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6 NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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8 RICHARD NICOLELLO

9 PRESIDING OFFICER

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11 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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13 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

14 CHAIR

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16

17 Theodore Roosevelt Building

18 1550 Franklin Avenue

19 Mineola, New York

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21

22 July 23 2018

23 3:08 P.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

8 Vice Chair

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10 LEGISLATOR VINCENT MUSCARELLA

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12 LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI

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14 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15 Ranking member

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17 LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

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19 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Call the Public
3 Safety Committee to order. I would like to
4 ask the clerk to call the roll.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Public
6 Safety Committee roll call. Legislator Debra
7 Mule.

8 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Siela
10 Bynoe.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.
13 Ranking member Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

14 LEGISLATOR DeRIGGI-WHITTON:
15 Here.

16 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John
17 Ferretti, Jr.

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Vincent
20 Muscarella.

21 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Vice chairman
23 Steven Rhoads.

24 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Here.

25 MR. PULITZER: Chairwoman Denise

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2 Ford.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

4 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum
5 ma'am.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: There are six
7 items on the agenda today which are clerk
8 items 288-18, 289-18, 290-18, 291-18 and
9 355-18.

10 Clerk item number 288-18 is an
11 ordinance supplemental to the annual
12 appropriation ordinance in connection with the
13 Department of Toxicology and the medical
14 examiner.

15 May I have a motion. Moved by
16 Legislator Muscarella. Seconded by Legislator
17 Rhoads. The item is before us. Who is here
18 from the administration to speak about this
19 item?

20 MS. DOOLING: Karen Dooling,
21 assistant director crime laboratory medical
22 examiner's office. This item is for the
23 toxicology laboratory. It's an \$85,090
24 grant. It's through the state. It's a no
25 match. And it will be used for supplies and

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2 equipment and overtime to support the
3 laboratory, reduce backlog and to maintain
4 current quality functions.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you. Any
6 questions from the legislators? Any public
7 comment? All those in favor of passing 288-18
8 please say aye. Any opposed? The item
9 passes.

10 I'm sorry. I meant to call 289 at
11 the same time. So I would like to call
12 289-18. Do I have a motion? Legislator
13 Muscarella. Seconded by Legislator Rhoads.
14 The item is before us. If you can give us a
15 little history.

16 MS. DOOLING: This is the same
17 grant issued that's through the state but it's
18 for the crime laboratory. It's \$530,704. No
19 match. And it's used for the same things,
20 equipment, personnel, overtime and supplies to
21 support quality control program and reduce
22 backlogs.

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any questions?
24 Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton.

25 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Is

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2 there an update on the labs? I know we always
3 ask this. I feel like it's been going on for
4 years.

5 MS. DOOLING: The new building is
6 moving along. I anticipate we will be in
7 there by the end of the year. It's hard to
8 give a firm date because there are a couple of
9 things outstanding and awaiting resolution to
10 determine exactly when we can get in there.
11 Very exciting, our accrediting body will be
12 coming in in October and they will also be
13 going to that facility to take a look at it
14 and we'll just be picking up one operation and
15 moving it there. Once they come and they look
16 at the facility and find it acceptable, all we
17 have to do once everything is moved and
18 recalibrators will have to show them proof
19 that all that's been done and we will be ready
20 to move in.

21 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Not
22 holding you to anything but it sounds possibly
23 like the beginning of 2019?

24 MS. DOOLING: I truly believe we
25 will be in there before the end of this year.

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2 My best guess is November.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any other
4 questions? Any public comment? Seeing none,
5 all those in favor of passing 289-18 please
6 say aye. All those opposed? The item
7 passes. Thank you very much.

8 I'm going to call -- the next three
9 items actually deal with the Traffic Safety
10 Board. I'm going to call all of them
11 together. Item 290-18, 291-18 and 292-18.
12 All those can I have a motion? Legislator
13 Muscarella. Seconded by Legislator Mule.

14 Good afternoon Mr. Mistron.

15 MR. MISTRON: Christopher
16 Mistron, Nassau County Traffic Safety. Of the
17 three items the first item, the 290, is in
18 reference to a DWI grant that we've received
19 for \$60,000. In fact, the check has already
20 been received and is waiting in the
21 treasurer's office to be matched to this
22 grant. The purpose of the money was for the
23 Nassau County Police Department to be able to
24 do special DWI patrols, arrange for special
25 details including road blocks at various

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2 locations for DWI specific activity.

3 291 is for the Stop DWI Program
4 itself for a little more than 1.3 million.
5 This is the program that is administered and
6 divided between different agencies. The
7 police department, various police agencies
8 throughout the county, the district attorney
9 for prosecution, probation for following those
10 on probation, for drug and alcohol to help
11 assist in the educational programs and for
12 traffic safety itself for being able to
13 program and to administer the grant monies
14 themselves.

15 Then 292 is monies that are
16 received under the handicapped program. Fines
17 that are received for handicapped parking are
18 divided between traffic safety and the
19 Department of Physically Challenged. With our
20 portion of the money we actually utilize it
21 for both educational programs as well as
22 within the child safety seat programs that we
23 do throughout the county.

24 We have special needs person that's
25 able to install seats and to assist with those

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2 children that are unable to sit up properly or
3 are facing different physical needs that
4 entail specialized work within transporting
5 them within vehicles. Those are the three
6 grants before you.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.
8 Just to go back. With the surcharge that you
9 get, this is funding that comes from New York
10 State, these are fees that are charged by New
11 York State, correct?

12 MR. MISTRON: Yes.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: So then
14 actually you could use it in that capacity as
15 training or to be able to help with car
16 seats?

17 MR. MISTRON: Correct.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: Very
19 interesting. On the other one 292 -- no 291,
20 I'm sorry, that's the one with the Stop DWI.
21 That's where like what is it? to provide
22 funding so that if the police need to set up
23 special checkpoints or is that something
24 separate?

25 MR. MISTRON: The 290 was special

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2 money coming in one-time deal, one-time shot.
3 That one was when I put in for the grant it
4 was for special details and the state approved
5 and gave us \$60,000.

6 In the case of 291, the 1.3
7 million, it's a mistake that the state will
8 never make again. It's dedicated funding that
9 what basically is is that's fine money
10 received for DWI stays within the county and
11 by legislation must be maintained by DWI
12 office. Who then again as we have to submit a
13 plan each year and they are the ones that
14 approve how the money and where the money is
15 going to go. So with that money in our
16 educational component, for instance, we
17 actually contract with Mother's Against Drunk
18 Driving, with Dedicated, which is Marge Lee
19 and want to do school programs as well as
20 other educational elements, including Athletes
21 Helping Athletes is another one. Then the
22 rest of the money is used for all the elements
23 of DWI, enforcement, rehabilitation and
24 prosecution.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Does that

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2 include the interlocks that get installed?

3 MR. MISTRON: The portion that
4 probation monitors the interlock program is
5 reimbursed, their salaries are reimbursed
6 through this program.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you for
8 all the work you do on this. It's fantastic.
9 Any other questions or comments from the
10 legislators? Any public comment? I see
11 none. I'm going to call 290-18, 291-18,
12 292-18. All those in favor of passing it
13 through say aye. Any opposed? The items pass
14 unanimously. Thank you so much. On to the
15 next one.

16 Item 355-18. This is an ordinance
17 supplemental to the annual appropriation
18 ordinance in connection with the correctional
19 center. Can I have a motion? Moved by
20 Legislator Ferretti. Seconded by Legislator
21 Rhoads. Okay. Good afternoon.

22 MS. HALL: Narda Hall,
23 Correctional Center. Item 355-18 is for the
24 Gun Involved Violence Elimination Award. It
25 appropriates \$22,000 in funds from New York

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2 State through the district attorney's office.
3 The grant focuses on reducing violent crimes
4 through improved coordination among federal,
5 state and local criminal justice agencies
6 using data driven strategies. The fund will
7 be used for overtime, training,
8 investigations, information sharing and
9 meeting for the county gang intelligence
10 units. The term is from July 2018 through
11 June of 2019.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.
13 This actually is used within the correctional
14 center itself, funding for the gang
15 activities?

16 MS. HALL: Yes. And preventive
17 measures.

18 LEGISLATOR FORD: What do you
19 train the correction officers with anything
20 special or is it more --

21 MS. HALL: It's used within the
22 Gang Intelligence Unit.

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: I'm sorry. I
24 misunderstood you. Any other questions?
25 Legislator Bynoe.

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
3 chairwoman. You actually started me in a
4 direction of my questioning. Could you tell
5 us a little more about the Gang Intelligence
6 Unit at the jail?

7 MR. ALBRIGHT: Alphonso Albright,
8 Commissioner. So the Gang Intelligence Unit
9 focuses on looking at gang activity inside the
10 jail facility. They collaborate with other
11 state, local and federal organizations in
12 regards to gang intelligence. The item that
13 we have up that's going to enhance that
14 purpose inside and seek additional
15 information. I wouldn't want to go too far
16 into the dynamics of what this will be used
17 for out in the public, but it is to
18 specifically help the gang intel unit in
19 coordination with others.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: How large is
21 that unit?

22 MR. ALBRIGHT: The unit is
23 approximately eight staff with a supervisor.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: Before you go,

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2 based on the information that you get and the
3 intel that you get do you then make
4 recommendations to the correctional center as
5 to whether or not to move any types of groups
6 or do you use that for moving any people
7 around in the correctional center?

8 MR. ALBRIGHT: The dynamics of
9 the intel that we do get is utilized for
10 certain types of movement. Again, I wouldn't
11 want to go too far, but yes, it could focus on
12 establishing different parameters or different
13 solutions for how we navigate individual staff
14 as well as inmates.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: Perfect. Thank
16 you very much. Any other legislators? Any
17 other public? I see none. I will call
18 355-18. All those in favor of passing it say
19 aye. Any opposed? The item passes
20 unanimously.

21 Seeing as we have an addendum I'm
22 asking for a motion to suspend the rules.
23 Moved by Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by
24 Legislator Mule. All in favor? Thank you.

25 I'm going to first call those two

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2 items together in connection with the police
3 department, 439-18 and 451-18. I'm also going
4 to call item 457-18 and 458-18. A motion to
5 move those. Legislator Muscarella. Seconded
6 by Legislator Rhoads.

7 MR. STEPHANOFF: Good afternoon.
8 Lieutenant Greg Stephanoff from the police
9 department.

10 Item 439 of '18 this item
11 supplements \$500,000 from our misdemeanor
12 forfeiture funds. This is money that comes
13 in, misdemeanor forfeiture funds are monies
14 that come from in from misdemeanor type
15 offenses. One of the larger ones is DWI that
16 come in and property that gets forfeited.
17 This money is put into the DD, the general
18 expense. Forfeiture money, asset money is
19 used to further enhance the department. This
20 will be used to enhance I think one of the
21 areas slated is our Special Victims Unit. We
22 are going to enhance that area so that unit
23 can utilize their area better.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any questions
25 from the legislators on this one? Go on to

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2 451-18.

3 MR. PERSICH: I'm also going to
4 speak on 447, all the UASI ones. 447, 448,
5 449, 450. Andy Persich, Office of Management
6 and Budget.

7 MR. STEPHANOFF: I can present
8 it. Item 451 of '18 appropriates UASI, which
9 is our Homeland Security Grant. This is a
10 recurring grant we've gotten since 9-11. It
11 appropriates \$398,905. 160,000 of it is going
12 to salary, which is for training. We use the
13 training for preparedness to train our cops so
14 that if God forbid there is an incident.

15 195,000 is going to go into the BB,
16 which is the equipment line. We will use this
17 to buy equipment that's necessary. And we do
18 this from intelligence that we get out. Like
19 Commissioner Ryder says, we try and get ahead
20 of the situation. Then there is \$2,000 into
21 the general expense.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you. I
23 agree. It's amazing what our police
24 department's been doing. We have become a
25 model for so many other law enforcement

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2 agencies. Actually I think even throughout
3 the country sometimes even the world. I
4 commend you all for doing such a great job.

5 MR. STEPHANOFF: Also to take off
6 with the academy, some of this training is
7 done in the academy also with the use of the
8 grant funds that are supplied for that
9 training.

10 LEGISLATOR FORD: Just think when
11 we get the new academy how much better
12 everything will be. Any comments, questions
13 from the legislators? How about we go on to
14 item 457-18.

15 MR. STEPHANOFF: 457 of '18 is a
16 traffic safety grant. This is the Buckle Up
17 it's \$147,000. This is for seat belt
18 enforcement. We will do this enforcement in
19 high accident frequency locations. We track
20 all the accidents throughout Nassau County and
21 we usually try and enforce in the high
22 accident areas to address the problems. This
23 will be one of the problems. People get hurt
24 without seat belts.

25 LEGISLATOR FORD: I agree. I

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2 think it's wonderful we offer child safety
3 seat installation through our Traffic Safety
4 Board. It's amazing. We start there and just
5 to follow-up to make sure parents and
6 caregivers secure their children safely in
7 cars.

8 Any other questions or comments
9 from the legislators? How about on to 458-18.

10 MR. STEPHANOFF: 458 is
11 supplement \$64,650 from our Port Security
12 Grant Program. This is a piece of money that
13 is dedicated to our marine bureau. This will
14 be used to maintain engines on two boats.
15 These boats patrol the waterways that's part
16 of our port security initiative and they are
17 offering us money to help us to maintain those
18 engines so it takes the burden off us and we
19 can keep using those boats. I believe the two
20 boats, 27 foot boats, were also grant
21 purchased off the port security program. So
22 they are also following up to help us maintain
23 those boats.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Considering how
25 many people are on the water we need you to be

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2 there as well. Especially when they do
3 drinking while boating and we always hear
4 about horrific accidents and things like that
5 that happen out there.

6 I know that you can go into like
7 the canals and whatever. You also could go
8 out into the ocean with it as well?

9 MR. STEPHANOFF: I don't know all
10 the boats they have. They do have larger
11 boats that go out on deeper water. From the
12 Port Security Grant, I testified a couple of
13 leg sessions ago, that 37 foot safe boat.
14 These smaller boats can go along the shore.
15 The bigger boats can go out into deeper water.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Considering
17 some of the tragedies that have happened in
18 Long Beach and we think about so many people
19 that go into the water and they may not be
20 good at swimming. Even if they are, with the
21 undercurrent and rip tide too many tragedies.
22 The more law enforcement and more safety
23 initiatives that we have I think will just be
24 so much better to keep us protected. Thank
25 you. Any other? Legislator Bynoe.

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2 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you
3 chairwoman. I would like to take the
4 opportunity to thank the Nassau County Police
5 Department and particularly the Marine Bureau
6 for their recovery efforts for young Ramille
7 McCray who was lost at sea out at Long Beach.
8 You guys never gave up. You were out there
9 for days and you recovered that body and was
10 able to bring him home to his family. And
11 that was some solace for them. I thank you
12 very, very much.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any other
14 legislators? Any public comment on any of
15 these? I'm going to call a vote for 439-18,
16 451-18, 457-18 and 457-18. All in favor of
17 passing these say aye. Any opposed? The
18 items pass. Thank you very much.

19 I'm going to call item 447-18. Can
20 I have a motion? Legislator Muscarella.
21 Seconded by Legislator Rhoads. This is an
22 ordinance supplemental to the annual
23 appropriations in connection with the medical
24 examiner's office.

25 MS. DOOLING: Karen Dooling,

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2 assistant director crime lab medical
3 examiner's office. This is a \$25,000 grant
4 for medical examiner's office Homeland
5 Security grant. Annual grant will be used for
6 equipment for the morgue.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any questions
8 from the legislators? Any public? I see
9 none. All those in favor of passing item
10 447-18 say aye. Any nays? The item passes.

11 Now I'm going to call in bulk all
12 the items for the Office of Emergency
13 Management. I'm going to call item 449-18,
14 450-18, 452-18, 453-18, 454-18, 455-18. Can I
15 have a motion? Legislator Rhoads. Seconded
16 by Legislator Mule. The items are before us.

17 MR. PERSICH: I think I got it
18 right now. Andy Persich, Office of management
19 and Budget. I'm here on behalf of the Office
20 of Emergency Management to testify about these
21 items 452, 453, 454, 455 are part of the UASI
22 grant. It's an annual appropriation for
23 training, equipment and anti-terrorism tactics
24 that they use. And it's given out to various
25 departments, fire commission, corrections,

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2 police and emergency management.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any questions
4 from any of the legislators? Let's go on to
5 the next ones then.

6 MR. PERSICH: You want to go on
7 to 448, 449?

8 LEGISLATOR FORD: There's no
9 448. We have 449 and 450.

10 MR. PERSICH: These are the
11 annual appropriations for the SHIP Grant.
12 It's used for either equipment or training.
13 It comes from New York State Homeland
14 Security. It's for, as officer Stephanoff
15 discussed for anti-terrorism and other
16 equipment needs and training purposes.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: This is
18 basically all as usual pass through grant
19 money that we get?

20 MR. PERSICH: It's an annual
21 appropriation from the New York State
22 Department of Homeland Security. They come in
23 every year. The appropriations vary from year
24 to year depending on the needs that we request
25 but they're an annual appropriation.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank heavens
3 they send it to us. You guys do a great job
4 as well and always at the ready especially
5 when we have unfortunately sometimes
6 disasters, natural and, you know, when you're
7 well trained and you have the equipment that
8 you need it makes your jobs even better. So
9 thank you.

10 Any questions, comments from the
11 legislators? Anything from the public? All
12 those in favor of passing items 449-18, 450-18
13 452-18, 453-18, 454-18 and 455-18 please say
14 aye. Any opposed? The items pass.

15 So the last item on this calendar
16 is 456-18. Can I have a motion? Legislator
17 Ferretti. Seconded by Legislator Mule. This
18 has to do with appropriation ordinance in
19 connection with the District Attorney's
20 Office. Good afternoon.

21 MR. MCMANUS: Good afternoon.
22 Bob McManus, District Attorney's Office. This
23 item appropriates \$501,572 in funds received
24 from the New York State Division of Criminal
25 Justice Services to maintain a staff of highly

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2 experienced prosecutors who work to achieve
3 convictions and maximum sentences for repeat,
4 violent and serious felony offenders.

5 LEGISLATOR FORD: Any questions
6 or comments from the legislators? Any from
7 the public? Mr. Budnick.

8 MR. BUDNICK: John Budnick.
9 Madam chair and honorable members and my
10 friend from the district attorney's office.
11 Is there going to be or contemplated there is
12 going to be grants for legal aid defense and
13 to the police department to do their utmost
14 investigation in these types of major crimes
15 and recidivist cases? Will there be more to
16 assist these other agencies?

17 MR. MCMANUS: The answer is yes.
18 This is a long-standing program that funds --
19 the program originated at the US Department of
20 Justice and it is granted -- funds are granted
21 to Legal Aid Society and police departments
22 actually throughout the country.

23 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good to hear.
24 All those in favor of passing 456-18 please
25 say aye. Any opposed? The item passes.

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2 Thank you very much. There are no other items

3 before us. Can I have a motion to adjourn?

4 Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by Legislator

5 Mule. All in favor? Thank you everybody.

6 (TIME NOTED: 3:36 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATION

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this 26th day of
July 2018

FRANK GRAY