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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO  
PRESIDING OFFICER

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

County Executive and Legislative Building  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

Wednesday, October 3, 2018  
7:15 P.M.

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2     A P P E A R A N C E S:

3

4     LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

5             Presiding Officer

6             9th Legislative District

7

8     LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

9             Deputy Presiding Officer

10            7th Legislative District

11

12    LEGISLATOR DENISE FORD

13            Alternate Presiding Officer

14            4th Legislative District

15

16    LEGISLATOR KEVAN ABRAHAMS

17            Minority Leader

18            1st Legislative District

19

20    LEGISLATOR SIELA BYNOE

21            2nd Legislative District

22

23    LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

24            3rd Legislative District

25

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2     LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

3             5th Legislative District

4

5     LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

6             6th Legislative District

7

8     LEGISLATOR VINCENT T. MUSCARELLA

9             8th Legislative District

10

11    LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM

12            10th Legislative District

13

14    LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

15            11th Legislative District

16

17    LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

18            12th Legislative District

19

20    LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT

21            13th Legislative District

22

23    LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER

24            14th Legislative District

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2     LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

3             15th Legislative District

4

5     LEGISLATOR ANDREW DRUCKER

6             16th Legislative District

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8     LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

9             17th Legislative District

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11     LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

12             18th Legislative District

13

14     LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

15             19th Legislative District

16

17     MICHAEL PULITZER

18             Clerk of the Legislature

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Ladies and  
3 gentlemen, we are going to start the hearing.  
4 Get things started. We did the Pledge of  
5 Allegiance with the committees but let's do it  
6 for the full legislature. Ask Minority Leader  
7 to lead us in the pledge.

8 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
10 very much for joining us tonight for our first  
11 budget hearing. I have a brief statement  
12 which I will make later. I have four slips  
13 for public comment. Public comment is  
14 scheduled to go at the end but since we have  
15 four slips and people may want to be on their  
16 way we will have public comment called first.  
17 First speaker is Richard Clolery.

18 MR. CLOLERY: Hi. My name is  
19 Richard Clolery. I know you are going to go  
20 through a very difficult process. I want you  
21 to take this into your hearts as you think  
22 about what's -- through this budget process  
23 tonight. I know that you're trying to keep  
24 the taxes down but I want you to think about  
25 other people as well. Those that can't or

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2 won't drive. I know I have said these lines  
3 before a bunch of times but it is important.  
4 People depend on the buses. A well run and  
5 well funded bus system to get people to and  
6 from places.

7 Ever since NICE came along they  
8 have been cutting lines, cutting service. I  
9 know about the new NICE link service but it's  
10 still in the prototype stages. I know they  
11 say it's been something of a success. I'm  
12 hoping that they expand it because unless we  
13 restore the cut bus lines I'm isolated in the  
14 community I serve if it rains or snows. This  
15 is very unfair for me because I want to  
16 contribute my part to the county. You may not  
17 think about it much but people like me also  
18 contribute. Whether it's to go to movies, go  
19 to stores both local and whatever and go to  
20 barber shops. Things like that.

21 But without a way to get to and  
22 from places they have no way to contribute to  
23 the county. Which demeans how much the county  
24 gets through tax revenue and all that.

25 Here's my suggestions. I made some

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2 suggestions before some of you may know. I'm  
3 suggesting that you find ways to increase bus  
4 funding. Whether it be through fines from  
5 tickets collected from violations and all that  
6 among other things. Litter. And for seasonal  
7 purposes, no shoveling violations.

8 Look, I'm going to say this and be  
9 blunt. We matter too. Whether we be drivers  
10 or not we matter. We contribute. We help.  
11 Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
13 Rich. Next speaker is Dorothy Bheddah.

14 MS. BHEDDAH: Ladies and  
15 gentlemen of the legislature, fellow  
16 citizens. My name is Dorothy Bheddah. I'm  
17 from Port Washington. I'm a resident of the  
18 Amsterdam at Harbor Side, which is a  
19 continuing care retirement community. I would  
20 like you to meet my fellow residents. We are  
21 here to bring your attention to the critical  
22 importance of bus service in Nassau County.  
23 Please consider this as you go through the  
24 budgeting process.

25 The Amsterdam, where we live, is a

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2 senior facility of 270 persons in independent  
3 living. A few of them as old as 100. Most of  
4 them in their 80s and 90s. Additionally,  
5 there are 100 other persons in assisted  
6 living, memory and skilled nursing units. We  
7 have around 160, 170 employees but we have  
8 continual staffing difficulties due to the  
9 lack of public transportation. This is a  
10 serious problem for the managers who are  
11 trying to take care of us.

12 And the other problem is that since  
13 we are more than three quarters of a mile from  
14 a fixed bus route we're not eligible for Able  
15 Ride. So think of that. Nearly 400 seniors  
16 not eligible for Able Ride.

17 We are grateful to Legislator Delia  
18 DeRiggi-Whitton for the planned shuttle PILOT  
19 program connecting the Roslyn Long Island  
20 railroad station with the Port Washington Long  
21 Island railroad station. This will enable  
22 workers from all directions to access the  
23 Amsterdam and its available jobs.

24 The cost for the shuttle for one  
25 year will be \$300,000. State Assemblyman Tony



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2 Durso is applying for a \$100,000 grant from  
3 the Assembly. And we will ask our State  
4 Senator Elaine Phillips for additional funds.  
5 However, I'm sure there's going to be a  
6 balance and we are asking the legislature for  
7 whatever balance remains. Perhaps as much as  
8 \$200,000.

9 Again, I request that you consider  
10 the critical importance of bus service not  
11 only for us with our PILOT shuttle but  
12 throughout Nassau County. Thank you very  
13 much.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
15 Dorothy. Lou Levitt.

16 MR. LEVITT: Members of the  
17 legislature, I'm here to second the motion  
18 that Dotty presented. I'm also a resident at  
19 the Amsterdam. We've had the good fortune of  
20 having our county legislator, Delia  
21 DeRiggi-Whitton, work with us for three years  
22 to develop this proposal.

23 Where we are now. We have a PILOT  
24 plan from NICE. We have a pledge of support  
25 from the New York State Assembly. We need

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2 your help. Because the fee for bus for one  
3 year is \$300,000. So we have we think  
4 \$100,000 and we're meeting with our state  
5 senator next week to appeal to her for support  
6 from the state senate. And we're here to  
7 appeal for support from you. Don't think of  
8 this just as a bus route. Think of it as an  
9 employment program that would, through the  
10 network of bus routes, bring job opportunities  
11 together to many communities in Nassau  
12 County.

13 I want to appeal to the Republicans  
14 here. Your party has made a big deal about  
15 people living on government dependency. This  
16 is an opportunity to provide jobs for people  
17 without computer skills. Without college.  
18 Because there are 80 businesses in the  
19 industrial area. There is a Hilton Garden  
20 Hotel that needs the same kind of people we  
21 do. There are golf courses and there are  
22 restaurants. There are jobs here. What we  
23 need is a bus to make it possible for people  
24 to have these jobs.

25 I want to appeal to the Democrats.

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2 We have a new county executive whose  
3 priorities include public transit. Here's an  
4 opportunity to make that pledge come alive.  
5 We're not talking about huge sums of money.  
6 We are talking about three years of labor that  
7 has brought us to this point. How about  
8 making it happen? Thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank  
10 you. Jerry Laricchiuta.

11 MR. LARICCHIUTA: Good evening.  
12 Thank you Majority Leader Nicolello, Minority  
13 Leader Abrahams, legislators. Appreciate the  
14 opportunity. We are just going to do a  
15 blanket request, not even a request, an  
16 acknowledgment of what we see going on in this  
17 year's budget.

18 As you know, we were here a couple  
19 of weeks ago and asked the legislators to keep  
20 a keen eye out for the staffing here in Nassau  
21 County, which is at an all time record low.  
22 We wanted to see what and how the budget  
23 addressed staffing. I think every legislator  
24 here would agree, and you don't have to, I'm  
25 not saying publicly but I have spoken to many

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2 of you, that the staffing is extremely low in  
3 many departments. And in some areas we can  
4 barely get the job done. And in some areas,  
5 quite frankly, we're just not. We're not  
6 living up to the standards that our residents  
7 have asked for and deserve. It's because of  
8 the staffing levels.

9 Obviously the first thing we would  
10 want you to know, I'm sure you know about it  
11 by now, there are some errors in this budget  
12 that are glaring. The head count numbers are  
13 way off. On some departments crossing guards  
14 are down 100. PSA, police service aids, are  
15 down 80. That would mean there's layoffs  
16 coming. There are no layoffs coming. We  
17 talked to the county executive. Obviously we  
18 could never allow for layoffs right now. We  
19 are at the lowest of all time.

20 That being said, there are some  
21 clerical errors in this budget. It's a big  
22 document. You need to know about that.

23 Here's what was most upsetting for  
24 us. Everyone talked about the prior  
25 administration and the contracts that went out

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2 and the fact that it's time that we bring  
3 these things in-house, right, because the  
4 residents want to see a better bang for their  
5 dollar. Well, I got to tell you, in this  
6 particular budget year, following the trend of  
7 the last three budgets, so there's 459 funded  
8 vacant positions of CSEA. Funded vacant  
9 positions. Which comes to \$28 million. I  
10 wants you to know that. \$28 million hidden in  
11 this budget. You have to look at all the  
12 different various positions. I'm not pulling  
13 any punches here. It's not time for that.  
14 The Curran administration wants to show  
15 transparency. They want to show they're  
16 different than the prior administration. Well  
17 then, show it in real figures. Numbers do lie  
18 and these numbers are lying. There is no way,  
19 if you follow year by year, the actual is way  
20 less than what was proposed. That's hiding  
21 money. We know how that works. We understand  
22 that. But what's happening here?

23 We are unable to get food out of  
24 the jail. We are unable to get police medics  
25 on scene at some accidents. We are still

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2 fighting with them over the 911 deal that was  
3 created four years ago. The numbers are  
4 drastically low and it's alarming. It's  
5 scary. It really is. And this is the only  
6 time. We've tried everything else. We need  
7 to come to you now and make this -- to bring  
8 this to your attention. You're going to pass  
9 a budget. So scrutinize these numbers.

10 I'll give you one quick example.  
11 It's a minor example but it is an example  
12 nonetheless. The Nassau County Comptroller's  
13 Office did an audit this year of one  
14 department that I believe is going to be  
15 presenting a budget tonight, Consumer  
16 Affairs. I believe Consumer Affairs was  
17 scheduled tonight. That's why I chose them.  
18 However, the audit said Consumers Affairs  
19 needs to hire more people because they are  
20 generating way too little revenue. They have  
21 the potential to generate much more revenue.

22 So what do they do? They're in  
23 here with Consumer Affairs showing a much  
24 lower number. I just had it. Showing like 17  
25 less employees than already was proposed last

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2 year. So, instead of taking the comptroller's  
3 advice and going forward, and that's one  
4 department and a very small department,  
5 believe me, we've got bigger departments that  
6 are drowning here.

7 We get it. We know. We've been  
8 listening to how we have no money. It's  
9 funny. We have no money but let me show you a  
10 little graph that we're going to make it nice  
11 and big the next time we come. It's going to  
12 be as big as me. I want to show this to  
13 everybody.

14 This graph shows the last five  
15 years how much contract services have gone  
16 up. They have gone up \$70 million. 70  
17 million in private contracts out there, while  
18 our workforce has gone down almost 2,000.  
19 We're ripping off the residents of this county  
20 by allowing this. I'm not saying you're doing  
21 it. I think each county executive and their  
22 administration has a different way of handling  
23 the financial distress. But this is not the  
24 way to do it. Kicking the can down the road  
25 and calling an emergency contractor at the

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2 last minute has proven to be not very cost  
3 savings. It cost us more money.

4 I just ask you to be careful. Look  
5 at it. I thank you for your time. Have a  
6 great meeting and we will be back when we have  
7 more numbers for you. We ask you to keep  
8 attention to that. Thank you so much for the  
9 time.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
11 Jerry. We appreciate your comments. That is  
12 the last slip that I have, and I would like to  
13 welcome all of you to our hearing tonight.  
14 This will be the first of three hearings that  
15 will be held on the proposed budget for fiscal  
16 year 2019. Our process for review of the  
17 budget will begin with the presentation by the  
18 budget director. In an effort to accommodate  
19 the county comptroller, we will hear from him  
20 at our second hearing which is scheduled for  
21 October 12th at 1 p.m.

22 This hearing will concentrate on  
23 the overall budget and then we also  
24 concentrate on social services and human  
25 services. Any member of the legislature has



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2 questions or areas of concern with respect to  
3 traffic and parking and the Department of  
4 Consumer Affairs, those departments are also  
5 here to address those concerns.

6 Now I ask Mr. Persich to begin his  
7 presentation.

8 MR. PERSICH: Good evening  
9 Presiding Officer, Minority Leader, all  
10 legislators. My name is Andy Persich. I'm  
11 the budget director for Nassau County. I'm  
12 here with one of my deputies, Irfan Qureshi.  
13 I'm here to present the county executive's  
14 first budget, the 2019 budget.

15 With that, I would like to thank my  
16 staff and my team for putting this budget  
17 together. It was a challenge this year.  
18 First time doing it for me but I've been  
19 around doing a few of them. But I want to  
20 thank them. They worked hard. They put good  
21 product together. It's one of those items  
22 when you put together you get happy when it's  
23 done and then you got to defend it. So, it's  
24 one of those processes that I've been doing it  
25 for a lot of years. As soon as we bring it

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2 down to the clerk and get it clerked in you  
3 feel great about it and then we start all over  
4 again.

5 But on behalf of my team they put a  
6 good hard effort into this budget. I think  
7 it's a pretty solid budget. Of course with  
8 every budget it's very dynamic and will change  
9 as everything else changes in the world. I'm  
10 going to get started and I will answer your  
11 questions when I'm done with my presentation.

12 So the 2019 budget has a no tax  
13 increase budget for general operations. It  
14 includes funding for the county-wide  
15 reassessment. It pays for debt service for  
16 prior administrations.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:

18 Mr. Persich, quick question. I know the power  
19 point is up on the display. Did you bring  
20 paper copies or no?

21 MR. PERSICH: I have a couple of  
22 copies. If you want them I can give you them  
23 at the end if you want.

24 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Go ahead.

25 MR. PERSICH: I know it's hard to

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2 read and I know every time I do this I should  
3 know better.

4 We have an investment in the crime  
5 lab. We are doing some better business  
6 processing. We've funded 758 positions. It's  
7 up 108 from last year. As you're aware, the  
8 new capital budget will be coming around  
9 again, but we do put a lot of emphasis into  
10 the new capital budget. Which the tax cert  
11 issue has eaten away some of the debt service  
12 but I think we are heading into a path that's  
13 going to make the infrastructure of the county  
14 better. So.

15 The major revenue sources of the  
16 county, which is an interesting slide when you  
17 look at this, we don't get a lot of help from  
18 state and federal aid when we do this. If you  
19 look at the slide here it shows 88 percent of  
20 the county revenue is derived from four major  
21 categories. Which is sales tax, property tax,  
22 departmental revenue and other revenues. But  
23 that's where most of the money comes from to  
24 pay for most of the stuff we have here. And  
25 expenses continue to rise as time goes on.

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2 We are limited in the amount of  
3 resources we can use to raise money but these  
4 are the major pieces that we have as far as  
5 components of revenue.

6 The breakdown of the \$3.5 billion  
7 number one is sales tax. Which is the largest  
8 component of this budget. We have it growing  
9 at about 2.5 percent over the projected  
10 amount. The economy is strong. We hope it  
11 continues. It's always a risk. The economy  
12 seems to be trending upward. We hope it stays  
13 that way.

14 The second component is property  
15 taxes. We do get some fees and there's some  
16 interdepartmental revenues that we charge back  
17 and forth. Other, federal aid and state aid  
18 make another portion of the \$3.5 billion. As  
19 you can see, the two largest components are  
20 sales tax and property tax.

21 The major increases. This year the  
22 state aid increased mostly because of the new  
23 initiative that's being done by New York State  
24 as far as Diversion and the Raise the Age  
25 initiative. That accounts for about \$5.4

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2 million in new state aid. There's some STOWA  
3 money coming in for buses and a few other  
4 areas that are making the state aid number  
5 go.

6 Federal aid too. The Medicaid  
7 reimbursement number is going up. Fines are  
8 increasing. Not a fee increase. I want to be  
9 clear. We see fines going up just based on  
10 volume.

11 And a couple of initiatives. Boot  
12 and tow and increased red light camera  
13 volume.

14 In addition, we see some recoveries  
15 going up. But the two biggest ones I wanted  
16 to mention are correctional Medicaid  
17 reimbursement. We are working on an  
18 initiative with the hospital to try and manage  
19 some of the patient care when they go over to  
20 the hospital and get reimbursement of some of  
21 the Medicaid dollars that are available when a  
22 prisoner is taken over there. So, working  
23 closely with the hospital to help shed some of  
24 the cost of the contract that goes along with  
25 it.

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2 The county attorney's office is  
3 going to be actively pursuing subrogation  
4 recoveries mostly in the motor vehicle arena  
5 but there are some other areas they can do  
6 that through some affirmative litigation  
7 actions and everything else. So, we are  
8 hoping to get another \$2 million out of that.

9 Our expenses. This slide is pretty  
10 self-explanatory. 50 percent of our expenses  
11 are due to employees. It's the largest  
12 component of most governmental agencies. We  
13 are in the service business. We have to  
14 deliver services and it's not cheap to do  
15 that. Our fringes keep going up. It's not  
16 easy to manage when these costs keep going  
17 up.

18 If you look at the other component  
19 it's debt service, which is almost 13 percent  
20 of the budget. That's the other largest  
21 component. And the direct assistance, which  
22 is mostly the social service and health and  
23 human services arena.

24 We try to manage as best we can all  
25 these expenses and we look for ways to say

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2 money. And I will tell you this, sitting in  
3 this position, every day something new comes  
4 up that can save money with. Whether it be  
5 from \$100 to 1,000 I'll tell you you'd be  
6 surprised. But we try and manage with the  
7 departments as best we can with expenses, head  
8 count and everything else.

9 This slide I'm sure you're aware  
10 shows the variances in most of every  
11 department in the budget year over year from  
12 the projection. My department went down \$24  
13 million I want to make that point right now.  
14 But that's because of a judgement and claim  
15 that went through us. But total expenses rose  
16 by about \$115 million.

17 That's just an across the board for  
18 many different items. A lot of it was for  
19 Raise the Age, the reassessment issue. So,  
20 control of expenses as we term them, which is  
21 the nonmandated piece, went up by almost 1.8  
22 percent of \$64 million. That's largely due to  
23 the reassessment effort, to Raise the Age.  
24 Some electronic monitoring of probationers.

25 The other large component was in

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2 the police department. It was \$31 million for  
3 steps, retiree benefits, civilian positions,  
4 two new police classes, some promotions and  
5 worker's comp is going up a little bit in the  
6 area.

7 This one is the mandated expenses  
8 that we really have no control over.

9 Our debt service is going up by \$20  
10 million. This includes funding of the tax  
11 cert backlog of about two million next year  
12 and 100 million this year.

13 Fringe benefits. Health insurance  
14 and pension costs keep rising. I wish there  
15 was something we could do about that. But the  
16 uncertainty with the new changes in the health  
17 care law we really don't know the affect of  
18 that. So, we are hoping it's going to have  
19 limited impact in '19. But in the future  
20 years it could have significant impact.

21 We have budgeted \$30 million in tax  
22 cert for next year. \$30 million in judgements  
23 and claims. We have two police classes. Two  
24 correction classes. They are half year funded  
25 because of the timing of them. We plan on



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2 funding two classes for each of them.

3 We have restored what we took out  
4 in '18, which mostly was the buses. That did  
5 increase a little bit due to contractual  
6 obligations we had with NICE. So that went up  
7 about 2.5 percent. But there was a  
8 corresponding STOWA adjustment that went along  
9 with it. We have funded the youth agencies  
10 and anything that was taken out as a result of  
11 the modifications of last year.

12 Other initiatives. The Hub, as you  
13 are well aware, it's a big project that will  
14 be coming around. That will help the economy  
15 in many ways. Somewhere or another it will  
16 flip it down to sales tax. When we get people  
17 doing a lot of construction work it generates  
18 a lot of activity in the local businesses.  
19 The places to buy food. The food service  
20 business. The gasoline. You got more people  
21 coming into the county. It helps raise the  
22 sales tax number. It helps the economy in  
23 general.

24 We are funding the crime lab,  
25 substance abuse, shared services and back to

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2 the business improvement profit. Getting  
3 vendors in here wanting to do business with us  
4 again.

5 That's the 2019 budget in a  
6 nutshell. Having done it for a lot of years  
7 it's not an exciting budget. It funds what we  
8 need. It takes care of a lot of positions  
9 that need to be funded. It takes care of a  
10 lot of needs that departments needed. It's  
11 primarily funded through new revenue streams  
12 that just because of economic conditions that  
13 are making the revenues go up. So we are  
14 paying for it. Of course we will look for  
15 ways to save money. Of course we're going to  
16 continue to look for new revenue streams.  
17 Maybe we'll get some more state and federal  
18 aid at some point. But on a budgetary  
19 budget-to-budget basis and year over year it's  
20 a pretty solid but not very exciting with a  
21 lot of movement in there is what I would say.  
22 I'm open to your questions now.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
24 Andy. I want to focus a little bit on the  
25 sales tax estimates in the budget. I see that

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2 you have a projection of 2.5 percent increase  
3 in 2018, and I think the number that we're  
4 looking at to date is 4.9 percent growth in  
5 sales tax.

6 MR. PERSICH: Correct, where  
7 we're at right now is 4.9. But conservatively  
8 I would say that 2.5 is achievable. I  
9 wouldn't go much higher than that at this  
10 point. I think it gets too risky. We can't  
11 stay at five percent. You talk to economists  
12 and they'll tell you the doom is coming. When  
13 it is I don't know. If that number decreases  
14 or we go too high and we fund other things we  
15 will be cutting the budget a lot.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: What is  
17 the baseline that you're using? Is it the  
18 increase that was projected in the 2018  
19 budget? Is it a NIFA number? What is the  
20 base.

21 MR. PERSICH: We using the base  
22 on what we projected in the June projection.  
23 It's going off of that number. Year over year  
24 it looks like it's up almost three point  
25 something, 3.7 percent budget to budget. But

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2 we are basing it off the projected numbers  
3 that are coming out now. Suffolk's number was  
4 a little bit more aggressive. I think it was  
5 three five or three nine. But we are falling  
6 within range. It's not an aggressive number  
7 in my eyes at this point. But that's the  
8 number we live and die by. If it drops, some  
9 of you have been here enough to know, once it  
10 goes down we have to make an adjustment very  
11 quickly to that.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Just  
13 another area to cover is this. What Mr.  
14 Laricchuita brought up in terms of the vacant  
15 but funded positions. I think with 2018  
16 budget 288 positions and with the 171 you  
17 added in this budget you're looking at a total  
18 of 459 with a dollar value of \$28 million. Is  
19 there a plan to fill those positions?

20 MR. PERSICH: Like everything  
21 else, we fund positions and then we evaluate  
22 what our needs are at every different point.  
23 I mean, they're budgeted. When you budget  
24 them you are participating on filling them.  
25 Otherwise I wouldn't be putting these revenues

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2 in the way I am.

3 Our workforce is down  
4 significantly. We funded areas that -- every  
5 county executive has different initiatives  
6 here and we put 108 new positions in the  
7 Assessment Department that are predominantly  
8 CSEA. Are there some areas for adjustment?  
9 Sure. With every budget, like I said, it's  
10 dynamic. It changes every time. I think the  
11 primary focus of this budget was to get the  
12 reassessment project up and running and we  
13 funded it amply to get it done. Also, I think  
14 there are other areas that we focused on. But  
15 it changes all the time legislators is what I  
16 can tell you.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Is it  
18 realistic to believe that you can fill those  
19 positions or the vast majority considering the  
20 time it takes to hire employees, the civil  
21 service requirements et cetera, et cetera?

22 MR. PERSICH: Hiring somebody  
23 especially in a governmental agency takes a  
24 long period of time. Look, if the button was  
25 pushed and could happen instantaneously it

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2 would be great but there's a lot of civil  
3 service regulations, there's a lot of  
4 background checks that need to be done. It  
5 does takes time to hire people. From the time  
6 the approval of what I would say is the  
7 request for personnel hire happens it does  
8 take a long time for somebody to get  
9 physically on board.

10 We funded these positions  
11 anticipating that they would be filled. But  
12 when they would be filled -- departments need  
13 change as the world changes. Look, we're  
14 doing an initiative that diverts youths from  
15 the jail into the juvenile detention center.  
16 It means that we have to have less people in  
17 different areas that we have to adjust to.  
18 That could change too with new state mandates.

19 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going  
20 to turn things over to Legislator Ford.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very  
22 much. Let's continue with this 459 funded  
23 vacant positions for \$28 million. And you  
24 said that you just recently hired 108 people  
25 in assessment?

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2 MR. PERSICH: No. We budgeted  
3 108. We didn't hire them yet.

4 LEGISLATOR FORD: Are they are  
5 included in the 459 funded vacant?

6 MR. PERSICH: Yes.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: For the  
8 assessment we budgeted for them. How many  
9 people do you know that we've hired so far?

10 MR. PERSICH: To date, we are in  
11 the process of hiring up. He's got a list of  
12 people. I want to say that he's looking at  
13 like 33 to come on board soon, which is a part  
14 of it. As far as what we've hired up so far  
15 it's slow moving. But they are funded to be  
16 in the budget.

17 LEGISLATOR FORD: I understand  
18 with CSEA and civil service requirements, but  
19 a lot of these jobs the requirements really  
20 haven't changed that much over the years. So  
21 we already know what is required. A lot of  
22 times you can go and look to see what tests  
23 are being given and what the requirements are  
24 and whether or not Nassau County or Suffolk or  
25 New York City a lot of times the job

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2 requirements basically are the same.

3 So, my concern would be, are we  
4 doing enough to really take a look at these  
5 titles and to like advertise and make sure  
6 that we're getting the message out? I know  
7 for a fact, like I see that you are increasing  
8 the police and correction officers. So you  
9 currently have a class in for corrections?

10 MR. PERSICH: One just graduated  
11 the other day and I think they're recruiting  
12 for the next one. With that topic too, the  
13 process with civil service is different. We  
14 canvass a list, you know what I mean? Because  
15 the pay scale is a little different. Some of  
16 the special districts pay higher. So we may  
17 think we have the ideal candidate and our pay  
18 scale is low because they can get at a school  
19 district more money at a school district.  
20 That prohibits us from filling positions at  
21 some point.

22 The structured civil service is a  
23 little unique in the sense that if you have a  
24 clerk maybe you need to upgrade the position  
25 to administrative assistant that can do more



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2 duties with a higher pay scale. Using that as  
3 an example. That's one of the things we look  
4 like to change as far as the budget. You know  
5 what I mean? As far as what positions are  
6 right fit for different job descriptions.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: I would  
8 recommend doing that because then we would be  
9 able to bring more people in.

10 What about the AMTs? When we look  
11 at this we know that we are down. From what I  
12 understand, we had been promised that we were  
13 going to get eight new ones, that I think four  
14 went for their agility test two weeks ago.  
15 Are they funded and are they coming on board?

16 MR. PERSICH: I literally just  
17 released ten the other day to come on board.  
18 I know they were anxious to try to get them on  
19 board. We're not withholding people. During  
20 the budget process is a slow process I can't  
21 have a moving target.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: But then the  
23 funding is there for ten AMTs, correct? So  
24 that if they go out and find ten people that  
25 want this job they will be able to hire them,

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2 put them through the rigors and get them on  
3 board as soon as possible, right? I guess are  
4 you going to be here for public safety?

5 MR. PERSICH: I'm sure I will be.

6 LEGISLATOR FORD: I hope you will  
7 because I am concerned that if it is a typo  
8 but the fact to hear that we're going to be  
9 down 100 school crossing guards and 80 public  
10 safety officers. Administrators is a big  
11 concern of mine.

12 Also then we talk about Consumer  
13 Affairs. They do an excellent job. They've  
14 been very responsive. Greg has put his heart  
15 and soul into helping a lot of people that  
16 have been impacted by Sandy. I just don't  
17 understand. We all know that we need more  
18 people in Consumer Affairs. The jobs that  
19 they do can bring in revenue. A lot of times  
20 whatever they get paid they bring in more than  
21 what their salary and their benefits are. So  
22 I don't know anyone can justify going from 31  
23 full-time CSEA people down to 26.

24 MR. PERSICH: I would defer to  
25 Mr. May on that one. Because there was a

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2 merger of the two departments into TLC. I  
3 don't have the numbers that you are referring  
4 to so I don't want to comment on that. You  
5 have to keep in mind that we merged TLC with  
6 Consumer Affairs.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: Then you would  
8 think you would need more people.

9 MR. PERSICH: The dynamic of the  
10 world has changed too with Uber and the taxi  
11 and limousine service. I don't want to talk  
12 for him.

13 LEGISLATOR FORD: Even with that,  
14 we still have cabs that do operate in Nassau  
15 County. We still need more people and we are  
16 down. That is my biggest complaint. And  
17 probably if you wanted to be -- if you're  
18 really bored one night and you can't fall  
19 asleep and you want to, just go back to all  
20 the budget hearings we had and you're going to  
21 hear me say the same thing since the day I  
22 have been in office. That we do not have  
23 enough people.

24 My last I guess would be in regard  
25 to the Board of Elections. And I guess you

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2 went through their budget with them. And I'm  
3 a little confused as to why they are looking  
4 for an increase of a million dollars.

5 MR. PERSICH: I think their  
6 budget in 2018 was rather low.

7 LEGISLATOR FORD: I thought we  
8 gave them extra money in 2018.

9 MR. PERSICH: No. With the NIFA  
10 cuts that came in at the end they went down a  
11 little bit. The other thing too, the cost of  
12 doing business in the Board of Elections is  
13 getting a little bit more expensive. We went  
14 through this budget with a very, very deep  
15 microscope, looked at this, and this is what  
16 they need to function. It looks large on  
17 paper, but in order for them to operate  
18 there's transportation costs, all these  
19 special elections that they have. The school  
20 districts. All these special district  
21 elections that they have to administer.

22 LEGISLATOR FORD: They help in  
23 them, they don't always administer, right?

24 MR. PERSICH: They have to use  
25 the machines now. By state law they have to

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2 use the new machines. It becomes a cost for  
3 them.

4 LEGISLATOR FORD: I see ordinance  
5 people went up by three. But you took CSEA  
6 people down. Then we're looking at, I don't  
7 understand, like you have on the on board head  
8 count of 2018 but you don't have them in the  
9 2019 proposed budget. The seasonal people.

10 MR. PERSICH: Those are the  
11 election inspectors.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: Right. So you  
13 don't include them in the budget?

14 MR. PERSICH: This is based on  
15 the needs they have. Seasonal budgets they  
16 vary all the time. The dollars are there to  
17 fund them. They may not have the correct  
18 amount of bodies. That's the best way I can  
19 describe it.

20 Look, this budget is open to  
21 changes and everything else, but this is what  
22 they came in and asked me for. When I  
23 reviewed it we did put the scissors to the  
24 budget. I hate to say that. We cut it down  
25 significantly.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: But sometimes  
3 when you put the scissors to the budget the  
4 people you cut out are the people we need  
5 most. That's like the workers. To hear about  
6 the school crossing guards. Not enough  
7 people. Probably need more fire marshals. We  
8 need more people everywhere and we're just not  
9 realizing this.

10 We're going to take away 108. So  
11 let's say 350 are vacant funded positions,  
12 that means there's money there to hire  
13 people. I'm perplexed as to why we're not  
14 bringing them on. I agree with Jerry  
15 Laricchuita that we see some things that we're  
16 failing. They're doing the best they can and  
17 these people are really breaking their backs  
18 to deliver the best possible service to Nassau  
19 County. And they constantly -- when people  
20 want their grass cut. They want this. They  
21 want that. And these people have to keep  
22 going out. They have to keep answering and  
23 they have to maintain their composure dealing  
24 with people that are angry with them because  
25 this isn't working, that's not working.

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2 I think of the people that work in  
3 social services. We can do better with more  
4 and they don't cost a lot. These workers do  
5 not really impact the budget that much, and  
6 I'm hoping that everybody will all work  
7 together and try to bring the workers back to  
8 the county so Nassau County works better.  
9 Thank you.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Andy, I  
11 just want to note for the record that  
12 Legislator Muscarella gave up tickets to the  
13 Yankees game to be here.

14 MR. PERSICH: I'm a Mets fan.  
15 Thanks for attending. It's riveting I know.

16 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Deputy  
17 Presiding Officer Kopel.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Just one  
19 item. The deferment for pensions. Can you  
20 speak to that at this point?

21 MR. PERSICH: We haven't gotten  
22 the bill in for this year yet for next year.  
23 We paid the bill for this year. I don't have  
24 the exact number.

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: You paid

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2 the --

3 MR. PERSICH: Previous year's  
4 bill.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Previous  
6 year's bill in full?

7 MR. PERSICH: We didn't pay it in  
8 full. We paid it with a deferment in there.  
9 I can get you the number Legislator.

10 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: What's the  
11 outlook on that?

12 MR. PERSICH: We have it  
13 increasing. Our pension cost going up a  
14 little bit. The economic conditions -- it's  
15 based on salaries, the pension costs. So when  
16 it goes up our costs go up. I will get you  
17 the deferment amount. I don't have it off the  
18 top of my head.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That's fair  
20 enough. But I think it was 13 point some odd  
21 million if I recall correctly.

22 MR. PERSICH: Close to that  
23 number.

24 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Do you also  
25 know the cumulative amount?



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2 MR. PERSICH: I can get that for  
3 you. It's reported in the financial  
4 statements.

5 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Because we are  
6 kind of digging for ourselves, aren't we?

7 MR. PERSICH: Agreed. But to pay  
8 that bill upfront is very expensive. When  
9 they offered it I know a lot of municipalities  
10 opted into amortize it.

11 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: A lot of  
12 municipalities are not in the same predicament  
13 as that we are in.

14 MR. PERSICH: Without a doubt. I  
15 do know some other places that have done it.  
16 They offered it to you, you're paying them  
17 four or five percent or whatever the number  
18 is.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Four or five  
20 percent is what the coupon rate is on that?

21 MR. PERSICH: I think that's what  
22 the rate is that the state offers.

23 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Is that  
24 scheduled to end as I understand?

25 MR. PERSICH: I think after every

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2 five years it cycles out. You either opt back  
3 in if they still offer the program.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: That's in your  
5 five year projections, that repayment of  
6 that?

7 MR. PERSICH: Yes. It's  
8 amortized out in the multiyear plan. Meaning  
9 we are taking a deferment.

10 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Our borrowing  
11 costs aren't they less than that four, five  
12 percent?

13 MR. PERSICH: We have looked to  
14 do something I remember last year when I was  
15 here but the state comptroller I don't know if  
16 they allow you to bond for pension costs like  
17 that.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Even if it  
19 costs less money?

20 MR. PERSICH: I remember when I  
21 was here we were looking to do some type of  
22 buyout of the pension costs because we were  
23 going to save money on the amortization, but  
24 the state comptroller didn't allow us to do it  
25 for obvious reasons.

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2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Why?

3 MR. PERSICH: They're getting the  
4 five percent instead of us bonding costs out.  
5 The benefit's to them. They're getting a  
6 piece of the five percent.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: There's  
8 literally no prepayment?

9 MR. PERSICH: You prepay it early  
10 in the year, like you pay it in December I  
11 think it's a five percent discount for the  
12 previous year. We always pay it in December  
13 so we get a five percent discount on it.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: The  
15 outstanding amount there is no prepayment on  
16 that?

17 MR. PERSICH: No. I don't think  
18 there's a prepayment penalty on it if that's  
19 what you're asking.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: There's no  
21 prepayment penalty?

22 MR. PERSICH: No. We could go to  
23 them and pay it off in one fell swoop if we  
24 wanted to. If we had the cash on hand we  
25 could actually physically pay them off and not

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2 have that amortization.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: My question is  
4 why not borrow it?

5 MR. PERSICH: I don't think we  
6 can. That's the problem.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: NIFA wouldn't  
8 allow that? Even if it's saving money?

9 MR. PERSICH: Local finance law  
10 doesn't allow us to do that. I don't think we  
11 can borrow that money to do it. I will  
12 defer -- I will get an opinion from Connell on  
13 why we can't but I remember there was some  
14 discussion last year on doing a deal like  
15 that.

16 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Fair enough.  
17 Thank you.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have  
19 Legislator Schaefer followed by Minority  
20 Leader Abrahams and then Legislator Bynoe.

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Hi. How  
22 are you? I just have one question really at  
23 the moment. You had under other initiatives  
24 investment in economic development the Hub and  
25 Belmont. To what extent is are we -- I read

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2 that as we're spending money for Belmont. But  
3 isn't that state property? Is that something  
4 that we are going to be investing in?

5 MR. PERSICH: We are not putting  
6 money into the property. What I'm saying is  
7 it's an investment in the economic benefit.  
8 Meaning that if we do -- if these projects  
9 start taking off and they start ramping up I  
10 think there will be a benefit to the county  
11 residents. Employment goes up. Thusly back  
12 to the fact that sales tax will go up. We are  
13 not putting money into it unless we are  
14 required to match funds or whatever it is.  
15 But it's not our investment I would say so.

16 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: No  
17 conversations about us needing to put money in  
18 at this point?

19 MR. PERSICH: Not that I'm aware  
20 of.

21 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: That's  
22 all. Thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Minority  
24 Leader Abrahams.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you

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2 Presiding Officer. I'll be brief. First  
3 thing, and I know we are going to have public  
4 safety up at some point, not tonight, but  
5 obviously at some point during the budget  
6 hearings. I do have concerns regarding the  
7 level of staffing for public safety officers.

8 A couple of meetings ago I brought  
9 up obviously the heightened amount of criminal  
10 activity that's occurring in our parks and our  
11 preserves. Things that we're seeing. People  
12 that are seeing things on television as well  
13 as about reading in the paper. I would like  
14 to see an increase in public safety officers.

15 Can you just note for the record  
16 what the starting public safety officer makes,  
17 if you know? A general idea. Because we  
18 would be pursuing amendments in that degree.

19 MR. PERSICH: Can I get back to  
20 you? I don't have the number off the top of  
21 my head. I want to think it's in the 30s or  
22 40s. But I don't know that to be a fact. I  
23 will get back to you on that.

24 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I think  
25 it's vital to be able to try to incorporate

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2 that into the budget.

3 MR. PERSICH: I will say with  
4 every budget there are some technical changes,  
5 adjustments that have to be made. We will be  
6 making certain ones.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The next  
8 question I wanted to ask you about is --  
9 trying to make sure I find my page here as it  
10 pertains to the multiyear financial plan. I  
11 lost my page. I apologize. Andy, the sales  
12 tax growth that we budgeted for this year was  
13 based on what percentage again I saw in your  
14 presentation?

15 MR. PERSICH: 2.5 over the  
16 projected amount in June. I think in the out  
17 years --

18 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That's what  
19 I was going to ask you in the out years you --

20 MR. PERSICH: Two percent is what  
21 we used as the baseline inflator. Grows by  
22 two percent annually after number.

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: For 2018  
24 what are we projected to bring in in terms of  
25 actual growth?

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2 MR. PERSICH: We're currently at  
3 four nine. But there's the deferral piece  
4 that we can't account for the goes to the  
5 towns that's offset by the property tax. So,  
6 our take is going up a little bit this time, I  
7 mean the county portion of it. We're probably  
8 going to be around I want to say like 2.5 we  
9 are up.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: 2.5 for the  
11 out years?

12 MR. PERSICH: Two five for the  
13 from '20, '21, '22. It's two five in '19.  
14 And what we are taking in this year we are  
15 projecting it 4.9. But we can't recognize the  
16 full 4.9 because of the deferral piece that's  
17 going into the towns and villages that we have  
18 to portion out. We are going to recognize a  
19 \$13 million increase in sales increase.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: The twos in  
21 the out years is that cumulative?

22 MR. PERSICH: It's cumulative --

23 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: -- From the  
24 base of 2.5.

25 MR. PERSICH: Yeah. What we are



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2 taking in from our take this year is roughly  
3 going to be about 13 or 14 million higher.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: My next  
5 question is in regards to the Campanelli and  
6 the boot and tow. Should I save that for TPVA  
7 or are you prepared to answer that? I'm  
8 trying to get a better understanding of the  
9 revenue projections.

10 MR. PERSICH: I would defer to  
11 them on that then. We are anticipating  
12 numbers from the beginning of the year that  
13 were going to come out of that. To us I need  
14 money. I'm not going to lie. It's revenue.  
15 I have things to pay for. Any way I can shake  
16 something upside down and get it that's what  
17 I'm looking for. They have a better handle on  
18 the contract and how it works and the  
19 functioning of it.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Just to  
21 stay with the function for a second. Is this  
22 something that if it was to be done can it be  
23 done in-house?

24 MR. PERSICH: I don't think so.  
25 I think it has to be outsourced out to

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2 somebody who has a specialty in collections of  
3 this nature. Because I don't think we -- it's  
4 a specialty in the collection business.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: It was our  
6 understanding that the comptroller had  
7 indicated that that was something that the  
8 county could do in-house as part of a  
9 collections unit.

10 MR. PERSICH: It's a very  
11 specialized thing. The problem you have is  
12 the county going out and trying to collect  
13 money from people it's not a friendly  
14 environment. I think they're going to be very  
15 resistant to give -- I think the county  
16 employee -- people don't get happy when you  
17 call up and collect money from them. So I  
18 think there might be some resistance. I think  
19 it's better to be outsourced.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I was  
21 joking around earlier today with one of our  
22 legislators. Isn't the practice now the way  
23 they are approaching scofflaws, don't they  
24 have a Nassau County some type of notification  
25 on the truck already?

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2 MR. PERSICH: I think they do.  
3 You're getting into an operational piece. And  
4 the other piece I will say this has to do with  
5 more of non-owned cars, which I would say  
6 leased or financed cars. I don't think we can  
7 do it in-house. I would defer to TPVA.

8 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I see the  
9 judge here. I will jump on to it later.  
10 That's it. Nothing further.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
12 Bynoe.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you  
14 Presiding Officer. So when we chatted  
15 earlier, I guess a couple of weeks back, we  
16 had not received any final numbers from the  
17 state on how they were going to support Raise  
18 the Age, but I did see some revenue, and I'd  
19 like to know how you arrived at that number.

20 MR. PERSICH: We are  
21 anticipating -- it's a budget too. We haven't  
22 finalized the number even though the  
23 initiative was supposed to take place October  
24 1st. It's not a reality. We have ongoing  
25 conversations and discussions with the state

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2 agency. I forget what it is. Office of  
3 Children Services. We put a number in the  
4 budget that everybody gave us their numbers  
5 that we anticipate that the state is going to  
6 fund us dollar for dollar. That's what's in  
7 the budget at this point. If it cost me \$5  
8 million to fund it I'm going to get \$5 million  
9 in state aid. That's subject to change based  
10 on the budget we submit to them. The numbers  
11 in the budget could fluctuate a little bit.  
12 If the state aid -- that would mean the  
13 expense side and revenue side would both go  
14 down.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So you receive  
16 the formula?

17 MR. PERSICH: Formal grant award  
18 which we haven't gotten yet. Then I can do a  
19 budget off of that. But this is a preliminary  
20 budget based on what the state -- and because  
21 our fiscal years are two different times, I  
22 put the best guesstimate based on the  
23 information I have.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: What was that  
25 number again? Was it 5.8?

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2 MR. PERSICH: 5.3. But it's  
3 still dynamic. It changes. We all have  
4 concerns. The state put these mandates on us  
5 and then we want the funding for it. Whether  
6 we get dollar for dollar for it that's always  
7 a question mark. But we are anticipating as  
8 it stands right now that they will fund this  
9 initiative dollar for dollar.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: We have  
11 something in writing?

12 MR. PERSICH: Some kind of  
13 concrete document that I will say before I  
14 start putting people on board that they're  
15 going to be funding these positions and stuff  
16 like that. Until I have a grant award that  
17 will be the Bible at that point.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm in full  
19 support of Raise the Age, and I would like to  
20 see us be able to move it forward. I  
21 obviously want to make sure the state is going  
22 to provide us what we need.

23 MR. PERSICH: Diversion is a  
24 better way of doing it.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Next question

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2 is about Corrections. Just for clarity, you  
3 are on boarding 25 or 25 just came on?

4 MR. PERSICH: 25 came just on.  
5 There's no restrictions on me from hiring the  
6 next class. It brings down my overtime  
7 number.

8 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Another 25?

9 MR. PERSICH: Another 25 if they  
10 can get them through. There's the  
11 investigation process, the hiring process  
12 takes a while.

13 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Then we are at  
14 50. And I believe it's been stated we are  
15 down 100?

16 MR. PERSICH: Correct. But with  
17 the diversion programs we may not have as many  
18 need for those officers. It's part of the  
19 process that we are going through right now.  
20 I think what we are looking at next year two  
21 classes of 25 for next year's budget.

22 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I don't know  
23 if Raise the Age is going to affect that but  
24 nonetheless, the question is have we  
25 considered attrition as well? They are saying

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2 they're down 100 now. Have we looked at any  
3 projections as to the number of officers that  
4 we could potentially lose and are we prepared  
5 to on board another class if we need to?

6 MR. PERSICH: As of today there  
7 were only 25 officers that retired out of  
8 Corrections.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: 25 this year?

10 MR. PERSICH: This year.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So we've only  
12 backfilled the 25 and we're still down 100.

13 MR. PERSICH: Yeah.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I want to be  
15 clear about those numbers.

16 MR. PERSICH: It's something we  
17 will relook at. We have two budgeted classes  
18 in the 2019 budget.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: There's a  
20 whole bunch of different factors that go along  
21 with us not having the right number of  
22 officers and overtime is only a piece of it.  
23 The other is safety and other issues.

24 MR. PERSICH: Agreed.

25 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I wanted to

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2 ask OTPS spending, what's actually budgeted  
3 for or proposed for next year and what was  
4 actually budgeted for last year?

5 Don't bother answering it. I can  
6 find it in the book apparently. Let's move on  
7 to a question I can't find an answer.

8 MR. PERSICH: From the previous  
9 year's budget it's increasing by almost \$20  
10 million from the adopted budget. But that's  
11 because of the restorations and the increases  
12 to fund all the programs. As far as the  
13 contractual increases for the buses and  
14 everything else. So while it looks like it's  
15 going up by \$20 million, we've modified the  
16 budget to include an additional -- what were  
17 the restorations like, ten or \$12 million that  
18 we put back in? \$7 million for buses and like  
19 1.4 for the youth services.

20 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Can I find  
21 that breakdown?

22 MR. PERSICH: You can find that  
23 breakdown. What was taken out of the NIFA  
24 budget was restored. So when you look year  
25 over year it looks like it's going up



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2 significantly but it's really not.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Let me move on  
4 to I think my final area of questioning. It's  
5 going to be in the Office of Minority  
6 Affairs. Specifically I want to deal with  
7 their staffing level. So, we're only going to  
8 add one position to that office?

9 MR. PERSICH: Correct.

10 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: So I, year  
11 after year, level the same concerns about the  
12 staffing level in that office given the  
13 important work that they are tasked to do.  
14 And more importantly, their inability to meet  
15 the targets. In this budget book it shares  
16 that there were some targets and it was 20  
17 percent for MWBE to which we met 8.12  
18 percent. In the budget book it states that  
19 DBEs six percent. We met .57. Service  
20 disabled veterans, and this is the first time  
21 that I will speak to that because it's  
22 included in this book, we were earmarked to  
23 try and meet a six percent goal and we hit  
24 zero.

25 So I can't help but think that

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2 we're not meeting these benchmarks because  
3 we're not staffed appropriately. And I can't  
4 even imagine how we would only be adding one  
5 position there. And I look through the budget  
6 and see several other departments that are on  
7 boarding or projected to on board larger  
8 numbers. No disrespect to Labor Relations,  
9 but they're adding, from what I can see from  
10 last year, adding four additional positions.

11 We know that the Office of Minority  
12 Affairs has several different requirements  
13 that are placed on them and their charge is  
14 really to make sure that we're hitting the  
15 benchmarks of our funding agencies. Of the  
16 state, the federal government. We have  
17 Section 3 requirements. All of those things  
18 that the governments that provide us funding  
19 have said that we have to hit these goals.  
20 They want to see us engage at a certain level  
21 with these groups. So why wouldn't we have  
22 staffed this office appropriately? I'm  
23 concerned that we keep doing the same thing  
24 year after year after year.

25 MR. PERSICH: Let me just address

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2 that the administration is focused on this  
3 issue. I will say that. I will say it's a  
4 new leadership over there. I think it's  
5 taking a little time to meet the goals and  
6 everything else. As far as the staffing  
7 needs, if they need we will find a way to fund  
8 what they need. This is what they told me  
9 currently that they needed. I think at this  
10 point this is what the budget has. They have  
11 three vacancies there right now.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I'm telling  
13 you this is not acceptable. This has been  
14 every year since I've been here. Since 2014  
15 this is something that I have looked at, I've  
16 spoken to, and I would like to believe the  
17 administration, my former colleague who sat on  
18 the Office of Minority Affairs along with me,  
19 shared the same concerns. I'm surprised to  
20 see this budget come down here with that.  
21 With it not being funded appropriately. And  
22 so we need to address this. Because I don't  
23 think we can afford not to in the event that  
24 federal government or the state governments  
25 come in and say have you hit your benchmarks?

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2 They have the ability to claw back money from  
3 us or to penalize us.

4 But more importantly, we are  
5 continuing to disenfranchise a group of people  
6 that we have a responsibility to try and make  
7 sure that they have opportunity to engage. So  
8 we need to do something with this. I want to  
9 know, the Office of Asian -- I don't know what  
10 the full title is -- there's a new office that  
11 was established.

12 MR. PERSICH: Not that I'm aware  
13 of.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Yes. Can  
15 someone from the administration other than Mr.  
16 Persich help me? What the name of that new  
17 department established? Mr. Santeramo? Asian  
18 Advisory Committee. Do they have a staff?  
19 Because I understood that they created this  
20 committee and that there was a staffer.

21 MR. PERSICH: It might be an  
22 outside the county agency. It's not funded in  
23 this budget that I'm aware of.

24 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: If it is  
25 funded I want to know where it is that's the

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2 question I would have.

3 MR. PERSICH: I will get back to  
4 you on that.

5 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Definitely  
6 would like to know. I need the answer to  
7 that. And I also have questions about the  
8 Campanelli but I will reserve those until TPVA  
9 comes. Thank you.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
11 DeRiggi-Whitton.

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
13 just have two quick questions. In this book  
14 on page 116 there's a graph here that shows  
15 the property taxes and the amount of revenue  
16 that we brought in. Property taxes not sales  
17 tax or anything. I'm just wondering why in  
18 2015 the actual was so much higher than the  
19 next four years?

20 MR. PERSICH: I do believe that  
21 this was a rebated amount that was given back  
22 by the state in '15 where we levied taxes and  
23 came back in the form of a rebate by the  
24 state. I will get back to you on that. I  
25 stand corrected. It's for the LIPA PILOTS.

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: Oh  
3 my goodness. Really?

4 MR. PERSICH: They came out of the  
5 tax levy.

6 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: I  
7 know. We lost that much from LIPA?

8 MR. PERSICH: No. We picked it  
9 up in a different area. It's not a property  
10 tax. It's a different revenue source. It's  
11 moved from point A to point B.

12 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: My  
13 other question, I think you were here earlier  
14 when I have my bus load of people come from  
15 Port Washington. I'm really hoping that the  
16 state, we're meeting with Senator Elaine  
17 Phillips, I'm hoping that she will at least  
18 match what Tony Durso, the assemblyman,  
19 matched. I'm hoping. So it might be  
20 somewhere around \$100,000 from the county or  
21 maybe even less. It might be something that  
22 is reimbursed.

23 MR. PERSICH: That would be an  
24 administration policy issue. What is it for?  
25 For busing?

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2 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:

3 We're basically reinstating a bus route that  
4 was cut.

5 MR. PERSICH: The buses is funded  
6 at the current route system. If there is any  
7 modifications there's a whole thing that NICE  
8 bus needs to do.

9 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: They  
10 did already.

11 MR. PERSICH: I will get back to  
12 you on that. I don't know the routes that are  
13 funded.

14 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: We  
15 have it all set. There's a PILOT they are  
16 ready to start January 1st.

17 MR. PERSICH: I will talk to DPW.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: If  
19 you could give me an update on that.  
20 Otherwise they're coming back on their bus.  
21 Thank you.

22 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
23 Ford has a follow-up.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: Just to  
25 follow-up. Going back to what Legislator

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2 DeRiggi-Whitton had asked about why was it so  
3 high, in the \$20 million, that we lost  
4 basically that was decreased in the property  
5 taxes. 832 million I guess. Where do you  
6 show them the PILOT payment?

7 MR. PERSICH: If you go on page  
8 96 you will see a spike in PILOT payments.

9 LEGISLATOR FORD: Perfect. Thank  
10 you very much.

11 MR. PERSICH: I was confused and  
12 I apologize. We took it out of the property  
13 tax levy and moved it over to PILOT payments  
14 because that was the arrangement as part of  
15 the LIPA settlement.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you very  
17 much.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Anyone  
19 else? Legislator Ferretti.

20 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you.  
21 Mr. Persich, can you clear up something for me  
22 on page four of your power point  
23 presentation. The third bullet, fines  
24 increase 16 million, boat and tow 9 million.  
25 Is the \$9 million included in the \$16 million



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2 there? What are the fines being referred to  
3 there?

4 MR. PERSICH: The \$9 million is  
5 included in the 16 million. So we are  
6 anticipating volume increases of the \$7  
7 million is what we are anticipating. From red  
8 light camera fees and violations.

9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Let's talk  
10 about the red light camera fees. Are all the  
11 cameras that are permitted under the state  
12 authorization in place right now?

13 MR. PERSICH: I do not believe so  
14 but I would defer to my friend in TPVA for  
15 what's still outstanding as far as to be  
16 installed.

17 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Is there  
18 any planned movement of the existing cameras  
19 right now?

20 MR. PERSICH: I would let him  
21 answer that question.

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: It looks  
23 like there's an estimated \$3.8 million in  
24 increased revenue from the red light cameras.

25 MR. PERSICH: That's strictly

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2 based on volume. Could be some news. Could  
3 be just violation are up.

4 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Generally  
5 the theory I would believe is that as the  
6 cameras are there the amount of tickets issued  
7 should go down.

8 MR. PERSICH: I will let him  
9 speak to that. He has more experience.

10 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: One more  
11 question. A public safety fee increase of  
12 \$4.7 million.

13 MR. PERSICH: That's based on the  
14 number of tickets going up.

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: It's the  
16 same thing? That's the fee attached to the  
17 red light cameras?

18 MR. PERSICH: Yes. If the fine  
19 goes up that goes up with it. And new drivers  
20 coming on board too. Like the cell phone  
21 business. When you get somebody here with a  
22 license they don't think that this camera  
23 works. Mom and dad get the ticket.

24 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I'll talk  
25 to Mr. Rich in a few minutes.

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other  
3 legislators? Thank you. Just want to make  
4 sure we have this budget -- another hearing on  
5 Friday the 12th. One of the main focuses will  
6 be on the public safety. Make sure there will  
7 be someone here to answer questions that might  
8 come up as well as the department heads.

9 MR. PERSICH: Absolutely. Thank  
10 you.

11 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: We have  
12 Department of Social Services. Dr. Imhof and  
13 Paul Broderick, the deputy commissioner.

14 DR. IMHOF: Good evening  
15 Presiding Officer, Minority Leader and members  
16 of the legislature. Before we get into the  
17 specific financial aspects of our budget we  
18 wanted to take a couple of moments and present  
19 an overview, an update of the department.

20 The Department of Social Services  
21 is committed to strengthening and preserving  
22 families by providing financial assistance and  
23 services to residents of Nassau County in  
24 accordance with state and federal regulations  
25 and laws. DSS is dedicated to providing

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2 quality service and maintaining the dignity  
3 and respect of those who we serve.

4 The department's responsible for  
5 providing to eligible recipients the family  
6 assistance safety net, day care employment,  
7 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,  
8 formerly called food stamps, Medicaid and home  
9 energy assistance. Establishing an initial  
10 child support obligation of a legally  
11 responsible individual through family court.  
12 Collecting support payments and enforcing and  
13 modifying existing court orders. Protecting  
14 children, adults and families by enforcing the  
15 mandates of the New York State Social Services  
16 Law and providing the department's services  
17 without regard to age, race, gender,  
18 disability, ethnicity, culture, national  
19 origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender  
20 identity.

21 These are probably numbers you are  
22 all familiar with already. Nassau's  
23 population 1.36 million. 436,00 plus  
24 households. The per square mile density, the  
25 median household income in Nassau County is

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2 currently at \$101,830. The federal poverty  
3 level for a family of three is currently at  
4 \$20,420. Which is based on the most recent  
5 statistics from the Long Island index. 5.8  
6 percent of people in Nassau County live below  
7 the poverty level and that's eight percent of  
8 children living below the poverty level.

9 The unemployment rate is four  
10 percent. Crime rate 3.3 times lower than the  
11 national average. And the consumer spending  
12 index 1.5 times the national average.

13 Overall the number of individuals  
14 served has begun to see a gradual decrease  
15 since 2014. The highest was in that year for  
16 326,877 residents. Currently, the last year,  
17 we served a total of 252,790 residents. There  
18 has been some decreases in different areas of  
19 population for the department. Be happy to  
20 provide the specifics at the time of our  
21 questions and answers.

22 The department has many, many  
23 oversight agencies. We have many masters to  
24 whom we are accountable, and I'm not going to  
25 go through every single one and name them.

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2 You have them in front of you on the computer  
3 and we handed out paper copies of the  
4 presentation.

5 Any or all of these agencies can at  
6 any time come in and provide information to  
7 us, advice and very often audits as well for  
8 which we are evaluated and in turn provide  
9 corrective action plans.

10 The mandates are quite extensive.  
11 The Department of Social Services operates  
12 under the laws of the New York State Social  
13 Services Law. And currently there are close  
14 to 800 different mandates from the departments  
15 of the Office of Temporary and Disability  
16 Assistance and the Office of Children and  
17 Family Services. This does not include  
18 several mandates as well from the Department  
19 of Health for our Medicaid operation for which  
20 we are also accountable. Close to 1,000  
21 different state mandates and federal as well  
22 with SNAP and Food Stamp Programs for which we  
23 are accountable.

24 The department has several direct  
25 program areas. I have listed them here for

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2 your information. Many of you are familiar  
3 with these. You've called us about these  
4 programs and services, especially when  
5 constituents in your areas have needed  
6 information or particular services from the  
7 department.

8 Additional direct program areas  
9 that are quite extensive. We have developed  
10 many over the years and many of these are also  
11 done in cooperation with community-based  
12 agencies with whom we have developed very  
13 serious and now long-standing relationships.

14 We have liaisons with several  
15 external agencies. It's the philosophy of our  
16 department that we cannot will not work in a  
17 vacuum. We have to work with our community  
18 partners and we have many different types of  
19 relationships throughout the county and Long  
20 Island with several community-based judicial,  
21 legal, education, law enforcement agencies.  
22 Which in turn enhance the services of the  
23 department and give us more opportunity to  
24 improve the services we provide to all  
25 constituents.

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2 We've developed through the years  
3 many partnerships and this also has been a  
4 priority of service for the department. And  
5 this is just a listing in front of you of the  
6 organizations that we have been working with  
7 on an on going basis. Certainly over the last  
8 12 years since I have been here as  
9 commissioner. These are very important  
10 partnerships. They enhance the services for  
11 the constituents we serve. And furthermore,  
12 it gives them an opportunity, our  
13 constituents, to receive improved services  
14 that we alone cannot provide. We have to work  
15 in partnerships with community agencies.

16 Most importantly is that the  
17 residents of this county see the presence of  
18 government throughout different agencies and  
19 organizations. That we're not working in  
20 isolation. Not working in a vacuum. That we  
21 reach out to our community partners and  
22 partnership is a very important concept  
23 throughout the department.

24 These are additional partnerships.  
25 We have two pages of them here.



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2 Our annualized activities. In 2017  
3 we processed 17,500 applications in public  
4 assistance. 20,000 applications for  
5 Medicaid. 19,000 for SNAP. 4,000 for day  
6 care. And 21,000 HEAP benefits. The Heating  
7 Assistance Program.

8 We've also been engaged with the  
9 state and federal agencies in many, many  
10 initiatives. These are initiatives that again  
11 further enhance the opportunities for service  
12 to our constituents throughout the county.  
13 This is a partial listing of the programs.

14 Some of them have actually involved  
15 grant support to the department. Many of  
16 these programs that we've initiated or  
17 supported from the state are now being  
18 replicated in programs throughout the state  
19 and country as well.

20 Perhaps of all of the programs we  
21 have one of them that is of great concern to  
22 us is the increasing numbers of the homeless  
23 in Nassau County. As of this date, as of  
24 yesterday, we have 1,515 homeless individuals  
25 in Nassau County. Of that number 700 are

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2 children.

3 As you can see, we have a very  
4 wealthy county in many regards. Many aspects  
5 of the county are very rich in nature. Yet in  
6 our rich county we continue to have a serious  
7 problem with homelessness. We have people who  
8 have been unable to continue affording their  
9 houses. While the unemployment rate has  
10 certainly decreased down to four percent, the  
11 nature of jobs has changed where the income  
12 for many positions are lower than they used to  
13 be.

14 People have been unable to afford  
15 their homes. The cost of rent in Nassau  
16 County is quite high. There is a very serious  
17 lack of affordable housing. As a result, we  
18 have found more people coming to the  
19 department needing housing for their  
20 homelessness.

21 We've also begun to see an increase  
22 from people out of state who have come to both  
23 Nassau and Suffolk come here and are  
24 homeless. Based on New York State Social  
25 Services Law we must provide housing for

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2 people where they appear in a social service  
3 district. We've had to increase or homeless  
4 services as well for that population.

5 We currently have many, many areas  
6 where we are currently housing people. We are  
7 trying to get away from this word shelter. We  
8 find the word shelter to be a very derogatory  
9 and misleading term. I believe that the very  
10 term itself has a way of stigmatizing people.  
11 When people think of the word shelter they may  
12 think of New York City and gymnasiums with  
13 100, 200 cots and crime issues and so on. We  
14 want to think of the places where we can place  
15 homeless as resource centers. Family resource  
16 centers and individual resource centers. We  
17 need to wrap services around these  
18 individuals, provide more case management and  
19 begin to help them move towards transitional  
20 and hopefully permanent housing as well.

21 Again, the lack of availability of  
22 permanent housing in Nassau County continues  
23 as a serious problem.

24 Day care numbers have been pretty  
25 consistent through the years. We currently at

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2 the end of last year had 5500 children in day  
3 care. We found this to be a very successful  
4 program.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:

6 Commissioner, you're fine. If you don't mind  
7 while it was freshly being discussed, can you  
8 go back to your homeless screen. I see that  
9 the numbers of individuals -- first I want to  
10 thank you for your presentation by the way. I  
11 see the numbers are going up since 2014. One  
12 of the concerns that I hear throughout my  
13 district quite a bit is it seems to be there  
14 are more shelters coming into Legislative  
15 District One. I'm willing to say that it's  
16 probably Legislative District Two as well.  
17 More than we've seen in the past. Homes  
18 opening up as shelters. And I'm concerned  
19 because it seems that it's not slowing down.  
20 It's having an impact. Especially when it's  
21 in the middle of residential areas.

22 Do you have a breakdown of the  
23 shelters that exist throughout the county,  
24 where they are and their locations?

25 DR. IMHOF: Yes, we do. We have

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2 the breakdown. There are some communities  
3 where there are more shelters located. I'm  
4 going to use the word shelter for the sake of  
5 our discussion. More located in certain  
6 communities than others. One of the reasons  
7 is that many of the residents of those  
8 shelters are from the communities where the  
9 shelter is located. We seem to have a higher  
10 number from a smaller group of communities in  
11 Nassau County who are currently homeless or  
12 facing homeless.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: That could  
14 be the case when it comes to homeless but then  
15 some of the shelters they're not all  
16 homeless. Some are transitional situations.  
17 Some of them are dependency. There are folks  
18 from all throughout Nassau County.

19 MR. BRODERICK: We understand  
20 that Legislator. The shelters, there are a  
21 number of different providers out there that  
22 fall outside the scope of DSS. DSS has a  
23 mandated responsibility to provide emergency  
24 housing. That's what our mission is. That's  
25 what we do. We do like to work with the

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2 community-based partners, as the commissioner  
3 showed in the presentation, to bring in  
4 wraparound resources because we can't do it  
5 alone and neither can they. But there are a  
6 number I guess community-based agencies, or  
7 they call themselves sober homes or shelters  
8 that have nothing to do with DSS. They are  
9 out there in the community. They're not  
10 working with us. Their just doing their own  
11 thing. Nor are the licensed. They say a  
12 sober home, there is no licensed sober home.

13 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Are they  
14 getting funding from the county?

15 MR. BRODERICK: Not from DSS. I  
16 don't believe so.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Where is  
18 their funding coming from? The state?

19 MR. BRODERICK: Could be coming  
20 from the state.

21 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I would  
22 love to see your breakdown of any shelters,  
23 transitional centers that you have that are in  
24 residential communities. Only because I  
25 talked to a lot of our constituents and in

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2 Roosevelt alone after my conversations with  
3 many of them that there were 18, which seems  
4 high, extremely high for one community that's  
5 one square mile in size to be taken on. So  
6 from that standpoint, I would love to see --  
7 can you provide those numbers before we get to  
8 the end of the budget season I guess?

9 DR. IMHOF: Absolutely. I will  
10 send you the list of the different shelters  
11 and their locations. Obviously it must be  
12 kept confidential. Cannot leave our  
13 discussions. We can provide that for you. As  
14 Paul said, there are homes that are working as  
15 shelters. The residents who live there may be  
16 getting unemployment. They may be getting  
17 SSI. They may be getting social security or  
18 other benefits that they turn over to these  
19 providers of these homes. Many of them are  
20 outside the purview of the Department of  
21 Social Services. We get calls from time to  
22 check on certain resident and we find out  
23 they're not even on the social service rolls  
24 but they get assistance from the federal  
25 government.

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2 MR. BRODERICK: Or in some cases  
3 we've had individuals that call up and say I  
4 paid money to the landlord. That landlord  
5 that they were paying money to they just took  
6 over a home. They walked into a zombie home  
7 or something and just said they called up  
8 LIPA. We've seen in a few instances where  
9 people were paying money to the landlord. It  
10 wasn't the landlord. They had no legal reason  
11 to be collecting money. They weren't our  
12 clients. They were just regular residents  
13 looking for housing.

14 DR. IMHOF: I think a number of  
15 people have also begun to use their homes  
16 temporarily as shelters by accepting money  
17 from people. Because of the housing crisis  
18 people have become kind of taken advantage of  
19 the fact that there are individuals who need  
20 rooms and home. They are outside the purview  
21 of the Department of Social Services. We have  
22 a very strict application process and our  
23 application process is under the strict  
24 management of the New York State Office of  
25 Temporary Disability Assistance. We are



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2 audited periodically. We have very stringent  
3 regulations that we must follow in terms of  
4 homelessness. I will get you the list.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I don't  
6 want to belabor this. I know it's getting  
7 late. Almost nine o'clock. But if I can ask  
8 you while you get those numbers, the best you  
9 can through your department, make a concerted  
10 effort to ensure obviously we are not placing  
11 pedophiles and sex offenders near schools and  
12 parks and playgrounds, even those these  
13 shelters are throughout the area. I would  
14 like to think that we are making a concerted  
15 effort to ensure that we are not placing --  
16 those are things that have come up in the  
17 past.

18 DR. IMHOF: Besides forwarding  
19 the list, I will be glad to meet with you with  
20 our housing staff to have opportunities for  
21 discussions.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:  
23 Absolutely. Robin, make sure we make a  
24 connection with the commissioner. Thank you  
25 Commissioner.

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2 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Legislator  
3 Rhoads has question. Are we going to get to  
4 the budget?

5 DR. IMHOF: In about one minute.  
6 This is a quick overview.

7 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: My request is  
8 really a question it's just a request to  
9 actually provide that same information, if you  
10 wouldn't mind, to my office as well and to  
11 everyone. Everybody wants it.

12 DR. IMHOF: You all want a copy?  
13 We will get it to every legislative office  
14 here.

15 Again, I'm going to finish up  
16 quickly. The CPS reports have been  
17 consistently going down over the past few  
18 years except last year there was a rise of  
19 approximately 300 additional cases of CPS  
20 reports. The county executive has  
21 reinvigorated the task force on domestic and  
22 family violence and we are preparing a number  
23 of recommendations to again address head on  
24 the incidents of domestic and family violence  
25 in New York. In Nassau County.

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2 Very good numbers. Foster care the  
3 numbers have gone down significantly through  
4 the years. One of the reasons has been a very  
5 innovative program in social services called  
6 the Blind Removal Process where evaluations  
7 are done regarding potential removals. And as  
8 a result of this program fewer and fewer  
9 children are being taken away from their  
10 primary families and placed in foster care.  
11 We've reduce the incidents of referrals of  
12 black and Latino children to foster care by  
13 over 50 percent. We've developed a model  
14 program that is now being used in other  
15 counties and the state and beginning to have  
16 national notice as well.

17 National Adoption Day is coming up  
18 shortly. We invite all the legislators to  
19 attend.

20 We just finished our summer food  
21 service program and served over 60,000 lunches  
22 to children and 2500 kids daily across 30  
23 school sites in the county.

24 We just finished a successful  
25 summer youth employment program as well.

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2 We've had 14 different county agencies  
3 participate in the placement of over 100 kids  
4 this summer. This program will be continued  
5 next year.

6 Just finally, the good work of our  
7 staff could not happen without very dedicated  
8 and loyal people to the missions and goals of  
9 the department. We were agency of the year  
10 last year. Deputy Commissioner Broderick was  
11 just named Public Citizen of the Year for all  
12 of his outreach work at local communities.  
13 Our training director was singled out as  
14 training director of the year. Many of our  
15 staff have been recognized for their good work  
16 in the community.

17 So on that note, we will move on to  
18 specific budget questions. Thank you for your  
19 attention.

20 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Do we have any  
21 questions? Yes, Minority Leader.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:  
23 Commissioner, just a general question about  
24 staffing. It appears that your head count  
25 seems to be, from what I'm understanding here,

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2 it's decreasing. Your full time number is  
3 decreasing. I'm reading this wrong. Supposed  
4 to increase by 24. So you are in the process  
5 of ramping that up? And your part time is  
6 supposed to be increasing from 73 to 93.

7 MR. BRODERICK: On a budget to  
8 budget basis or last FY-18 adopted versus the  
9 '19 proposed an increase of 24 full time FTEs  
10 and 20 -- 24 and then flat on the part  
11 timers. I believe the numbers you're looking  
12 at, the part timers, the full-time positions  
13 on board at 577. Recently we received  
14 approval, probably about a week and a half  
15 ago, to hire approximately 11 case workers and  
16 five support staff. Then in addition to  
17 hiring ten additional part time staff. So  
18 we're already going up and we're surpassing  
19 what we believe to be FY-18 budget or coming  
20 up to budget. It is a lengthy process as  
21 everyone knows.

22 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anyone else?  
23 Legislator McKevitt.

24 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Going on to  
25 the staffing issues. Do you project an

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2 increase in staffing your child support  
3 enforcement unit to assist the work of that  
4 unit?

5 MR. BRODERICK: That's a good  
6 question. The state is very particular when  
7 hiring child support enforcement staff. It  
8 isn't -- recently, last October, they mandated  
9 to us have us I guess fuller background  
10 investigations on individuals going into that  
11 line of work or into that title. Child  
12 support investigator. That's primarily  
13 because you're dealing with people's W-2s or  
14 their financial records. They basically  
15 forced us to come up with a policy. So in New  
16 York State every single county had to figure  
17 out how to do with this. It wasn't only  
18 working with Nassau County Police but it's  
19 working with the FBI to get a national data  
20 base search whether these applicants had  
21 anything in their background that would  
22 preclude them from being hired. That took us  
23 about six months to get figured out.

24 Recently we hired or promoted  
25 someone into an assistant director for that

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2 unit. We hired I believe it was six child  
3 support investigators and we have some more  
4 promotions going on there, including two  
5 bilingual staff. So, we are going into the  
6 right direction.

7 And I might mention also, they  
8 collected approximately \$101 million in pass  
9 through payments from noncustodial parents to  
10 custodial parents last year.

11 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Thank you.

12 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anything  
13 further? Yes? Okay.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.  
15 Hello Dr. Imhof. Quick question about Raise  
16 the Age. Is your department going to have  
17 some responsibility? Is some of the staffing  
18 hires going to be related to Raise the Age?

19 MR. BRODERICK: That primarily is  
20 probation is heavily involved as well as  
21 Corrections Department and the county  
22 attorney's office. We will have a roll but a  
23 very minor roll. We have budgeted a few case  
24 worker positions in there. But once again, as  
25 Andy mentioned, they are ramping this

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2     initiative up. It is funded 100 percent by  
3     the state and we are well positioned. We  
4     believe we might have to enter into a contract  
5     with Mercy first. But right now our oversight  
6     agencies are coordinating this. OCFS has been  
7     kind of giving obscure guidance to the  
8     counties. We will be in a very good position  
9     to support that initiative.

10                   LEGISLATOR BYNOE:     I wouldn't  
11     down play your roll. I think your roll is  
12     probably single-handedly the most important  
13     roll anyone will have in Raise the Age.  
14     Because the case management and case social  
15     work that will come out of your department  
16     will be instrumental in making sure that the  
17     young person stays out of trouble and  
18     therefore doesn't get swept into the system.  
19     Please ramp up and ready to go as soon as you  
20     can.

21                   MR. BRODERICK:     We have a great  
22     relationship with the Probation Department and  
23     they are ready to go and we are ready to  
24     support them. They are in place to support  
25     us. A lot of attention is being placed in



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2 this initiative.

3 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: If there are  
4 no other questions thank you gentlemen. We  
5 also have availability -- are there any  
6 legislators who have any questions for Traffic  
7 and Parking Violations, TPVA, or Consumer  
8 Affairs? Any questions from the legislators  
9 for either of those agencies? TPVA.

10 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You all  
11 set?

12 MR. RICH: Yes. David Rich,  
13 executive director of Nassau County Traffic  
14 and Parking Violations Agency.

15 MS. CLODFELTER: Kristine  
16 Clodfelter, counsel at TPVA.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Good  
18 evening. I presented a question to OMB in  
19 regards to how the county has determined the  
20 revenue projections for the boot and tow as  
21 well as the Campanelli components of those  
22 revenue projections. If you can just give me  
23 an idea on how you were able to calculate, I  
24 think it was presented in the budget number,  
25 was it \$9 million?

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2 MR. RICH: I believe it was  
3 around eight or \$9 million.

4 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Can you  
5 break down the two? Break down the budgets  
6 for each one of those components. Then how do  
7 you pump up or get to the actual projection  
8 numbers.

9 MR. RICH: The \$8 million,  
10 unfortunately it wasn't a number that we had  
11 put out directly. It was derived between the  
12 police department and OMB based on our  
13 outstanding collectibles.

14 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: You said  
15 OMB?

16 MR. RICH: Yes.

17 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Where's  
18 Andy. Andy left. Andy said it was you guys.  
19 TPVA. Then he'll say TPVA again and he won't  
20 be here.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Will you be  
22 here next Friday the 12th?

23 MR. RICH: I can make myself  
24 available.

25 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS:

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2 Mr. Santeramo care to chime in on the numbers  
3 how they were calculated?

4 MR. SANTERAMO: Everybody will be  
5 in the room Friday at the same time if that  
6 makes it easier for everybody.

7 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: I have  
8 nothing further.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Anyone else  
10 for this agency? Yes, go on Legislator  
11 Ferretti.

12 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Good  
13 evening, Mr. Rich. The red light camera  
14 revenue projections an increase of 3.8  
15 million. Can you explain where that revenue  
16 will come from?

17 MR. RICH: First off, I heard  
18 your question before. You are correct in that  
19 as the existing locations are monitored there  
20 are decreased violations, and that's the goal  
21 of the program. It's about safety. Less  
22 people are getting into crashes as well as  
23 running red lights. At the same time we are  
24 still increasing the number of equipment we  
25 have out there. Right now I believe we have

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2 94 intersections which compromises about 285  
3 cameras. State legislation allows us to  
4 install 100 intersections. And some  
5 intersection may only have two cameras, may  
6 have three, may have four, may have five.

7 At the same time, since this  
8 program has started, since 2009, we are going  
9 to evaluate some of the intersections where we  
10 have achieved the reduced crash goal and we  
11 may seek to relocate some of the existing  
12 equipment at other intersections.

13 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Is there  
14 any plan to move any of these? Did you say  
15 there was a plan to move some of the cameras?

16 MR. RICH: We will evaluate but  
17 there is not a hard and fast plan.

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: With regard  
19 to the boot and tow, has the administration  
20 proposed a fee for the boot and tow?

21 MR. RICH: There is an existing  
22 fee for the boot and tow now.

23 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Isn't that  
24 some of that money deferred to the police  
25 department? Can you give us a breakdown of

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2 what the fee is for the boot and tow?

3 MR. RICH: For the current boot  
4 and tow process the way it works right now  
5 there is a \$166 boot fee which the vendor,  
6 because the vendor actually provides the  
7 boots, the equipment the IT behind it, as well  
8 as the staffing to go out and locate the  
9 vehicles. There also is an additional \$175  
10 boot surcharge and that is deposited into the  
11 general fund.

12 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Can you  
13 comment on the recent story with regard to the  
14 erroneous boot and tow in Massapequa to  
15 numerous residents where boots were put on  
16 their vehicles in error? Can you comment on  
17 that?

18 MR. RICH: I can comment but I'm  
19 not sure what you received.

20 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: My  
21 understanding is that the county executive  
22 apologized for it and said there would be an  
23 extensive investigation into what went wrong  
24 and what could be done to fix errors like that  
25 in the future.

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2 MR. RICH: We did identify --  
3 unfortunately Mr. Stachigen's vehicles were  
4 booted in error a total of three times. The  
5 first time he had made a payment to one of our  
6 collection vendors. Due to an interface with  
7 accounting for those monies, our system of  
8 record, which is the red light camera system  
9 in this case, never received that update and I  
10 believe he had made the payment sometime in  
11 2014, 2015. So, unfortunately it was an  
12 error. And when we identified after his  
13 vehicle were booted he provide proof. We then  
14 researched with the collection vendor to  
15 validate that a payment was made to them. But  
16 for some reason their system of record was  
17 never updated.

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: TPVA is  
19 doing this review?

20 MR. RICH: Yes. With the vendors  
21 involved.

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Are there  
23 any written findings as to the results of this  
24 review?

25 MR. RICH: I can search for

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2 those.

3 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Are you  
4 aware of any that exist?

5 MR. RICH: It's my feedback and  
6 whatever the information that was provided to  
7 me. There's not a formal report available.

8 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: My  
9 understanding is that the county executive  
10 announced a systematic review of the boot and  
11 tow program. What is the systematic review?  
12 What exact review is being done in this  
13 program?

14 MR. RICH: I would defer that  
15 question to the county exec.

16 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: You are  
17 conducting the review, correct?

18 MR. RICH: I conducted the review  
19 just for the Mr. Stachigen case.

20 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: We have Mr.  
21 Santeramo here. Maybe he can shed some light  
22 on what the systematic review consists of.

23 MR. SANTERAMO: I'm not familiar  
24 with any details on the systematic review.

25 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Can anyone

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2 confirm if there's a systematic review going  
3 on?

4 MR. SANTERAMO: I can't confirm  
5 nor deny.

6 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Mr. Rich  
7 can you confirm that there is a systematic  
8 review going on?

9 MR. RICH: The question is when  
10 you say it's a systematic review, we've looked  
11 at our processes. What County Executive  
12 Curran has referenced I'm not sure what the  
13 intent or what the scope of that review is.

14 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: What I'm  
15 getting at this is a problem. This isn't  
16 something that happened four months ago. This  
17 is story that came out on September 21st.  
18 It's roughly two weeks, a little less. Was a  
19 review conducted where you can say assure this  
20 body that issues like this, errors like this  
21 will not happen again?

22 MR. RICH: Yes. We have looked  
23 into that. What we did is, one of the steps  
24 that we took is we looked at every payment  
25 file. Every day there is a payment file sent



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2 from our collection vendor to the system of  
3 record. We looked and ensured that all files  
4 were processed by the system of record.

5 We looked into the case where it  
6 seemed to be -- Mr. Stachigen's case we  
7 apologized. It was really just a one off and  
8 we don't anticipate those errors occurring  
9 again. There was just some unique errors  
10 involved in that case.

11 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: The \$8  
12 million in revenue that's projected from the  
13 boot and tow -- you're shaking your head.  
14 What did I get wrong?

15 MR. RICH: I'm waiting for the  
16 question.

17 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: There's \$8  
18 million in additional revenue projected for  
19 boot and tow, correct?

20 MR. RICH: Which is associated  
21 with the Campanelli project, yes.

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: What's the  
23 contingency if that is not passed?

24 MR. RICH: I don't believe we  
25 have a contingency. We are looking to engage

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2 the services of Mr. Campanelli which we  
3 anticipate would generate that revenue.

4 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: And if that  
5 does not pass there's no contingency?

6 MR. RICH: Not that I'm aware  
7 of. Not to fill that hole.

8 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Legislator  
10 Bynoe.

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thank you.  
12 Hello Mr. Rich.

13 MR. RICH: Good evening.

14 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Good night.

15 So, along the lines of Legislator Ferretti's  
16 questions about the systematic review. So,  
17 you can't confirm, according to Mr. Santeramo,  
18 he can't confirm or deny a systematic review  
19 but we really should be doing one. It wasn't  
20 an isolated situation. Two people around the  
21 same time period being booted.

22 MR. RICH: That's actually  
23 incorrect. The other individual was correctly  
24 booted. She stated she wasn't but she had  
25 outstanding violations that were due TPVA.

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2 There was only one, Mr. Stachigen's case.

3 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Thanks for  
4 clearing that up. It would be a good thing  
5 that that systematic review potentially is  
6 undertaken just so that we can have a peace of  
7 mind. I don't know that we can really  
8 consider an expansion of this program if we're  
9 not sure that the current program is really  
10 working. So that's something that I would be  
11 interested in.

12 Let's stay with the boot and tow  
13 situation. Just last week we undertook an  
14 exercise, I did, just to look and see if there  
15 was a way to find out whether a vehicle had  
16 any outstanding red light camera tickets. And  
17 there is a process for you to put in a plate  
18 number and see moving violations I believe and  
19 maybe some parking tickets. But there is no  
20 mechanism in place for one to go in and plug  
21 their tag in to see if there's red light  
22 camera tickets. So I believe that it should  
23 be easier for someone to search that. It  
24 should be as easy as it is for parking tickets  
25 or moving tickets for one to determine whether

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2 they have those issues.

3 What I learned you have to do is  
4 then call only during business hours and reach  
5 someone who can then search that for you and  
6 then give you the notice numbers. Or  
7 something to that effect. Give you those  
8 numbers and then you can go into the system  
9 and look at those tickets or perhaps pay for  
10 those tickets. So, I'm concerned that we  
11 don't have an easier process in place for  
12 those red light camera tickets. Am I  
13 incorrect in my --

14 MR. RICH: You are correct in  
15 your statement. I can give you the technical  
16 reasons why we are also working to be able to  
17 search all open violations that are returnable  
18 to TPVA. So it would show parking violations,  
19 traffic violations as well as red light camera  
20 violations. Right now because parking and  
21 traffic that data set is kept in our system  
22 and that's the one where you can currently go  
23 in and put a plate number, put your driver's  
24 license number and show all open parking and  
25 traffic.

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2 The red light camera data is  
3 actually kept in our vendor system right now  
4 where you would need a specific notice number  
5 and a pin number. We are working with both  
6 Nassau County IT, with ATS, which is the red  
7 light camera vendor, as well as a vendor we  
8 plan on engaging into a contract where the  
9 public would be able to access all of that  
10 information in one-stop shopping. Be able to  
11 see all outstanding violations.

12 MS. CLODFELTER: In a simpler  
13 way. In the way you are suggesting. It's in  
14 the process.

15 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Again, another  
16 thing, we're penalizing people when we  
17 actually almost made it some level of a hunt  
18 to be able to get the information they need to  
19 be able to pay that ticket without that pin  
20 number it shouldn't be. They shouldn't have  
21 to hunt and actively pursue it to that degree  
22 and then we're going to start hooking up  
23 people's cars.

24 MS. CLODFELTER: There is a  
25 measure of caution also that has to be

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2 exercised and privacy in terms of how much  
3 information is accessible.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here I go.  
5 Because if we're talking about privacy, I  
6 think I'm less concerned about a red light  
7 ticket that was on my vehicle that anyone  
8 could have been driving at the time. But  
9 moving violations, which is typically to the  
10 driver I would suspect, we're giving that  
11 out. We're comfortable giving that out but  
12 we're not comfortable about giving out the red  
13 light ticket where you're actually going to  
14 come up and hook up my car and take it?

15 MS. CLODFELTER: The ease of  
16 researching a ticket that you mentioned is in  
17 the process and we are working on making it  
18 easier.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: The privacy  
20 part is a disconnect with me. I will  
21 reconcile to that later. I think if we are  
22 going to give some information about a vehicle  
23 we should give all information and the drivers  
24 or the owners of those vehicles should have an  
25 ease of doing that before we start expanding

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2 the program where we're going to be taking  
3 people's cars or booting people's cars. There  
4 should be some ease to them being able to get  
5 that information. But let's move on.

6 MR. RICH: If I may I want to  
7 back up a little bit. Just so you understand  
8 it was more a technology constraint. Because  
9 red light camera violations photo enforcement  
10 are in this other outside vendor system --

11 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I understand.

12 MR. RICH: But it's just that  
13 it's difficult for us to get them to modify  
14 the way data is extracted. When that was put  
15 in back in 2009 it was more of security. We  
16 didn't want the public going in and saying how  
17 many red light camera tickets does my neighbor  
18 have? That's why it was specific in that you  
19 had a violation number and a pin number.

20 We just recently started providing,  
21 within the past couple of years, the ability  
22 to look at parking and traffic tickets and  
23 doing a much easier search. We just can't  
24 modify the red light camera system yet because  
25 in all honesty we have pending enhancements

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2 for four years. Not a difficult vendor but  
3 it's difficult to get technology changes.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: I understand  
5 what you're saying. I hope you understand  
6 what I'm saying too.

7 MR. RICH: I totally understand  
8 where you're coming from.

9 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You want to  
10 expand the program that could result in people  
11 having their cars booted or towed but there is  
12 no automated process for them to be able to  
13 search and pay tickets without having to call  
14 only during business hours and get the notice  
15 number and a pin to be able to pay. There's  
16 in some way we are impeding their ability to  
17 take care of these things at any hour of the  
18 day with ease. That's the point that I'm  
19 making. Okay.

20 So Campanelli. So, I asked these  
21 questions before and maybe now there will be  
22 different answers. Where has Campanelli done  
23 this before or where is Campanelli getting the  
24 idea that we can go after leasing companies  
25 and finance companies to pay the tickets for



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2 cars that they have loans on? Where has this  
3 happened before? What is this modeled after?

4 MR. RICH: I believe to some  
5 extent but it's not him directly they are  
6 doing some of this in New York City with the  
7 city marshals. But also Mr. Campanelli is  
8 experienced with working with the Nassau  
9 County Police Department as well as the Nassau  
10 County Attorney's Office is working with the  
11 DUI asset seizures in understanding the  
12 nuances of trying to contact a leaseholder or  
13 lienholder so they can reclaim their vehicle.  
14 He has that experience and he has those  
15 relationships with those leasing companies and  
16 financing companies.

17 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: He has  
18 relationships with those leasing companies and  
19 financing companies to the extent that they  
20 say that they would be willing to pay these  
21 kind of charges?

22 MR. RICH: I'm not going to speak  
23 for Mr. Campanelli, but I believe there is  
24 something because he has that familiarity with  
25 them and it's something I believe he has

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2 explored with them there is an opportunity  
3 there.

4 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: You say that  
5 the New York City marshal is utilizing a  
6 similar type of process?

7 MR. RICH: That's my  
8 understanding. Based on Mr. Campanelli's -- I  
9 would have to find the information -- but I  
10 believe he referred that this is the type of  
11 process that occurs in the city.

12 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Did we vet  
13 that assertion? Did we call New York City and  
14 find out how it's working? If it's in fact  
15 the same type of initiative that was suggested  
16 here for Nassau?

17 MR. RICH: We did not.

18 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: What are we  
19 basing the numbers on? All right. Forget  
20 it. You said you couldn't tell us. One is  
21 saying the other.

22 MR. RICH: I apologize for that.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Hopefully next  
24 Friday we will have been opportunity. But if  
25 we haven't reached out to New York City, we

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2 haven't vetted the assertion that this is  
3 possible, I'm just going to say for the record  
4 I don't know how we could arrive at a number,  
5 multimillion dollar revenue number and we  
6 don't have any real benchmarks based on  
7 reality. I will leave it there for now.  
8 Thank you.

9 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.  
10 Legislator Birnbaum.

11 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Just a  
12 quick follow-up. You said you're in the  
13 process of being able to get the data from ATS  
14 into our computer system.

15 MR. RICH: Into a new system.

16 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Do we to  
17 modify our contract with ATS so that it's  
18 going to cost the county more or are they able  
19 to provide this service?

20 MR. RICH: No. When we engaged  
21 the services with ATS back in 2009 we had put  
22 something that they had, build an enhancement  
23 to our new system. So our new system is  
24 still -- we've been trying to get this new  
25 system since 2004. You should have a contract

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2 coming to you soon from IT for the TPVA  
3 replacement system.

4 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Is this  
5 service being added into it? Will it cost the  
6 county?

7 MR. RICH: For red light camera  
8 no. It's already in the original contract  
9 that they have to build an interface with our  
10 new. There would be no additional cost to the  
11 county for this data from ATS.

12 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I just  
13 wanted to piggyback on one thing from  
14 Legislator Bynoe's comments as well. I  
15 practiced in the City of New York too and I've  
16 had clients who had their car booted and  
17 towed. And as of now I have not heard of any  
18 instances where these leasing companies are  
19 paying any of these expenses. In fact, all my  
20 clients complain about are the exorbitant fees  
21 they have to pay to get the car out of the  
22 towing yards. That's about it.

23 MS. CLAUFELDER: Under the  
24 existing boot and tow program we are already  
25 being contacted at TPVA by corporations,

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2 leaseholders and lienholders and inquiring  
3 about the debt on the cars. The situation  
4 already exists where someone's car is booted  
5 and it could be they are not the titled owner  
6 and the companies are already inquiring about  
7 the debt outstanding in an effort to decide  
8 whether or not it's worth it to them to pay  
9 it. It's not as abstract a concept as what is  
10 being suggested tonight. It's just a matter  
11 of how we navigate the response and the  
12 process going forward. Because when they're  
13 calling in to inquire about it now they're  
14 calling in to the same clerks that are picking  
15 up the phone to take payment. They're not  
16 dealing with someone who is familiar with the  
17 process of what the lienholder and  
18 leaseholders' rights are vis-a-vis the  
19 lessor's.

20 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Any time you  
21 are dependent upon a lending institution or a  
22 leasing company to evaluate whether it's a  
23 good business decision for them to pursue the  
24 recovery of the vehicle and satisfy the  
25 indebtedness associated with that boot and tow

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2 it's an inexact science. I don't know how you  
3 can rely upon that in terms of trying to  
4 predict a revenue stream.

5 MS. CLAUFELDER: I'm not sure if  
6 I understand that question. I'm just making  
7 the point that they are already reaching out  
8 to us and paying the debt on vehicles in  
9 certain instances.

10 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: But not  
11 across the board.

12 MS. CLAUFELDER: In the instances  
13 where they become aware that the vehicle is  
14 booted and towed and they make the evaluation  
15 that it is still profitable for them.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: That would  
17 vary from instance to instance in terms of  
18 reaching out and making an evaluation.  
19 Talking about the companies themselves. You  
20 can't predict that every single leasing  
21 company or financial company is going to call  
22 and try to arrange for that, right?

23 MS. CLAUFELDER: Of course not.  
24 That's why the suggestion is that the  
25 Campanelli Law Firm will affirmatively reach

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2 out to these corporations, make them aware  
3 they have 25 cars or 250 cars that are boot  
4 eligible and do they want to have a  
5 negotiation and pay that debt now so that they  
6 avoid booting and they avoid towing and they  
7 avoid storage costs. The idea is to refine  
8 that process and approach it in an affirmative  
9 way, in an organized way where we can say  
10 listen, this is the situation for Buick or GM  
11 or Nissan, do you want to step in and talk  
12 about how much is outstanding and make your  
13 business decision. Where the way it exists  
14 right now it's more a matter of happenstance  
15 whether or not they are reaching out to us.

16 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: I would like  
17 to see the data that they have acquired from  
18 other jurisdictions. I really would like to  
19 see that data that Campanelli has had, what  
20 success they have had in the city.

21 MS. CLAUFELDER: Campanelli is  
22 not working for the city.

23 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: In other  
24 jurisdictions -- where have they done this  
25 before?

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2 MS. CLAUFELDER: I'm not aware of  
3 them doing it. We're talking about breaking  
4 ground here.

5 MR. RICH: I think New York City  
6 does something similar but not to the extent  
7 of the program we are proposing.

8 LEGISLATOR DRUCKER: Again, in my  
9 opinion it's very speculative. Thank you.

10 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Good evening  
11 Mr. Rich. First of all, I would like to thank  
12 you and thank all the men and woman who work  
13 for you for the outstanding job they do on a  
14 day-to-day basis. As you know, I have had  
15 many occasions to observe them in action and  
16 they do a great job. Nevertheless, we are  
17 here on budget night, so I'm going to ask you  
18 some budget related questions first of all.

19 I'm showing that you're projected  
20 for 2019 1.75 million in the boot and tow  
21 payments, which seems to be down from the 6.6  
22 million or so you collected this year. Can  
23 you account for why such a drastic projection  
24 reduction?

25 While you're thinking about that,



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2 on the same line the red light camera revenue  
3 I'm showing to be projected only \$25 million  
4 next year but it's \$58 million in 2017 and 48  
5 million in '16 and projected to be whatever,  
6 \$40 million this year. Is the administration  
7 low balling the figures for a particular  
8 reason?

9 MR. RICH: Unfortunately I would  
10 have to defer to OMB on that. They provided  
11 the proposal.

12 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: But you don't  
13 foresee a reduction in the revenues, do you?

14 MR. RICH: No, I don't.

15 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: In fact, back  
16 on the Campanelli issue. The administration  
17 is showing projected revenues of \$8 million.  
18 Is there any justification for that figure of  
19 \$8 million that you're aware of or is that  
20 some number they believe to be achievable?  
21 I'm just trying to figure out, most of us up  
22 here are trying to figure out where or how  
23 that eight million is going to be projected or  
24 where it's coming from and how it was  
25 projected. Especially since this is a novel

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2 concept basically that's never been tried  
3 before by any other municipality in the nation  
4 that I'm aware of. So there's a lot of  
5 questions from up here.

6 MR. RICH: There are.  
7 Unfortunately, it's difficult to project  
8 because we don't know what portion of the  
9 scofflaw population is leased, lienied,  
10 financed, outright owned or whatever. So it  
11 is a difficult projection.

12 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Do you know  
13 if the county attorney or even outside counsel  
14 has provided any legal opinion as to whether  
15 we have standing to do this?

16 MR. RICH: We have been working  
17 with the county attorney's office. Just of  
18 note, I believe that they plan on refiling the  
19 Campanelli contract that would modify the  
20 scope of services. So, it might be a little  
21 bit clearer for understanding and for review.

22 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Let's just  
23 say hypothetically in the event the Campanelli  
24 contract doesn't pass this body. Does the  
25 county have an alternative means of collecting

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2 this kind of revenue or are we just abandoning  
3 the concept altogether.

4 MS. CLAUFELDER: We would resort  
5 to what we are doing now to collect the  
6 revenue. This is a suggested improvement to  
7 our effort. But if it doesn't succeed then we  
8 will continue with the program as is.

9 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: This  
10 improvement helps you achieve an additional \$8  
11 million in the next year? That's the  
12 projection the administration is telling us.

13 MR. RICH: Problematic the  
14 difference would be our current boot and tow  
15 we are going out with a vehicle that uses  
16 LPR. So if we just happen to find that  
17 vehicle on the street that's how we generate  
18 the revenue. With Campanelli he's a more of a  
19 proactive stance where he's going to  
20 identify -- the Nassau County Police  
21 Department will be involved where they're  
22 going to identify the titled owner of the  
23 vehicle. Okay, is it Nissan, GMC? And they  
24 will give a list to Campanelli's firm and  
25 Campanelli will then more actively reach out

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2 to them and say we have 250 cars that are  
3 eligible to be boot and towed, how would you  
4 like to resolve? It's a little more directed  
5 at a bigger population. Whereas, right now  
6 we're just lucky if we know where the car may  
7 be. We don't know where you work. We don't  
8 know if the car is in your driveway versus on  
9 the street.

10 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I  
11 understand. Thank you for clarifying that.  
12 Please let the men and women know that we up  
13 here appreciate all the efforts they do on a  
14 day-to-day basis. Thank you.

15 MR. RICH: Will do. Thank you  
16 very much.

17 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Legislator  
18 Kennedy.

19 MR. KENNEDY: I have one thing.  
20 Good evening. How are you doing? I'd like to  
21 have a clear understanding of the systematic  
22 review. I think we need to see that. I'm  
23 looking at a young mother in Massapequa with  
24 three children, came out of a birthday party  
25 and had a boot on her car and that was

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2 something there was a mistake.

3 MS. CLAUFELDER: That was not a  
4 mistake. She was not booted in error.

5 MR. RICH: We just said that to  
6 Legislator Bynoe. Her's was a valid boot.

7 MS. CLAUFELDER: She was unhappy  
8 about being booted. She was not booted in  
9 error.

10 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I'd still  
11 like to see the systematic review. I think  
12 that is something we are looking at a proposal  
13 to expand the program. We do need to see that  
14 in order to be able to really have a good idea  
15 whether or not this is something that could go  
16 forward.

17 MR. RICH: I will work with the  
18 administration on that.

19 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Legislator  
20 Ford.

21 LEGISLATOR FORD: We have a lot  
22 of questions about this boot and tow. As you  
23 know, the item has been tabled. We're not  
24 realizing any of that revenue. What are the  
25 plans that you have if this doesn't get passed

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2 by the legislature?

3 MR. RICH: We have two  
4 initiatives that have been tabled by the  
5 legislature and they are both related to boot  
6 and tow so to speak. One does the physical  
7 and mobilization, the other one doesn't. I  
8 don't have a contingency plan. TPVA does not  
9 generate the parking tickets, the traffic  
10 tickets. We have no control over who goes  
11 through a red light or not. We're just  
12 working with a product that comes into it and  
13 we process it. We have no way of generating  
14 that product.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: You have  
16 proposed I guess it would be \$8 million in  
17 revenue; am I reading that right?

18 MR. RICH: That's what the  
19 proposal is, yes.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I think we are  
22 done except one thing I would like to point  
23 out. There have been a lot of questions here  
24 and you and your agency and Mr. Persich  
25 earlier just kind of pointing fingers at each

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2 other. Perhaps you might coordinate by a week  
3 from this coming Friday and whoever it is that  
4 has the answers be prepared to discuss it  
5 here.

6 MR. RICH: Okay.

7 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you.

8 One moment. We have one more question.  
9 Mr. Ferretti.

10 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Just to go  
11 back for a quick second to the red light  
12 cameras. The projected increase revenue will  
13 be from additional intersections, installation  
14 of cameras at additional intersections,  
15 correct?

16 MR. RICH: Yes. As well as the  
17 relocation of existing.

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: In terms of  
19 the additional intersections have those  
20 intersections been identified?

21 MR. RICH: Not all of them, no.

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: That's  
23 where it's a bit of an issue for me. When you  
24 just put a projection in revenue out there  
25 without knowing where the intersections are

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2 going to be my fear is you're going to pick  
3 intersections to get to your bottom line  
4 number. When of course that's not the goal of  
5 these cameras.

6 MR. RICH: Just so you know the  
7 process, there's a committee between TPVA, DPW  
8 and traffic safety where we identify locations  
9 based on crash data.

10 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: But you  
11 haven't identified locations yet?

12 MR. RICH: We have not identified  
13 them yet.

14 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: But you've  
15 picked a number in terms of revenue?

16 MR. RICH: We're basing that  
17 number on average number of violations that  
18 were issued over the program's time frame that  
19 it's been in operation.

20 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Are there  
21 any intersections that are currently  
22 pinpointed as intersections that cameras will  
23 be installed at?

24 MR. RICH: We still have I  
25 believe five more intersections to even



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2 identify. So we have not pinpointed where  
3 we're putting them.

4 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Are there  
5 any that are currently identified as  
6 intersections that cameras will be installed  
7 at?

8 MR. RICH: I would have to check  
9 but I believe so.

10 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Legislator  
11 Walker.

12 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: My last  
13 comment would be I would like to see the data  
14 to see that these intersections are indeed  
15 cameras necessary to be installed there. Now  
16 I'm done. Thank you.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: And I would  
18 just piggyback on what Legislator Ferretti  
19 said. We always got a list of all of the  
20 locations beforehand. Understanding why they  
21 were going there. I know there's cameras that  
22 are now up in my district that other than the  
23 fact that I saw them up there or residents  
24 have said now there's a camera here, now  
25 there's a camera there, complaining, we

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2 wouldn't know. We haven't gotten any list.

3 We haven't gotten any notification.

4 MR. RICH: To the best of my  
5 knowledge, I have been involved with the  
6 program since 2009. Out of TPVA we never  
7 provided that information. I don't know if  
8 maybe Traffic Safety provided it. But TPVA in  
9 general hasn't provided the information where  
10 we plan on putting locations.

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I couldn't  
12 tell you exactly who sent it but we always  
13 knew that they were going up.

14 MR. RICH: I'm unaware of that.

15 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Maybe it was  
16 previous administration or whatever. This way  
17 we don't act surprised. You're riding around  
18 all over and you do see them. When somebody  
19 calls and questions about it and you act like  
20 you know and you really didn't know. It would  
21 be nice if we did know. Then we would  
22 understand better that that's a location  
23 that's really -- that we even realize in our  
24 district that it's very needed. Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Thank you. I

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2 think you're sprung.

3 MR. RICH: Thank you all.

4 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Does anyone  
5 have questions for the Department of Human  
6 Services? Nobody. Human Services you can  
7 go. Anyone have questions for Consumer  
8 Affairs? Consumer Affairs.

9 MR. MAY: Gregory May,  
10 commissioner of Consumer Affairs.

11 MR. HEINO: Ken Heino, Consumer  
12 Affairs.

13 MS. KUNZIG: Christie Kunzig.

14 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you  
15 Mr. Deputy Presiding Officer. Thank you. I  
16 appreciate it.

17 Good evening. As we go late into  
18 the night. First off, I want to thank you  
19 personally for your assistance that you've  
20 offered my office. Obviously you know that I  
21 represent a district, South Shore district,  
22 that was heavily impacted by Super Storm  
23 Sandy. I was just looking for some sort of  
24 update from the department as to where we are  
25 in terms of investigations into the complaints

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2 that you receive with regard to Super Storm  
3 Sandy. And what is the department doing in  
4 terms of bringing those to a conclusion and  
5 making sure that the complaints from  
6 homeowners are addressed.

7 MR. MAY: Sure. The department  
8 has actually, starting with Legislator Ford  
9 and her invitation to her community events,  
10 the beginning of this year it become obviously  
11 apparent there was a number of communities and  
12 residents who were still affected by Super  
13 Storm Sandy. So I undertook a review of all  
14 of the complaints in our office. It turns out  
15 we have about 300 consumer complaints that are  
16 related to Super Storm Sandy. I've devoted  
17 staff and resources to investigating the  
18 complaints issued or filed with our office.  
19 We've issued upwards of 150 to 200 violations  
20 against the contractors who the consumers had  
21 complained against. And we are in the process  
22 of resolving I would say many of those  
23 complaints though not all of them. It's just  
24 a process.

25 We offer the vendors an opportunity

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2 to come in for a prehearing settlement  
3 conference to address any of the issues we  
4 found in our investigation. Including  
5 whatever would need to be done to make the  
6 consumer whole. As well as address any of the  
7 violations that we've issued. Beyond that, we  
8 have an administrative process where if they  
9 don't want to settle their violations and  
10 complaints they go to the next step, which is  
11 the judicial hearing officer. Or the  
12 administrative hearing.

13 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Is there any  
14 timetable for how quickly those complaints can  
15 be closed?

16 MR. MAY: Unfortunately there is  
17 not. I wish I could say that there were. I  
18 know that we are coming up on the December  
19 31st deadline for New York Rising for all of  
20 our constituents to have their homes lifted.  
21 Voluntary lift deadline I think was June 30th  
22 of this year.

23 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: They were  
24 both extended.

25 MR. MAY: So now they're both on

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2 December 31st. We are working as judiciously  
3 as we can. Unfortunately, there are still  
4 people out there who have been victimized by  
5 contractors who have yet to come forward.

6 Legislator Ford and County

7 Executive Curran cohosted a Super Storm Sandy  
8 seminar or forum the beginning of August. And  
9 if you can believe it, we had three or four  
10 constituents come in and file complaints  
11 against their contractor. Six years ago at  
12 this point and they just kept thinking the  
13 contractor's going to come in, he's going to  
14 do the thing, we're going to get it done. We  
15 had to tell them unfortunately it's our  
16 experience that they're probably not going to  
17 get it done and they need to file complaints.

18 While I hope to have everything  
19 done by the end of the year, I don't want to  
20 promise anyone that. And even if we were able  
21 to, there's no guarantee that there aren't  
22 other people out there who have been  
23 victimized who haven't yet gotten to the point  
24 where they want to file a complaint against  
25 their contractor.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I very much  
3 appreciate your efforts. I know part of the  
4 frustrations that many residents are having is  
5 not in their dealings with your office but  
6 perhaps in dealings with the district  
7 attorney's office and the position they've  
8 taken with respect to criminal prosecutions  
9 for many of these contractors.

10 What level of coordination is there  
11 between your office and the district  
12 attorney's office and is there likely to be  
13 any change in their position as to how they  
14 view this?

15 MR. MAY: I can't really speak  
16 for the district attorney's office. I can say  
17 they've been excellent partners in government  
18 with us. They have a higher standard of proof  
19 than my office does. It's just a matter of  
20 fact if they're going to prove criminal  
21 cases. Often time if there's been an issue in  
22 our office that we thought was criminal we  
23 would refer it to their office for  
24 investigation. If they receive a complaint  
25 they feel is better directed towards the civil

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2 side of things they will refer it to us.

3 We met with them a few weeks ago  
4 and we are in constant contact with the  
5 district attorney's office. I would probably  
6 love to see -- I don't want to say that I  
7 would see love to see anything happen in  
8 particular, but when you are talking to some  
9 of the consumers and you hear the heartbreak  
10 in their voice and -- Ken and Christy and I  
11 have seen some of these homes -- it becomes  
12 difficult to remain impartial as to the  
13 outcome.

14 I will say that the district  
15 attorney's office has been a partner with us  
16 and we are constant contact with them.

17 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I think part  
18 of the frustration is the fact that, you know,  
19 if you have a particular contractor that has  
20 walked in, taken money, done part of the work  
21 and left basically and then you see that they  
22 have done that to 20 different homeowners.  
23 How that's not criminal is very difficult to  
24 understand. I know you're not here to speak  
25 on behalf of the district Attorney's office



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2 and I know there's a calculation they make  
3 with respect to what they are able to actually  
4 charge and what they are able to actually  
5 prove. It just seems as though most of the  
6 obligation is falling upon your department.  
7 Whereas, some of it should be handled, in my  
8 opinion, should be handled on the criminal  
9 end. That's really not a question for you to  
10 answer.

11 MR. MAY: I appreciate that. I  
12 guess I would say that I agree with the  
13 sentiment. We are happy to take on whatever  
14 work that we need to take on to do whatever we  
15 can for obviously all of our constituents.  
16 It's just a different burden of proof. I  
17 don't envy the district attorney's office to  
18 make some of these decisions. I can't speak  
19 for anyone in particular in the district  
20 attorney's office but I'm sure there are  
21 plenty of people who would say they might want  
22 to pursue cases but if the evidence is not  
23 there or there's a clear story to tell to  
24 convince a jury, you know.

25 I think really what we all wish is

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2 that none of this happened in the first  
3 place.

4 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Amen to  
5 that. I know obviously we had a Super Storm  
6 Sandy liaison who has since retired. Is there  
7 any one individual that is kind of acting as  
8 the Super Storm Sandy liaison for us to be  
9 able to -- one of the tremendous challenges,  
10 as you are well familiar, is working with  
11 New York Rising. Which has been a source of  
12 endless frustration not only for consumers and  
13 our constituents but even for elected  
14 officials.

15 New York Rising has been  
16 exceedingly difficult to deal with. Getting  
17 information out of them has been tremendously  
18 difficult from a consumer perspective. You've  
19 got five or six different case managers over  
20 the course of the six years that you have been  
21 trying to deal with this. Every time you  
22 speak to someone new the answers tend to  
23 change. Every time there's an extension of a  
24 deadline it's because we have had to have a  
25 press conference and we've had to embarrass

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2 somebody into extending it.

3 The issue that's coming down the  
4 pike is not only the deadlines that are coming  
5 up for optional mandatory elevation on  
6 December 31st, but those individuals who are  
7 participating in the program over the course  
8 of the next couple of months to try to get  
9 their house up there's no interim mortgage  
10 assistance.

11 So now the issue coming down the  
12 pike s are they going to extend that program  
13 so that we can actually -- these folks are  
14 having to pay not only their mortgage but they  
15 have to for somewhere else to live while  
16 they're out of their home while it's being  
17 lifted. The failure of the state to extend  
18 the interim mortgage assistance makes it  
19 impossible for many of those families to be  
20 able to do that.

21 Is Consumer Affairs or really does  
22 Consumer Affairs have a role, along with us as  
23 elected officials, to try and get the governor  
24 and the state to try to pay attention to us?

25 MR. MAY: Certainly any

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2 additional attention that can be brought on  
3 the issue is welcome. I don't want to take a  
4 sort of combative stance with New York Rising  
5 or the governor's office.

6 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: That's my  
7 job.

8 MR. MAY: Certainly I have a  
9 fairly good working relationship with New York  
10 Rising at this point. When we came in and  
11 first met, I think it was with Legislator  
12 Ford, I was new in the position and I guess  
13 they were feeling me out and I was feeling  
14 them out. I am able now to get in touch with  
15 people and get answers for constituents. I  
16 can't speak for any particular constituent's  
17 individual relationship with New York Rising.  
18 I do understand some of the criticisms of that  
19 office. But at the same time having met with  
20 them and they were participants in the Super  
21 Storm Sandy forum in August their's is also a  
22 tough and at times thankless job.

23 Certainly attention needs to be  
24 brought on our constituents who are still  
25 suffering. We are probably down to the

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2 hardest core of individuals that have to be  
3 helped. There was probably -- I think the  
4 last numbers we discussed with New York Rising  
5 was somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,000 or  
6 4,000 affected homes in Nassau and Suffolk  
7 County. We're down to 300 homes or so based  
8 on the complaints in our office. And these  
9 are the people who are at wit's end.

10 We visited a particular home, an  
11 individual down in Bay Park. The house is not  
12 sealed to the elements. It is elevated. The  
13 front door is a board on hinges chained shut.

14 We went down to the city of Long  
15 Beach to see a constituent's home. The back  
16 door doesn't even have a plank on it. It's  
17 just actually like two by fours that someone  
18 decided they were going to throw out that  
19 didn't quite make it out the door. That's  
20 sealing the house.

21 Really, anything that we can do we  
22 will do to help bring attention to this issue  
23 and get whatever support for the constituents  
24 that we need to do.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Very much

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2 appreciate that. If you can do me a favor and  
3 use your newly established contacts with New  
4 York Rising, ask about the extension of the  
5 IMA Program. Because, again, it's much easier  
6 to try and do it through internal channels  
7 then it is to beat them over the head with a  
8 club. Is it even on their radar at this point  
9 in time? And if not, you know.

10 MR. MAY: I don't want to speak  
11 for another agency. I think the issue is the  
12 issue that all government agencies have at  
13 this point. Just where is the money going to  
14 come from? We would need to determine some  
15 amount of money that would be sufficient to  
16 bridge where these constituents are and where  
17 they need to go and then administer that  
18 program. I don't know that we are the point  
19 where we've done a complete postmortem on the  
20 Super Storm Sandy response at all levels of  
21 government. I think one of the things we've  
22 seen is block grants of money to contractors  
23 is not necessarily the best recipe for  
24 success.

25 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: I appreciate

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2 it. Thank you.

3 LEGISLATOR FORD: Good evening.

4 Commissioner, I want to thank you very much  
5 and your staff because I think you have done a  
6 great job, especially handling with Super  
7 Storm Sandy homes and many of our residents.  
8 But we know that your agency handles much more  
9 than the complaints that people have against  
10 their contractors. Especially after a storm  
11 hits them.

12 We in the legislature do seem to  
13 add on to a lot of your responsibilities. We  
14 want you to check on people's weights and  
15 measures, whatever. Whole array of different  
16 things. So I'm a little concern -- I don't  
17 mean to put you in the hot seat -- that you're  
18 going from 31 people and you're like I guess  
19 NIFA confirmed you for 31. But in the 2019  
20 budget you're only looking for 26 people.  
21 You're going to look to have 26 full time CSEA  
22 people and four ordinates. Am I reading this  
23 wrong that it looks like you're going down in  
24 numbers or are you looking to bring in more  
25 people?

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2 MR. MAY: You're reading it  
3 correctly. We are four ordinates on staff.  
4 Three of them are sitting in front of you. We  
5 have 26 CSEA employees. The administration  
6 has been responsive to our staffing needs.  
7 Our weights and measure staff was down to  
8 six. The state agriculture and markets  
9 department, of which we are the local division  
10 in terms of our weights and measure division,  
11 had indicated to us that we needed additional  
12 staff in order to meet our mandates. This is  
13 the inspecting all of the gas pumps and scales  
14 and anything that's certifying products for  
15 sale by weight or by length. That sort of  
16 thing. And the administration has given us  
17 two additional staff members.

18 As far as the Consumers Affairs  
19 investigators aside, sort of separating the  
20 two, we are working to combine the titles  
21 between the Consumer Affairs investigators and  
22 the taxi and limousine investigators. I think  
23 that the staff that I have now is sufficient  
24 to do the work that the office needs. I'm  
25 satisfied with the budget that the



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2 administration has given us. I'm satisfied  
3 with staff. I am working to see if we can get  
4 some additional support staff. I would like  
5 to hire a bilingual clerk. We had a bilingual  
6 clerk. I was able to promote her into a  
7 bilingual investigator title. But I need to  
8 see to backfilling that. So far everyone has  
9 been responsive.

10 As far as hard numbers, right now I  
11 think I have what I need. Come next year I  
12 would be able to tell you better the successes  
13 or challenges I've had with the amount of  
14 staff that we've had.

15 LEGISLATOR FORD: So then the 26  
16 that doesn't include the under of people that  
17 are currently working under the TLC.

18 MR. MAY: That does. The  
19 Consumer Affairs titles in that series there  
20 are three. Consumer Affairs investigator one,  
21 two and three. I've got seven and one  
22 Consumer Affairs investigator bilingual and  
23 five taxi and limousine investigators.

24 LEGISLATOR FORD: It just seems  
25 odd like NIFA, who would like to get rid of

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2 all of us here, here they are thinking that  
3 you could use 31 people. I guess maybe once  
4 in my life I'm going to actually agree with  
5 NIFA that I think that 31 would be better for  
6 you. You make your determination. You run  
7 the department. You're doing a good job.

8 MR. MAY: If you don't mind  
9 holding that thought until next year's budget  
10 and we can come back to it and if you feel I  
11 need the staff.

12 LEGISLATOR FORD: I will check on  
13 you during the year.

14 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: You should get  
15 it in writing from her.

16 MR. MAY: We have it, right?  
17 Frank will get it to me.

18 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Legislator  
19 Schaefer.

20 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Hi. How  
21 are you? I just was wondering, are you moving  
22 in any direction with regard to the ride share  
23 services in the county and any surcharges or  
24 any regulations we can impose?

25 MR. MAY: Unfortunately, the

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2 change in New York State law pretty much  
3 prevented us from doing any kind of regulatory  
4 effort on the T and Cs. We do speak with our  
5 counterparts in the T and C world. I speak, I  
6 don't want to say regularly, with  
7 representatives from Uber and Lyft. Often  
8 enough to know generally what's going on and  
9 what they're thinking about in terms of  
10 broader state policy. But really  
11 unfortunately our hands are tied by the state.

12 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: It would  
13 require the state to change it?

14 MR. MAY: Yes.

15 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you.  
16 That's all.

17 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I'm pretty  
18 sure this goes back to the health department  
19 but I want to check. You don't have anything  
20 to do with the checking our businesses for  
21 underage sale of goods? That goes back to the  
22 health department?

23 MR. MAY: I believe this body  
24 gave us the coauthority to do that and we have  
25 been coordinating with the Department of

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2 Health, and that is on our radar for some  
3 initiatives in the coming months.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Especially  
5 now that we passed the bills regarding the  
6 vaping and so forth.

7 MR. MAY: We are particularly  
8 interested in that.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: That will  
10 help us there with fines. Thank you.

11 MR. MAY: You're welcome.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Hi Greg. I  
13 see a lot of the budget increase for next year  
14 is tied to the increase revenue from the home  
15 improvement licenses, correct?

16 MR. MAY: Yes.

17 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: So is it  
18 because it's the biannual that they are up  
19 every two years?

20 MR. MAY: It's the biannual, yes.

21 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I know  
22 whenever I've had a problem with the company  
23 they've had appointments to speak to you, have  
24 you streamlined the procedure for companies to  
25 get licensed?

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2 MR. MAY: We are working on  
3 continued streamlining of the processes in the  
4 office. One of the major initiatives that we  
5 have is rolling out the new Apex software  
6 platform. I should back up and not speak in  
7 code.

8 When I took over as the Taxi and  
9 Limousine commissioner I worked with the  
10 information technology department to develop a  
11 soup to nuts case management system. That's  
12 based on the Apex software platform by  
13 Oracle. We have a number of CSEA staff who do  
14 an absolutely phenomenal job. I told  
15 Commissioner Stanton that I would always sing  
16 the praises of her office whenever I got the  
17 chance. Unfortunately, you've given me the  
18 chance now. So I'm going to do that and say  
19 what a fantastic job her and her staff have  
20 done.

21 We are developing from the TLC  
22 platform out into the Consumer Affairs side of  
23 things. So when that program launches it  
24 should really streamline and make the entire  
25 application process much smoother. Much more

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2 consumer friendly. Much more business  
3 friendly and really accelerate the entire  
4 process.

5 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Thank you.

6 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Looks like  
7 we're done. Thank you everyone for coming.  
8 We are done here. Have a good night.

9 (TIME NOTED: 9:48 P.M.)

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1  
2 CERTIFICATION  
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5

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

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

12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
13 hereunto set my hand this 11th day of  
14 October 2018  
15  
16

17 -----  
18 FRANK GRAY  
19  
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