making the point that it would be logical to
- 10 have all of them come through one
- 11 clearinghouse, I think that would be at
- 12 least something worth considering.
- I don't think all the work could
- 14 go one court reporter, there's probably not
- 15 enough court reporters in one particular
- 16 agency for that.
- 17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Fair enough.
- 18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
- 19 questions?
- 20 (No verbal response.)
- Is there any public comment?
- (No verbal response.)
- Thank you, Brian. All those in
- 24 favor signify by saying aye.
- 25 (Aye.)

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Those opposed?
- 3 (No verbal response.)
- 4 Those two contracts pass
- 5 unanimously.
- E-59 of 2018 is a resolution
- 7 authorizing the County Executive to execute
- 8 an amendment to a personal services
- 9 agreement between the County acting on
- 10 behalf of the Department of Social Services
- 11 and Island Harvest Limited.
- 12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So moved.
- 13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.
- 14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 15 Legislator Bynoe, seconded by Legislator
- 16 Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel.
- 17 MR. BRODERICK: Good afternoon.
- 18 Paul Broderick, Deputy Commissioner,
- 19 Department of Social Services.
- The item before is you a contract
- 21 for \$24,500 between the Department of Social
- 22 Services and Island Harvest. The purpose of
- 23 the contract is to support their operation
- 24 who as you know work with various food
- 25 pantries throughout Nassau County to deal

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 with food insecurity. Do you have any
- 3 questions?
- 4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any
- 5 questions?
- 6 (No verbal response.)
- 7 Any public comment?
- MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
- 9 Baldwin resident. I'm just concerned that I
- 10 would hope that we could look at identifying
- 11 some additional resources if possible with
- 12 regard to this particular issue because the
- 13 food insecurity is not something that's just
- 14 impacting our children. It's also impacting
- 15 our students particularly our student
- 16 veterans on our college campuses as well as
- 17 our seniors. Many of our seniors who are
- 18 veteran couples basically facing the same
- 19 type of issues.
- I'm hoping, I'm putting it out
- 21 there for consideration since we have no
- 22 problem tossing hundreds of thousands of
- 23 dollars for legal services, accounting,
- 24 professional services, friends and
- 25 relatives, that if we could look at doing

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 something a little bit innovatively and
- 3 eradicate the food insecurity since we waste
- 4 so much of the taxpayers money not to
- 5 mention food.
- Just for the record, Presiding
- 7 Officer, I'm in support of this I'm just
- 8 putting it on the record I'm hoping that it
- 9 might stimulate some thought processes when
- 10 we go to the budget to fund more programs so
- 11 that we are more proactive versus reactive.
- 12 Because a number of starving children are
- 13 increasing. Thank you.
- 14 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you,
- 15 Ms. Mereday. Island Harvest does do a
- 16 phenomenal job doing exactly what you
- 17 suggest. Any other public comment?
- 18 (No verbal response.)
- 19 Thank you, Paul. All in favor
- 20 signify by saying aye.
- 21 (Aye.)
- 22 Any opposed?
- 23 (No verbal response.)
- Carries unanimously.
- E-60 is a resolution to authorize

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 the County Executive to execute a personal
- 3 services agreement between the County of
- 4 Nassau acting on behalf of the District
- 5 Attorney Office and Susan Hand Associates,
- 6 Inc.
- 7 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So moved.
- 8 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 9 Second.
- 10 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 11 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Legislator
- 12 DeRiggi-Whitton.
- MR. CORDOVA: Vicki Cordova for
- 14 the District Attorney's Office. We request
- approval for \$176,000 contract with Susan
- 16 Hand for Court Reporting Services for court
- 17 reporting of the grand jury minutes that are
- 18 mandated by law.
- 19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Do we have
- 20 any questions on this item?
- 21 (No verbal response.)
- Is there any public comment?
- 23 (No verbal response.)
- 24 All those in favor signify by
- 25 saying aye.

Rules Committee/5-7-18 1 2 (Aye.) 3 Those opposed? 4 (No verbal response.) 5 Carries unanimously. Thank you. 6 E-61, is a resolution to 7 authorize the County Executive to execute a 8 personal services agreement between the 9 County of Nassau acting on behalf of the 10 County Attorney and Abrams Fensterman Fensterman Eisman Formato Wolf & Carone, 11 12 LLP. LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved. 13 14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Second. 15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by 16 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Minority Leader Abrahams. 17 18 MR. LIBERT: Good afternoon. 19 Brian Libert from the County Attorney's 20 Office again. That is a contract with 21 Abrams and Fensterman. The total contract 22 value is for less than \$50,000 and outside 23 counsel has previously acknowledged that any

work they have done cannot be guaranteed

under this new contract.

24

2.5

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: That begs
- 3 the question. When did they start doing
- 4 work?
- 5 MR. LIBERT: Within the last 30
- 6 days so we have been pretty quick here as
- 7 far as a time line goes.
- 8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Was this the
- 9 story about a contractor or firm doing work
- 10 for the county without a contract for a
- 11 couple of months, two or three months
- 12 starting back in December or January, is
- 13 this the one?
- 14 MR. LIBERT: I don't think it's
- 15 that one. Not that same one, but I'm aware
- 16 of what you are referring to.
- 17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: The question
- 18 I have for you about this is, Abrams
- 19 Fensterman is an outstanding law firm, one
- 20 of the prominent law firms on Long Island.
- 21 But I looked at their website and they don't
- 22 talk at all about doing civil rights work.
- 23 I even looked at, there's a pull down menu
- 24 for selecting attorneys by the areas of
- 25 practice and civil rights is not even

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 mentioned.
- 3 So how do you determine whether a
- 4 particular law firm is qualified to work on
- 5 a particular area of law?
- 6 MR. LIBERT: The County
- 7 Attorney's Office has previously solicited
- 8 requests for qualifications from various
- 9 different law firms. We have law firms that
- 10 are qualified in different areas and
- 11 typically we just don't rely on what's on
- 12 the website for what a firm is qualified for
- 13 but what they might tell us during that RFQ
- 14 process.
- 15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So whatever
- 16 information that was provided during the RFQ
- 17 process was sufficient for the County
- 18 Attorney to determine they were qualified to
- 19 do civil rights work; is that what you're
- 20 saying?
- MR. LIBERT: That would be my
- 22 understanding, yes.
- 23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Do we have
- 24 any other questions? Legislator Rhoads and
- 25 then Legislator Bynoe.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
- 3 Mr. Chairman. The process by which you
- 4 actually evaluate a firm and whether or not
- 5 it should be added to the panel, can you
- 6 describe that process?
- 7 MR. LIBERT: As it relates to
- 8 this contract specifically or generically?
- 9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Generally.
- 10 MR. LIBERT: Well, I would speak
- 11 extremely generically as in regards to the
- 12 county contracting process as I'm sure all
- 13 of you are aware, the county sets out an RFQ
- 14 or RFP which designates certain
- 15 specifications for the services that need to
- 16 be performed.
- 17 In this instance, it might
- 18 describe the nature of the legal matters
- 19 that we need them to handle. We might have
- 20 some specific rates to be involved and then
- 21 each firm will get an opportunity to respond
- 22 and essentially claim that they are or
- 23 aren't qualified in a particular area.
- 24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Well, I quess
- 25 the question I have is that based on the

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 back up material, it indicates that a
- 3 response was put in by the firm, a request
- 4 was put in by the firm to be added to the
- 5 panel with respect to 1983 litigation on
- 6 March 26th of 2018. That this particular
- 7 contract start date is March 27 of 2018.
- 8 So if you could describe for me
- 9 what kind of vetting process or
- 10 investigation was done based upon the fact
- 11 that it's not listed on their website to
- 12 ensure that the firm actually does handle
- 13 1983 litigation what its qualifications are
- 14 and how they would represent the county in
- 15 this particular instance?
- MR. LIBERT: Well, of course
- 17 there are discussions with the principals in
- 18 the firm to determine if they were qualified
- 19 between the county, attorney's office, and
- 20 the firm.
- 21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: If the
- 22 request didn't come in until 24 hours before
- 23 it was granted, can you describe exactly
- 24 when that took place, how it took place and
- 25 what occurred?

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 MR. LIBERT: The attorney who is
- 3 handling this matter, Ms. Barkett was
- 4 previously at another firm. We were
- 5 familiar with her personally and she has
- 6 moved offices from her previous firm to this
- 7 office and that is why we engaged that firm,
- 8 pardon me, Amy Marion.
- 9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Can you
- 10 describe for us -- and she had been working
- 11 on this particular case?
- MR. LIBERT: No. We were
- 13 familiar with her abilities in this area,
- 14 which is what you're asking.
- 15 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: She was
- 16 working for the County Attorney's Office at
- 17 one time?
- MR. LIBERT: Not on this matter.
- 19 She may have -- she was a known quantity to
- 20 us. She was known in this area of law.
- 21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I'm asking
- 22 Ms. Marion, did she move from the County
- 23 Attorney's Office to a private firm or from
- 24 one firm to another?
- 25 MR. LIBERT: No, from one firm to

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 another.
- 3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So
- 4 essentially the decision was made on a prior
- 5 knowledge and a prior relationship with one
- 6 particular attorney who changed firms?
- 7 MR. LIBERT: That's correct,
- 8 legislator.
- 9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Just so I
- 10 understand. Can you describe for us the
- 11 nature of the litigation that we're talking
- 12 about?
- MR. LIBERT: My understanding is
- 14 it's a civil rights litigation involving the
- 15 board of elections. I wouldn't go much
- 16 further into the weeds on it than that.
- 17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I don't know
- 18 if this is something to really ask about.
- 19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: What was the
- 20 question?
- 21 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I wanted to
- 22 know the nature of the litigation and the
- 23 allegations against the parties. Because I
- 24 don't know if it's people individually that
- 25 are named, if it's the Board of Elections

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 that's named. I don't know if -- we haven't
- 3 ruled on any indemnification with respect to
- 4 this so I'm just curious as to how it is --
- 5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Let's ask
- 6 the County Attorney, can you answer the
- 7 question?
- MR. LIBERT: Was there a question
- 9 mark somewhere there?
- 10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: There are a
- 11 couple of question marks in there and I will
- 12 try to break it down. Let me know when we
- 13 reach a topic when you don't feel
- 14 comfortable that I'm talking about.
- 15 Who are the parties to the
- 16 litigation?
- 17 MR. LIBERT: I would say all of
- 18 this would be a good and appropriate topic
- 19 for executive session.
- 20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Before we go
- 21 to executive session, I think there are
- 22 other questions that may not require that.
- 23 So let's go to Legislator Bynoe.
- 24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Presiding
- 25 Officer, I was just aware that Amy Marion

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 had joined that firm. I was going to ask
- 3 the question of the County Attorney's Office
- 4 if that's how they made the decision to
- 5 determine that they were qualified to do
- 6 that type of work. Thank you.
- 7 MR. LIBERT: That's correct,
- 8 legislator.
- 9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Amy Marion
- 10 is a prominent civil rights attorney so
- 11 there's no question about her being
- 12 qualified.
- But that raises another question.
- 14 She has been involved in litigation
- 15 representing parties in litigation against
- 16 the county. Are any of those actions still
- 17 alive still in progress?
- MR. LIBERT: Not to my knowledge
- 19 and certainly we would not move forward if
- 20 there were any present conflict. We would
- 21 be checking that on our side as would Abrams
- 22 Fensterman. That's just not something that
- 23 anybody would be doing.
- 24 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator
- 25 Schaefer.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Can I ask
- 3 you why is the County Attorney's Office not
- 4 handling this?
- 5 MR. LIBERT: There are at least
- 6 two inherent conflicts here. By law we
- 7 really can't handle this. We are conflicted
- 8 out.
- 9 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Can you
- 10 explain what the conflicts are?
- MR. LIBERT: Sure. Of course,
- 12 the County Attorney's Office represents the
- 13 board of elections and from our view just
- 14 the very nature of the charges and, again,
- 15 this is something that should go towards
- 16 executive session, the nature of the parties
- 17 that are named and the nature of the witness
- 18 litigation is going to go, we feel that the
- 19 office will be conflicted out.
- In addition, of course, and this
- 21 was covered in Newsday, the current County
- 22 Attorney was involved in the underlying
- 23 litigation in this matter and it seems to me
- 24 that as per se conflict right there.
- LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Okay.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
- 3 questions? I prefer that we ask all the
- 4 questions that we can now before we go to
- 5 executive session. I'm also going to offer
- 6 it up to the public before we go to
- 7 executive session.
- 8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Can you
- 9 explain when the RFQ was actually issued?
- MR. LIBERT: I'm sorry?
- 11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: When was the
- 12 RFQ put out?
- MR. LIBERT: Which RFQ?
- 14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The RFQ off
- 15 of which you have now chosen this particular
- 16 firm.
- MR. LIBERT: I don't know that.
- 18 I would have to check that because I know we
- 19 are in the process of issuing a new one as
- 20 we speak. I don't know off the top of my
- 21 head when the prior one was issued. It's
- 22 not information I have at my fingertips.
- 23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I'm presuming
- 24 it was issued prior to March 26, 2018?
- MR. LIBERT: Yes. Very much.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Do you know
- 3 how far prior to March 26th?
- 4 MR. LIBERT: I don't know and I
- 5 wouldn't want to surmise.
- 6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Was it issued
- 7 at some point in time during March of 2018?
- MR. LIBERT: No.
- 9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: More than a
- 10 month prior?
- MR. LIBERT: Yes.
- 12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Just out of
- 13 curiosity, the specific amount of the
- 14 contract for \$49,800, was there any
- particular reason why \$49,800 was chosen?
- MR. LIBERT: I have no idea. I
- 17 don't think so.
- 18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The reason
- 19 for my question is that the NIFA threshold
- 20 for review is \$50,000.
- MR. LIBERT: Can you repeat the
- 22 question?
- LEGISLATOR RHOADS: The reason
- 24 for my question is that the NIFA threshold
- 25 for review by NIFA of these contracts is

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 \$50,000.
- I notice this one is coming in
- 4 \$200 under that threshold. Is there any
- 5 particular reason for that?
- 6 MR. LIBERT: I'm not familiar
- 7 with that NIFA issue. I'm informed by Chief
- 8 Deputy County Attorney Lisa LoCurto that
- 9 this was relative to a budget provided by
- 10 Abrams Fensterman for what they proposed
- 11 that the litigation would cost.
- 12 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Do you know
- 13 if Abrams Fensterman was aware of the NIFA
- 14 threshold at the time they put together
- 15 their budget?
- 16 MR. LIBERT: I don't know and I
- 17 don't even know how I would know if I did
- 18 know.
- 19 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I noticed
- 20 that you mentioned the existence of a
- 21 Newsday article.
- MR. LIBERT: I think Legislator
- 23 Nicolello mentioned it.
- 24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Yes. It was
- 25 an article dated April 21st of 2018 and the

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 administration indicated that the contract
- 3 was pending Legislative approval as of April
- 4 21st; however, the contract itself wasn't
- 5 filed with the clerk of the legislature
- 6 until April 30th.
- 7 Is there a particular reason for
- 8 that you're aware of?
- 9 MR. LIBERT: I think it just
- 10 takes time for the process to take place.
- 11 There is filing involved, first there has to
- 12 be drafting of the contract. The contract
- 13 has to be routed, it has to be approved and
- 14 there's a certain amount of processing and
- 15 disclosures involved in the process.
- 16 Frankly, I think that's pretty quick.
- 17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I don't
- 18 question the timing, I question the
- 19 statement made in Newsday that it was
- 20 pending legislative approval.
- MR. LIBERT: Well, I'm sure it was
- 22 pending when that statement was made.
- 23 Whether it was actually in the clerk of the
- 24 leg, if it was moving ahead, that's still
- 25 pending I think from our side One West

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Street.
- 3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So you're
- 4 saying it was some ambiguity as to what
- 5 pending means?
- 6 MR. LIBERT: That's my view of
- 7 it, yes.
- 8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Now the firm,
- 9 the proposal from the firm, can you tell us
- 10 when that proposal was actually received?
- MR. LIBERT: No, again, that
- 12 would go back to the prior RFP process date
- 13 that you were asking about, I just don't
- 14 know off the top of my head, I have no
- 15 knowledge of that.
- 16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: What was the
- 17 nature of the March 26th letter, was that
- 18 the actual proposal from the firm?
- 19 MR. LIBERT: I quess I was here
- 20 on March 26th but I -- I probably saw a lot
- 21 of letters on March 26th. What is the March
- 22 26th letter, what are we talking about?
- LEGISLATOR RHOADS: My
- 24 understanding is that there is
- 25 correspondence from the firm requesting to

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 be added to the panel dated March 26th.
- 3 MR. LIBERT: I would have to
- 4 find out more information about that.
- 5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Okay. With
- 6 respect to that panel, what other firms are
- 7 on the 1983 panel?
- 8 MR. LIBERT: Again, that's not
- 9 information that I have at my fingertips but
- 10 certainly we can make it available to you.
- 11 Also with the understanding that we are in
- 12 the process of issuing a new RFP.
- 13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I understand
- 14 the rationale of choosing this particular,
- 15 the rationale behind adding the firm to this
- 16 particular panel was the movement of
- 17 Ms. Marion who obviously is a very qualified
- 18 attorney.
- 19 But the larger question is, what
- 20 was the rationale upon choosing this
- 21 particular firm as opposed to any of the
- other firms on the 1983 panel?
- MR. LIBERT: I think the same
- 24 reason you just reiterated. Maybe I'm
- 25 misunderstanding the question, but

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Ms. Marion is the reason.
- 3 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: No, no. Ms.
- 4 Marion is the reason that you added this
- 5 particular firm to the panel.
- 6 How did you actually make the
- 7 determination which of the firms on the
- 8 panel you were going to choose for this
- 9 particular litigation?
- 10 MR. LIBERT: It's that issue but
- 11 also there was a discussion with the board
- 12 of elections. Again, this is something that
- 13 should really go towards executive session
- 14 but there was deference given to the board
- in their request for counsel as well.
- 16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Has the
- 17 county actually agreed to indemnify any
- 18 particular individual in this matter?
- MR. LIBERT: Not that I'm aware
- 20 of at this time. But I just wouldn't speak
- 21 to it, I'm just not aware of it.
- 22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Okav. I
- 23 think the remainder of the questions for me
- 24 would be in executive session.
- 25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Before we go

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 in, is there any public comment on this
- 3 item?
- 4 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
- 5 Baldwin resident. The gentleman did answer
- 6 a few questions with regard to why this has
- 7 to be sent out so I do appreciate that
- 8 answer.
- 9 I'm concerned again with regard
- 10 to the increase in the litigation and the --
- 11 just the appearance in terms of again the
- 12 relationships that we have with the
- 13 organizations and, in this arena,
- 14 professional services, who seem to be
- 15 getting the work.
- 16 I'm concerned that it doesn't
- 17 seem like it was an open process when there
- 18 was already the assertion that you were
- 19 following a particular individual who was
- 20 working for a specific firm.
- We are now again in 2018. Not
- 22 only am I hearing that you followed one
- 23 individual who is working for a firm who has
- 24 the background in civil rights law, I still
- 25 have yet to hear even in the presentations,

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 unless all of you have the information that
- 3 you are just not sharing with the rest of us
- 4 and we have to hear about it one way or
- 5 another in News 12 or Newsday, where is the
- 6 outreach? Where is the inclusion? Where is
- 7 the diversity?
- I have not heard anything, any
- 9 report, anything that speaks to that. I
- 10 would like to believe that here we are in
- 11 Long Island, close to 3 million individuals
- 12 with a certain number of lawyer firms
- 13 well-established that there were no other
- 14 law firms that had qualified civil rights
- 15 attorneys that could even could be
- 16 considered for this?
- 17 It really seems like this was
- 18 more like a sole source contract that was
- 19 wrapped around an RFP that was finalized in
- 20 a deal behind closed doors.
- So when you go behind these
- 22 closed doors for executive session, let's
- 23 just take those things into consideration
- 24 because, again, we are the ones with our
- 25 backs and the taxpayers, those of us

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 sticking around trying to protect our
- 3 properties when more of our neighbors are
- 4 running out in the middle of the night, that
- 5 when we are not addressing the specific
- 6 issues. We are not looking at the full
- 7 picture, the spectrum of the residents who
- 8 are here.
- 9 So it would be nice again as we
- 10 are in the midst of 2018 if we could hear
- 11 something else besides we need to review
- 12 contracts that were tainted or we need to
- 13 review contracts that because there was no
- 14 inclusion, or we need to review contracts
- 15 because we're not sure who signed and who
- 16 said what.
- So, again, if you're taking this
- 18 or tabling this or going in the back room,
- 19 just remember what hides in the dark will
- 20 come out in the light. Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you
- Ms. Mereday.
- LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.
- 24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.
- 25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Legislator

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Rhoads makes a motion to go in executive
- 3 session, seconded by Deputy Presiding
- 4 Officer Kopel. All in favor of favor of
- 5 executive session signify by saying aye.
- 6 (Aye.)
- 7 Those opposed?
- 8 (No verbal response.)
- 9 We will be right back.
- 10 (Whereupon, the Rules Committee
- 11 recessed at 2:07 p.m. and reconvened at 2:25
- 12 p.m.)
- 13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: We are back
- 14 from executive session. Legislator Rhoads,
- 15 you have something to ask?
- 16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Based upon
- 17 our discussion in executive session, it's my
- 18 understanding that the parties being
- 19 defended by specific requests had asked that
- 20 Ms. Marion be the attorney to defend them;
- 21 is that correct?
- MS. LOCURTO: That is correct.
- 23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And that
- 24 Ms. Marion's prior firm had been on the
- 25 panel and was qualified to handle 1983

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 litigation?
- MS. LOCURTO: That is also
- 4 correct.
- 5 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: It's also my
- 6 understanding that, was it the County
- 7 Attorney's office that reached out to Ms.
- 8 Marion's new firm to request that they
- 9 submit a letter asking to be placed on the
- 10 panel for 1983, they were already on the
- 11 panel but in specific expertise of 1983
- 12 litigation.
- MS. LOCURTO: Correct.
- 14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And once
- 15 they submitted that letter, they were
- 16 approved for this particular contract?
- 17 MS. LOCURTO: Correct.
- 18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And did work
- 19 on this contract begin on March 27th?
- 20 MS. LOCURTO: Unfortunately
- 21 because of the nature of the litigation, we
- 22 were waiting to hopefully have the contract
- 23 approved before work could be performed.
- 24 There has been an application by the
- 25 plaintiffs to hold the county in default.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 We do not want that to happen. So we had to
- 3 authorize Ms. Marion to go ahead, make her
- 4 appearance, but we cautioned her with the
- 5 understanding that while she is representing
- 6 the county and the county defendants any
- 7 work performed is subject to legislative
- 8 approval.
- 9 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Because of
- 10 the specific action that is going on as part
- 11 of the active litigation, you were forced to
- 12 make the appointment pending approval and
- 13 permit her to work to avoid damage to the
- 14 litigation?
- MS. LOCURTO: Correct.
- 16 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: And am I also
- 17 correct in my understanding that the amount
- 18 of the contract for \$49,8000 and its
- 19 relationship to NIFA's threshold for review
- 20 is purely coincidental?
- MS. LOCURTO: Yes.
- 22 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: It is our
- 23 hope obviously that the actual cost of the
- 24 defense will be substantially less than the
- 25 \$49,800?

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- MS. LOCURTO: Yes, and we
- 3 anticipate that.
- 4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you,
- 5 Mr. Chairman, thank you, Ms. Locurto.
- 6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Minority
- 7 Leader Abrahams.
- 8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Ms. Locurto
- 9 or Mr. Libert, just a quick question. I
- 10 wanted to summarize. The procurement
- 11 practices that were conducted to select
- 12 Abrams Fensterman Fensterman Eisman Formato
- 13 Ferrara Wolf & Carone LLP were in
- 14 conformance with the practices within the
- 15 procurement process of the county?
- MR. LIBERT: Yes.
- 17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's all
- 18 I needed to know. Thank you.
- 19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: All right.
- 20 We are going to vote on this now.
- 21 All in favor signify by saying
- 22 aye.
- 23 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 25 (No verbal response.)

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Carries unanimously.
- 3 There are four U contracts
- 4 remaining. I'm going to call them
- 5 altogether. U-6 is a resolution authorizing
- 6 the County Executive to execute a personal
- 7 services agreement between the county acting
- 8 on behalf of the Department of Human
- 9 Services, Office of Youth Services and the
- 10 Association For the Community Parent Center,
- 11 Inc.
- U-7, 8 and 9 are all resolutions
- 13 authorizing the County Executive to execute
- 14 personal services agreements between the
- 15 county acting on behalf of the Department of
- 16 Parks Recreation and Museums and Max
- 17 Rowland, Mary Nagin, and MLicata
- 18 Entertainment.
- 19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.
- LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Second.
- 21 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 22 Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel, seconded by
- 23 Minority Leader Abrahams.
- 24 All of those contracts are before
- 25 us now. Brian Hall.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- MR. HALL: I'm here for U-6-18.
- 3 Brian Hall, Human Services. This is a
- 4 contract between the Youth Service Division
- 5 with the association for the community
- 6 parent center.
- 7 It's a \$7,500 contract. It is a
- 8 January contract. It was a little late due
- 9 to forms going back and forth having to be
- 10 corrected before they could process the
- 11 contract.
- 12 This contract is for agency
- 13 transition from elementary to middle school
- 14 with an emphasize on substance abuse,
- 15 prevention, education, and awareness
- 16 project.
- 17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any
- 18 questions for Mr. Hall?
- 19 (No verbal response.)
- Hearing none, let's hear from the
- 21 other three and vote on all four together.
- 22 Thank you.
- MR. NUGENT: Brian Nugent, Nassau
- 24 County Department of Parks, Recreations and
- 25 Museums. I got a little off track. I got a

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 little off track. I think we have a
- 3 contract with Max Rowland and Mary Nagin,
- 4 those are both performers at Old Bethpage
- 5 Village Restoration. One is for \$5,000, one
- 6 is for \$4,700.
- 7 Those two contracts to be
- 8 cleared, they started two days ago. May 6,
- 9 May 5 and 6. We had something this past
- 10 weekend. They were for \$300 each. That's
- 11 about it.
- I guess the other ones is
- 13 MLicata, she performs -- she is a booking
- 14 agent who books a disco show, an '80s
- explosion show, and a 45 r.p.m. which will
- 16 be performed at TD Bank fireworks show at
- 17 Lakeside Theatre.
- 18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any
- 19 questions?
- 20 (No verbal response.)
- 21 Any public comment?
- MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday,
- 23 Baldwin resident. My question or request
- 24 has to do with the locations for these
- 25 events of all four youth related program

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 with the accessibility for many of our
- 3 youth, not to mention many of our adults,
- 4 definitely our seniors to get to those
- 5 events where they continue to take place.
- 6 It was our hope with the new
- 7 administration that everything would not be
- 8 in Bethpage. There's a lot of residents in
- 9 the South Shore, even in the north shore who
- 10 cannot get to Old Bethpage or really any
- 11 part of Bethpage.
- We have a number of parks
- 13 throughout Nassau County that would be much
- 14 more accessible and definitely provide more
- 15 diversity of attendance if we could kind of
- 16 broaden the scope.
- 17 I don't know if this relates, but
- 18 as everyone else reads everything in
- 19 Newsday, I do too.
- I just read recently in the May
- 21 6th about the Long Island parks getting \$16
- 22 million in upgrades; is that something that
- 23 the county and parks department is going to
- 24 be looking into as an opportunity for maybe
- 25 some of our young people to get jobs or to

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 work in areas of environmental protection or
- 3 things of that nature?
- I just want to again put that out
- 5 there if there is anything that's going to
- 6 help us save money and provide for the
- 7 aesthetics as well as the environment and
- 8 create some jobs and keep our residents and
- 9 our young people occupied and in their
- 10 homes, it's something to give some
- 11 consideration for.
- 12 So if someone can speak to that,
- 13 I would appreciate being told, thank you for
- 14 my comments, but I would like to actually
- 15 hear somebody who is responding to it and
- 16 doing something about anything that I happen
- 17 to suggest. It would kind of help me.
- 18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: The
- 19 contracts for Rowland and Naggin are to
- 20 provide traditional 19th Century Dance
- 21 music. So obviously that is what ties it
- 22 into Old Bethpage which obviously is a 19th
- 23 Century structure and location of historic
- 24 nature.
- 25 I don't think that would be

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 appropriate anywhere else in the county.
- 3 Then you have the contract for
- 4 MLicata which is Lakeside Theatre which is
- 5 accessible for most. I didn't see it. I
- don't believe that it would be for county
- 7 parks. If it had to do with state funds it
- 8 would be probably upgraded to New York state
- 9 parks. We would love to have \$16 million
- 10 for state funds.
- MS. MEREDAY: If we're partnering
- 12 and aligning, county residents pay taxes,
- 13 state local, whatever, fees et cetera.
- So, again, as our stewards so to
- 15 speak, I would think it might be an
- 16 opportunity to reach out to the state to
- 17 look at some of these things that could be
- 18 set up as a grant to provide these
- 19 opportunities.
- We do have other historic
- 21 locations where this entertainment can take
- 22 place. We have a facility that's basically
- 23 falling apart that could get historical
- 24 landmark status, the Kellogg House in
- 25 Baldwin that could be a location. Actually,

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Baldwin residents are waiting for the county
- 3 to decide what it wants to do with the
- 4 property. So there are other locations like
- 5 I said other than Bethpage. Thank you.
- 6 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
- 7 Mr. Nugent, did you want to add anything?
- MR. NUGENT: I was going to
- 9 reiterate what you said that that was a 19th
- 10 century village and that's specific to that.
- 11 We also do try to have at least one program
- 12 at every park where feasible, so we do do a
- 13 lot of shows down at Wantagh Park and Grant
- 14 Park as well as movies at Mackey Park.
- 15 It is something that we look
- 16 into. We do try and we do consider
- 17 ourselves amenable to the whole county.
- 18 That's all.
- 19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
- 20 I'm going to call these items now. U-6,
- U-7, U-8, U-9, all in favor signify by
- 22 saying aye.
- 23 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 25 (No verbal response.)

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Carries unanimously.
- 3 One more item of business before
- 4 we turn it over to the committees. E-21 of
- 5 2018 is a resolution authorizing the County
- 6 Executive to execute a personal services
- 7 agreement between the county acting on
- 8 behalf of the traffic and parking and Robert
- 9 Horowitz. Motion to untable.
- 10 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.
- 11 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.
- 12 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 13 Legislator Rhoads, Legislator Schaefer
- 14 seconds that.
- 15 All in favor of untabling signify
- 16 by saying aye.
- 17 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 19 (No verbal response.)
- Carries unanimously. The matter
- 21 is now before us.
- MR. RICH: David Rich, Executive
- 23 Director of Traffic and Parking Violations
- 24 Agency. Judge Horowitz has been a judge, a
- 25 judicial hearing officer with Nassau traffic

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 and parking since 2004. We are just looking
- 3 to renew his contract.
- 4 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I think we
- 5 had tabled it in the past because of his
- 6 address in Manhattan.
- 7 He's reached out to us indicating
- 8 that he had moved into Manhattan. He had
- 9 spent many many years as a JHO, judicial
- 10 hearing officer of Nassau County, and he
- 11 simply requested that he be allowed to
- 12 continue his contract until the end of this
- 13 year.
- 14 I don't see a problem with that
- 15 since he has provided service to us for many
- 16 years.
- 17 Anyone have any questions or
- 18 thoughts on this?
- 19 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Is there
- 20 any requirement that he live in Nassau?
- 21 MR. RICH: There is no legal
- 22 requirement. The County Attorney did
- 23 research that.
- 24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.
- 25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other

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Rules Committee/5-7-18
1
    comments or questions?
2
3
                (No verbal response.)
4
                Is there any public comment?
5
                (No verbal response.)
                All those in favor of E-21
6
7
    signify by saying aye.
8
                (Aye.)
9
                Those opposed?
10
                (No verbal response.)
11
                Carries unanimously.
12
                We will put the committee in
13
    recess while the other committees go
14
    forward. Public Safety first.
15
                (Whereupon, the Rules Committee
    recessed at 2:38 p.m. and reconvened at 5:10
16
17
    p.m.)
18
                CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I'm going to
    call the Rules Committee back into session.
19
20
    The first thing we need to do is make a
21
    motion to suspend the rules on the addendum.
22
                LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.
23
                LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
24
    Second.
```

2.5

CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
- 3 DeRiggi-Whitton. All in favor of suspending
- 4 the rules signify by saying aye.
- 5 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 7 (No verbal response.)
- The rules are suspended.
- 9 We have a number of items that
- 10 are going to be called. Actually, before we
- 11 get to that, there is one contract that we
- 12 to call at this time which we held before.
- E-46 of 2018, a resolution
- 14 authorizing the County Executive to execute
- 15 a personal services agreement between the
- 16 county acting on behalf of Traffic and
- 17 Parking and Campanelli and Associates.
- 18 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So moved.
- 19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.
- 20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 21 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Deputy
- 22 Presiding Officer Kopel. That item is
- 23 before the committee. Can I get a motion to
- 24 table?
- 25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So moved.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.
- 3 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Minority
- 4 Leader makes a motion to table, Legislator
- 5 Rhoads seconds it. All those in favor
- 6 signify by saying aye.
- $7 \qquad \qquad (Aye.)$
- 8 Those opposed?
- 9 (No verbal response.)
- 10 Carries unanimously. These are
- 11 the consent items. Before I do that,
- 12 actually I want to note for the record that
- 13 we would incorporate by reference the
- 14 minutes of the other committees that were
- 15 held before us today.
- 16 (Whereupon, please refer to the
- 17 minutes of the Public Safety, Public Works
- 18 and Parks, Health and Social Services, and
- 19 the Planning Development and Environment
- 20 Committee; and Finance Committees dated
- 21 5 7 18.
- 22 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: They are
- 23 consent items 169, 172, 173, 177, 178, 179,
- 24 180, 181, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191,
- 25 192, 193, 196, 197, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206,

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 207, and one item on the addendum 214.
- 3 These items went through the committees
- 4 earlier and it was agreed that we will pass
- 5 these all along in a block. Motion?
- 6 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So moved.
- 7 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second.
- 8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 9 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Legislator
- 10 Bynoe. Items are before the committee.
- 11 All those in favor signify by
- 12 saying aye.
- 13 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 15 (No verbal response.)
- 16 They carry unanimously. There is
- 17 a number of appointments to the Minority
- 18 Affairs Committee. I'm going to call one
- 19 separately because our Minority Leader has
- 20 to recuse himself.
- 21 153, it's a resolution to confirm
- 22 the County Executive's appointment of Debra
- 23 Wheat Williams to the Minority Affairs
- 24 Council.
- 25 Let the record reflect that

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Minority Leader Abrahams has left the
- 3 chamber and is not participating in any
- 4 debate or discussion on this item.
- 5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So moved.
- 6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 7 Second.
- 8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 9 Legislator Bynoe, seconded by Legislator
- 10 DeRiggi-Whitton. Do we have any debate or
- 11 discussion?
- 12 (No verbal response.)
- Is there any public comment?
- 14 (No verbal response.)
- 15 All those in favor signify by
- 16 saying aye.
- 17 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 19 (No verbal response.)
- That item carries unanimously.
- 21 Invite Legislator Abrahams back in.
- I'm going to call the rest of
- 23 these together so that we will pass these
- 24 and move them along to the Full Legislature.
- 25 150, 152, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 161, 163,

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 165, 166, 167, 168, 170. They are all
- 3 appointments to the Minority Affairs
- 4 Council. I don't think it's necessary to
- 5 read the names right now.
- 6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved.
- 7 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.
- 8 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 9 Legislator Kopel, seconded by Legislator
- 10 Schaefer. All of these appointments are
- 11 before the committee. All those in favor
- 12 signify by saying aye.
- 13 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 15 (No verbal response.)
- 16 Carries unanimously. They will
- 17 be on the Full Legislature on the 23rd.
- 18 Item 176 is a resolution
- 19 authorizing the County Executive to execute
- 20 an intermunicipal agreement with the Wantagh
- 21 Union Free School District to improve the
- 22 soft ball fields at Wantagh High School.
- LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.
- LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.
- 25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
 2 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
- 3 Schaefer. Do we have any debate or
- 4 discussion?
- 5 (No verbal response.)
- Is there any public comment?
- 7 (No verbal response.)
- 8 All those in favor signify by
- 9 saying aye.
- 10 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 12 (No verbal response.)
- Carries unanimously.
- 14 There are three items that should
- 15 have been on the consent items but I
- 16 neglected to call; 182, 183 and 184.
- 17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So moved.
- 18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 19 Second.
- 20 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 21 Legislator Bynoe, seconded by Legislator
- 22 DeRiggi-Whitton. These items are before the
- 23 committee. Do we have any debate or
- 24 discussion?
- 25 (No verbal response.)

1	Rules Committee/5-7-18
2	Is there any public comment?
3	(No verbal response.)
4	All those in favor signify by
5	saying aye.
6	(Aye.)
7	Those opposed?
8	(No verbal response.)
9	Those items carry unanimously.
10	Moving to 194 of 2018, a
11	resolution to authorize the County Executive
12	to execute an intermunicipal agreement with
13	the Village of Williston Park in relation to
14	a project to procure SCBA refills station
15	for the Village fire department. I will
16	make the motion.
17	LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Second.
18	CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I made the
19	motion, seconded by Legislator Abrahams.
20	It's a county grant to provide this
21	refilling station which the village fire
22	department is desperately in need of.
23	Any questions or discussion?
24	(No verbal response.)
25	Is there any public comment?

- Rules Committee/5-7-18 1 2 (No verbal response.) 3 All those in favor signify by 4 saying aye. 5 (Aye.) 6 Those opposed? 7 (No verbal response.) 8 Carries unanimously. 9 Item 195, a resolution authorizing the County Executive to execute 10 11 an amendment to an intermunicipal agreement 12 with the Town of Hempstead in relation to 13 providing lifequard services at Nickerson 14 Beach. 15 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: So moved. 16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second. 17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by 18 Legislator Schaefer, seconded by Legislator 19 Bynoe. That is a rules only item. 20 MR. NUGENT: Brian Nugent, Deputy 21 Commissioner Nassau County Parks Department. 22 This is an amendment to an existing IMA that
- 25 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: This is

park as well as first aid services.

23

24

provides ocean lifeguards to Nickerson Beach

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 something we do every year, correct?
- MR. NUGENT: Yes, we don't have
- 4 ocean life guards.
- 5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: There are
- 6 town beaches on either side also?
- 7 MR. NUGENT: Yes, it makes the
- 8 beach contiguous.
- 9 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Do we have
- 10 any questions for Mr. Nugent?
- 11 (No verbal response.)
- 12 Is there any public comment?
- 13 (No verbal response.)
- 14 All those in favor signify by
- 15 saying aye.
- 16 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 18 (No verbal response.)
- 19 Carries unanimously. 198, a
- 20 resolution to accept a gift offered by the
- 21 Nassau County Police Department Foundation
- 22 to the Nassau County Police Department.
- 23 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
- moved.
- 25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Second.

1	Rules Committee/5-7-18
2	CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
3	Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, seconded by
4	Minority Leader Abrahams.
5	LIEUTENANT STEPHANOFF: Good
6	afternoon. Lieutenant Greg Stephanoff,
7	Nassau County Police Department. Item
8	198-18 is to allow a donation from a Nassau
9	County foundation. They wish to sponsor the
10	Nassau County Police Department breakfast
11	briefing scheduled for June 2018 at the
12	Fresh Meadow Country Club.
13	This is for the department to
14	give an accounting of all the donations that
15	were made previously to the department for
16	the foundation board and the Commissioner
17	will give a briefing on how it benefitted
18	the department and the citizens of Nassau
19	County.
20	CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any
21	questions or discussion?
22	(No verbal response.)
23	Is there any public comment?

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Thank you, Lieutenant. All those

(No verbal response.)

24

25

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 in favor signify by saying aye.
- 3 (Aye.)
- 4 Those opposed?
- 5 (No verbal response.)
- 6 Carries unanimously.
- 7 199 is a local law to amend the
- 8 Nassau County Charter to adjust the
- 9 qualifications of administrative employees
- 10 of the fire commission.
- 11 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.
- 12 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Second.
- 13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 14 Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Legislator
- 15 Schaefer.
- 16 ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: Good
- 17 afternoon. John Priest, Assistant Chief
- 18 Fire Marshall, Nassau County Fire Marshal's
- 19 Office.
- 20 Members, the item before you is
- 21 to help define from the get-go members of
- 22 the Fire Marshal's Office who are out doing
- 23 inspections and enforcing the fire
- 24 prevention ordinance had to have five years
- 25 of service in the volunteer fire service of

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 Nassau before they could be hired.
- 3 Back when that was established,
- 4 said that those who were purely clerical
- 5 could be waived from that requirement. The
- 6 item before you is to define further which
- 7 positions need the five years and which
- 8 clerical positions do not.
- 9 It gives the chief fire marshal
- 10 the ability to determine whether or not some
- 11 positions need it or do not need that
- 12 requirement.
- 13 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Has there
- 14 been any feedback from the fire department
- 15 themselves, are they comfortable with this?
- 16 ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: To the
- 17 best of my knowledge, yes, sir.
- 18 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
- 19 questions?
- 20 (No verbal response.)
- 21 Any public comment?
- (No verbal response.)
- Thank you, John.
- 24 All in favor signify by saying
- 25 aye.

Rules Committee/5-7-18 1 2 (Aye.) 3 Those opposed? 4 (No verbal response.) 5 Carries unanimously. 6 200 is an ordinance amending 7 ordinance number 155 of 2014 which amended 8 ordinance number 113 of 2005 which amended 9 ordinance number 90 of 2003 entitled to establish a Taxi and Limousine Commission 10 11 and to provide for the registration of for 12 hire vehicles. LEGISLATOR KOPEL: So moved. 13 14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Second. 15 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by 16 Deputy Presiding Officer Kopel, and seconded 17 by Legislator Bynoe. 18 MR. MAY: Greq May, Consumer Affairs Commissioner. This is an 19 20 administerial ordinance, I think it is, 21 changing any reference to the Taxi and 22 Limousine Commission to the Nassau County 23 Department of Consumer Affairs and the local 24 law that merged the two departments, it was

essentially incorporated by reference, if

25

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 there was a reference to a TLC, it meant
- 3 Consumer Affairs, and this is cleaning that
- 4 up and making it official so any reprints of
- 5 the administrative code had the correct
- 6 language in it.
- 7 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Easy enough.
- 8 Thank you, Greg. Any questions?
- 9 (No verbal response.)
- 10 Any public comments?
- 11 MS. MEREDAY: Meta J. Mereday. I
- 12 just had a question about the last part on
- 13 this ordinance, blurb, where it says and to
- 14 provide for the registration of for hire
- 15 vehicles, is that something new or change
- 16 something? This doesn't relate to Uber,
- 17 Lift or anything of that nature.
- MR. MAY: Thank you. State law
- 19 changed the definition of Uber vehicles to
- 20 the transportation network company vehicle.
- 21 The local law that combined the two
- 22 departments clarified our roll in ensuring
- 23 compliance with the state law.
- 24 For hire vehicle is a term of art
- 25 that the county has used and most

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 jurisdictions use for what we would
- 3 colloquially call taxis. So, no, the for
- 4 hire vehicle is not new.
- 5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Thank you.
- 6 Is there any other public comment?
- 7 (No verbal response.)
- 8 All those in favor signify by
- 9 saying aye.
- 10 (Aye.)
- Those opposed?
- 12 (No verbal response.)
- The item carries unanimously.
- 14 We have two items on the addendum
- 15 to cover.
- 16 212 of 2018 is a local law to
- 17 amend the Nassau County administrative code
- 18 to prohibit the use and sale of sparkling
- 19 devices.
- 20 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: So
- 21 moved.
- LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Second.
- 23 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 24 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, seconded by
- 25 Legislator Rhoads.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: John
- 3 Priest. The item before you is to
- 4 technically what they call opt out of a New
- 5 York State law. All of these items were
- 6 prohibited until 2015 when Governor Cuomo
- 7 signed a law allowing their sale.
- 8 The City of New York was exempt
- 9 from that law. Suffolk County has already
- 10 opted out from that law.
- 11 These are commonly referred to as
- 12 sparklers cause over 6,000 injuries per year
- 13 burning at over 1200 degrees and easily
- 14 ignite combustible materials. They are the
- 15 leading cause of injury, fireworks injuries
- 16 in children under five years old.
- 17 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: So that's
- 18 why this is on the addendum. That's the
- 19 emergency because it's a public health
- issue; is that what you're saying?
- 21 ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: It is a
- 22 public safety issue. You want to call it
- 23 health injury issue, yes, and they will
- 24 become legal, I can't remember the date,
- very soon, unless we opt out now.

```
Rules Committee/5-7-18
1
2
                CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: It's the
3
    Fire Marshal's recommendation that we pass
4
    this so we opt out and these remain illegal
5
    in Nassau County?
                ASSISTANT CHIEF PRIEST: That is
6
7
    correct along with the Nassau County Fire
8
    Commission representing the fire service.
9
                CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
10
    questions?
11
                (No verbal response.)
12
                Is there any public comment?
13
                (No verbal response.)
14
                Hearing none, all those in favor
15
    signify by saying aye.
16
                (Aye.)
17
                Those opposed?
18
                (No verbal response.)
19
                The item passes unanimously.
20
    Thank you, John.
21
                (Let left the / ( clam better for
22
    discussion on vote on 216)
23
                Last but not least, 216 is an
24
    item that Legislator Schaefer is going to
2.5
    recuse herself on. Let the record reflect
```

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 that Legislator Schaefer has left the
- 3 chamber and will not be participating in any
- 4 debate or discussion or vote on 216.
- 5 It's an ordinance making certain
- 6 determinations pursuant to the State
- 7 Environmental Quality Review Act and
- 8 authorizing the County Executive to execute
- 9 an amendment and consent to an assignment of
- 10 a lease between the county, as landlord, and
- 11 Belzona Molecular Inc. As tenant, for
- 12 premises located at 100 Charles Lindbergh
- 13 Boulevard and authorizing the County
- 14 Executive to execute any and all documents
- in connection therewith.
- 16 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So moved.
- 17 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
- 18 Second.
- 19 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
- 20 Legislator Bynoe, seconded by Legislator
- 21 DeRiggi-Whitton.
- MR. SERANDIS: Nicholas Serandis,
- 23 Deputy County Attorney.
- 24 This matter is coming before for
- 25 the reason that this is a Mitchell Field

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 lease where we have a ground lease and the
- 3 provisions of the original lease state that
- 4 the lease could not be assigned to any party
- 5 could be a tax exempt entity, thereby
- 6 causing a necessity to amend the lease.
- 7 The proposal that was brought to
- 8 our attention was that the academy charter
- 9 school which currently operates as a charter
- 10 school in the Village of Hempstead on North
- 11 Franklin Avenue wanted to operate a charter
- 12 school within the confines of the Uniondale
- 13 school district and that's located this
- 14 Mitchell Field property.
- The original lease of the
- 16 property was to Belzona Molecular which was
- 17 done around 1980. The current tenant of
- 18 that property is a financial type company,
- 19 118 Kings Point Road Associates and CLB 100
- 20 L.L.C.
- 21 They were I guess approached by
- 22 the charter school to assign the lease to
- 23 the charter school for the purposes of the
- 24 charter school arranging for the use of the
- 25 property as the charter school.

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- The effect at the moment is on
- 3 taxes obviously because of their potential
- 4 acquisition of the property in this tax year
- 5 any proposed exemption or any exemption that
- 6 they may be entitled to would not take
- 7 effect until the date which is January 2 of
- 8 2019 for the 2020 taxes.
- 9 In addition they advised us that
- 10 they would tenants within the building and
- 11 that the tenants within the building would
- 12 retain approximately 20 percent of the
- 13 building for commercial purposes and not tax
- 14 exempt purposes.
- So at that point, the Assessment
- 16 Department, even though they would be filing
- 17 for an exemption could aleve 20 percent of
- 18 the property or the value they thought would
- 19 be represented the use by the private entity
- 20 on the tax roll and exempting the other
- 21 portion of that.
- Just so we had spoken with them
- 23 on several occasions and apparently the
- 24 lease for that intention would be expiring
- 25 to 2022. At that point, the potential that

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 the entire property would be tax exempt.
- In the interim, the county
- 4 charter school had indicated that they are
- 5 seeking to open up the charter school in
- 6 September of this year. Therefore they
- 7 requested this consent to the amendment of
- 8 the current lease and the consent to
- 9 assignment to the charter school.
- 10 They plan to start by opening up
- 11 for the lower elementary grade, I believe
- 12 kindergarten through second grade, and
- 13 expand as their needs -- and hope to expand
- 14 eventually through the high school grade
- 15 level.
- So that's basically what -- the
- 17 rent on the property does not change and as
- 18 a result and as the committee may be aware
- 19 at this point the county does not collect
- 20 the rent on the property having sold the
- 21 rental stream to an entity a number of years
- 22 ago for 35 years so the rent is collected by
- 23 another entity.
- The other entity is aware of the
- 25 transaction and has said they have no

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 objection to us consenting to the assignment
- 3 and amending the lease if that's what the
- 4 Legislature decides.
- 5 CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: I think you
- 6 basically covered it. Does anyone have any
- 7 questions for Mr. Serandis?
- 8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you,
- 9 Presiding Officer. If you could just take
- 10 me back through, you had said that the
- 11 tenant or I guess the landlord will remain
- in 20 percent of the building?
- 13 MR. SERANDIS: No. What
- 14 basically we have been advised is that there
- 15 currently is commercial entities on the
- 16 property because it's not owned by the --
- 17 the charter school is not the tenant of the
- 18 current property.
- 19 When they become the tenant if
- 20 this is approved, they indicated that the
- 21 entity that was there will be retaining
- 22 about 20 percent of the building until 2022,
- 23 a commercial entity that should remain.
- 24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's what
- 25 I just said. So the total size of the

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 property is how much again?
- MR. SERANDIS: It's over 100,000
- 4 square foot building, correct?
- 5 MR. WALSH: Kevin Walsh, this
- 6 building is approximately 80,000 square
- 7 feet.
- 8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: So 20
- 9 percent of that would be roughly 16,000
- 10 square feet which they will not be
- 11 retaining?
- MR. WALSH: Indicates 20, so it
- 13 might be a little more.
- 14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Do we know
- 15 the tax dollars that would have to be
- 16 absorbed by other property tax owners? Do
- 17 we know that total number? It's not going
- 18 to be lost revenue obviously because it's
- 19 going to be absorbed by other entities but
- 20 do we know that absorption number?
- 21 MR. SERANDIS: For this year the
- 22 current taxes paid by the property
- 23 approximately \$700,000 consisting of about
- 24 \$370,000 and \$302,000 in county, town,
- 25 special districts, like sewer, library, and

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 fire district taxes.
- 3 Obviously if the assessment were
- 4 to hold and 20 percent or 25 percent of the
- 5 property would remain on the tax roll,
- 6 assuming it was 20 percent, about
- 7 approximately \$140,000 would remain on the
- 8 tax roll. Therefore there would be a tax
- 9 exemption of approximately \$560,000 between
- 10 school, town, and county and all of the
- 11 general taxes. That obviously won't take
- 12 effect for another year because of the
- 13 taxable status date.
- 14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The school
- 15 proportion would be spread out between
- 16 commercial and residential?
- 17 MR. SERANDIS: Yes. I'm advised
- 18 by the Assessment Department that if the
- 19 exemption takes effect, it would be spread
- 20 out among all of the other classes which
- 21 would include residential, class two, which
- is co-ops and condos; class three, which is
- 23 utilities and of course amongst the Class 4
- 24 properties which is commercial, that Class 4
- 25 would lose that assessed valuation in its

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 valuations. Therefore, obviously the
- 3 corresponding increase for the taxpayers
- 4 within the Class 4 as well.
- 5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Do you have
- 6 a breakdown of what the average absorption
- 7 number would be for those particular classes
- 8 within the school district? I know the
- 9 county and the town, those folks, it would a
- 10 very, very faint touch, like me tapping
- 11 Howard on the shoulder, but I'm talking
- 12 about the folks in the school district, how
- much would they expect to see?
- MR. SERANDIS: We haven't really
- 15 worked out those numbers yet, but, like I
- 16 said, approximately \$560,000 of it, taxes
- 17 that would be spread out overall. A portion
- 18 of it would go to homeowners but obviously a
- 19 portion would go to utilities as well as
- 20 condos and co-ops.
- 21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How hard
- 22 would it be -- if I'm looking at this
- 23 correctly, you said 370 would be the amount
- 24 going towards the schools for this year.
- However, you have to take 20

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 percent off the 370 which roughly gives me
- 3 about 80,000, 74,000 less --
- 4 MR. SERANDIS: Probably down to
- 5 \$300,000 would be absorbed by the other
- 6 taxpayers in the district.
- 7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Is it hard
- 8 for you and Mr. Walsh to figure out what
- 9 that would be in terms of the absorption by
- 10 each class?
- MR. SERANDIS: We can ask the
- 12 Assessment Department to figure that out.
- 13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Could they
- 14 get back to us in two weeks for the Full
- 15 Legislature?
- MR. SERANDIS: Yes.
- 17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: And then my
- 18 last question, thank you for indulging me,
- 19 Presiding Officer, and my last question, in
- 20 the event that the lease with the academy
- 21 ends for any particular reason, the property
- 22 returns back to the tax rolls and I quess
- 23 the county is notified that the lease has
- 24 ended?
- 25 MR. SERANDIS: Well, what would

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 happen is, right now the amendment provides
- 3 only for assignment to the charter school.
- 4 If the charter school would then ask to
- 5 assign that lease again, the county would
- 6 obviously would have to consent to that
- 7 assignment if the assignment was to a
- 8 commercial entity, the Assessment Department
- 9 would then reclassify the property as Class
- 10 4 and nonexempt.
- 11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The
- 12 assignment in this case goes for how long,
- what period of time?
- 14 MR. SERANDIS: The assignment is
- 15 perpetual. The lease is currently within
- 16 the -- it has three option periods of 33
- 17 years each. It's a 99 year lease.
- 18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said 33
- 19 years each?
- MR. SERANDIS: Each. So it's a
- 21 99 year lease. In 2013, the entity that was
- 22 the ownership at that time exercised the
- 23 first option.
- So we're currently in the middle
- 25 of the second 33 year period which has about

- 1 Rules Committee/5-7-18
- 2 another 28 years to go and then they can
- 3 exercise the option for another 33 years
- 4 after that. Potentially the lease has
- 5 another 66 years to go. That's common of
- 6 all the Mitchel Field leases whether -- of
- 7 all the properties that exist there.
- 8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said
- 9 middle and you through me off. You said
- 10 we're in the middle of the second?
- MR. SERANDIS: They just
- 12 exercised the first option.
- 13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You mean we
- 14 are in the beginning of the second, right?
- MR. SERANDIS: Yes. It started
- in 1980 the first option was up around 2013.
- 17 They exercised the entity then holding the
- 18 lease, exercised that option.
- 19 So now the option, it's five
- 20 years into the second option -- first
- 21 option. Then they can exercise the second
- 22 option 28 years from now for an additional
- 23 33 years.
- 24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Got you.
- 25 Nothing further.

1	Rules Committee/5-7-18
2	CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Any other
3	questions for Mr. Serandis?
4	(No verbal response.)
5	Thank you, Nick. Hearing none,
6	any public comment?
7	(No verbal response.)
8	All those in favor signify by
9	saying aye.
10	(Aye.)
11	Abstain?
12	(Abstain.)
13	Those opposed?
14	(No verbal response.)
15	Unanimous? I'm sorry, it's four
16	in favor with two abstentions. It carries.
17	And will be on the Full Legislature on the
18	23rd.
19	Mr. Rhoads, want to make a motion
20	to adjourn?
21	LEGISLATOR RHOADS: So moved.
22	LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Second.
23	CHAIRMAN NICOLELLO: Moved by
24	Legislator Rhoads, seconded by Deputy

25 Presiding Officer Kopel. All in favor of

1	Rules Committee/5-7-18
2	adjourning signify by saying aye.
3	(Aye.)
4	Those opposed?
5	(No verbal response.)
6	We are adjourned.
7	(Whereupon, the Rules Committee
8	adjourned at 5:38 p.m.)
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2	<u>CERTIFICATE</u>
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5	I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and
6	Notary Public in and for the State of New
7	York, do hereby stated:
8	THAT I attended at the time and place
9	above mentioned and took stenographic record
10	of the proceedings in the above-entitled
11	matter;
12	THAT the foregoing transcript is a true
13	and accurate transcript of the same and the
14	whole thereof, according to the best of my
15	ability and belief.
16	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
17	my hand this 24th day of May, 2018.
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19	
20	FRANK GRAY
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