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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

RICHARD NICOLELLO  
PRESIDING OFFICER

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

Tuesday, November 13, 2018  
11:38 A.M.

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

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4 LEGISLATOR RICHARD J. NICOLELLO

5 Presiding Officer

6 9th Legislative District

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8 LEGISLATOR HOWARD KOPEL

9 Deputy Presiding Officer

10 7th Legislative District

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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

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23 LEGISLATOR CARRIE SOLAGES

24 3rd Legislative District

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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 DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON  
12              11th Legislative District  
13  
14       LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY  
15              12th Legislative District  
16  
17       LEGISLATOR THOMAS MCKEVITT  
18              13th Legislative District  
19  
20       LEGISLATOR LAURA SCHAEFER  
21              14th Legislative District  
22  
23       LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.  
24              15th Legislative District  
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LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER  
17th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN  
18th Legislative District

LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS  
19th Legislative District

MICHAEL PULITZER  
Clerk of the Legislature

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2 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going  
3 to call this meeting to order and ask  
4 Legislator Bill Gaylor to lead us in the  
5 Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Pledge was recited.)

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
8 Legislator Gaylor. This is the ledge meeting  
9 for November 13. Mr. Clerk could you please  
10 call the roll.

11 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Deputy  
12 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

13 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: Here.

14 MR. PULITZER: Alternate Deputy  
15 Presiding Officer Denise Ford.

16 LEGISLATOR FORD: Here.

17 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
18 Legislator Siela Bynoe.

19 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: Here.

20 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Carrie  
21 Solages.

22 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Here.

23 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Debra  
24 Mule.

25 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

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2 MR. PULITZER: Legislator William  
3 C. Gaylor III.

4 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

5 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Vincent  
6 Muscarella.

7 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Ellen  
9 Birnbaum. Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
11 Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James  
13 Kennedy.

14 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Thomas  
16 McKevitt.

17 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: Here.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Laura  
19 Schaefer.

20 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Legislator John  
22 Ferretti, Jr.

23 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Here.

24 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Arnold  
25 Drucker. Legislator Rose Marie Walker.

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2 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

3 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Joshua  
4 Lafazan.

5 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

6 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven  
7 Rhoads.

8 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

9 MR. PULITZER: Minority Leader  
10 Kevan Abrahams.

11 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Presiding Officer  
13 Richard Nicolello.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum  
16 sir.

17 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank  
18 you. I have several slips for public comment,  
19 which we will take first. First Mr. Brian  
20 Sullivan, president of Nassau COBA.

21 MR. SULLIVAN: Good morning. I  
22 will be short and sweet. I know there are --  
23 not a lot of things but one main thing on the  
24 agenda today, and I wanted to make sure that I  
25 wave and make sure everybody still sees me on

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2 my end of the county.

3 I'm very happy that we are  
4 reopening the precincts apparently. That's  
5 the way this is going to work out. I'm in law  
6 enforcement. I think it's a great idea to  
7 open the precincts. I'm 100 percent for it.  
8 I just want to remind everybody here that we  
9 have new precincts in Nassau County. I've  
10 said it before. I'm on the record many  
11 times. We have new precincts in Nassau  
12 County. We money to open new precincts.  
13 Hopefully we will be getting a new police  
14 academy. I'm all for it. I want to have our  
15 department as part of that police academy.

16 But once again it's pouring rain  
17 today and every building in Nassau County jail  
18 is pouring rain. The officers and the inmates  
19 are walking through puddles in the jail. Our  
20 officers are driving inmates back and forth to  
21 court and to upstate in Flintstone mobiles.  
22 There's little to no surveillance equipment in  
23 the jail to supervise the inmates. Motion  
24 detection equipment isn't there. Body alarms  
25 that we talked about before. Our training is

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2 abysmal. There's shoddy equipment. No CERT  
3 team. Pulling teeth to hire people. I'm  
4 hearing hopefully we'll have a class at the  
5 end of this year after pulling teeth.

6 And I might as well start here  
7 going forward that from our last budget  
8 hearing and a lot of things that have been  
9 going on, our new administration does not  
10 appear to be pushing too hard to fix a lot of  
11 these things. We're pushing to hire but a lot  
12 of the infrastructure and everything else we  
13 don't seem to have our new department  
14 administration doing a lot of pushing for  
15 these other issues. I only hear my voice. I  
16 don't hear anybody else's voice. I've said my  
17 peace. I will speak on to other people. I  
18 will be back. Very happy police precincts are  
19 opening but we're still here and there's  
20 nothing going on. Thank you.

21 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
22 Brian. Kevin Black, president of the Superior  
23 Officers Association.

24 MR. BLACK: Good afternoon. I'd  
25 like to take this moment to thank you for your

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2 time. I'd also like to thank John Ferretti  
3 who was out in front of the press conference  
4 yesterday. Although I know he pushed hard to  
5 open the eighth as Legislator Birnbaum did to  
6 open the sixth. I would like to once again  
7 say thank you for opening the precincts.

8 However, the reason I'm here today  
9 is to talk about the vetoes that the county  
10 executive made. Two weeks ago it was a 19 to  
11 nothing vote in this legislative chamber to  
12 pass those amendments into the budget. Now  
13 I'm being told that today there are not enough  
14 votes to override those vetoes because the  
15 minority has made a deal and chosen to let the  
16 veto stand. They won't vote against them.

17 I have one question to start with.  
18 What happened? I'll tell you how I see what  
19 happened. What happened was that you got  
20 every amendment that you wanted for your  
21 special districts or whatever and you  
22 basically told labor too bad. I would say I'm  
23 disappointed but this happens a lot in this  
24 county as far as labor is concerned. I have  
25 no problem funding CASA, mental health,

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2 disabled veterans programs, NICE bus routes or  
3 public safety officers. They all deserve  
4 funding. I keep hearing there is only one pie  
5 and it's got to be divided one way. I know  
6 this is blasphemy, but maybe we ought to think  
7 about making the pie a little bigger.

8 For 18 or 19 years now there's been  
9 an oversight, slash, control board. What's  
10 changed? My membership took a three year pay  
11 cut. Every unionized county worker rather  
12 took a three year pay freeze. What's better  
13 now than before that? From where we stand  
14 nothing. Nothing at all.

15 There are members in the minority  
16 who at different times have made what I will  
17 call political missteps and when those  
18 missteps were made labor never backed away  
19 from you. Labor endorsed you. Labor  
20 supported you. You weren't allowed in your  
21 own caucus and labor supported you. This is  
22 when you find out who your friends are and who  
23 your friends aren't. And we're finding that  
24 out. No hard feelings, just a statement of  
25 fact from where I stand.

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2 What I really don't understand is,  
3 this was a contingency fund. The county  
4 executive she has had one meeting with us over  
5 contract negotiations and hasn't answered  
6 multiple letters asking for dates and times  
7 that we've offered. The contracts expired  
8 last year. There's no money obviously in this  
9 year's budget. Now there's no money in next  
10 year's budget. If you had put the contingency  
11 fund and we didn't settle you would have a \$12  
12 million surplus. A real surplus. Thank you  
13 for your time.

14 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
15 Kevin. Jerry Laricchuita, president of CSEA  
16 Local 830.

17 MR. LARICCHUITA: Good morning  
18 legislators. Thank you for giving us the time  
19 to come up and address you. I guess my main  
20 question will be, we spoke a few weeks ago  
21 here and we did put forth some real severe,  
22 serious issues that Nassau County faces.  
23 Including most importantly the workforce. The  
24 workforce in general. Doesn't matter what  
25 union you're in, what department you're in, we

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2 are all working in severe, near crisis and  
3 even in some areas crisis shape. It's a daily  
4 problem that we cannot, as a workforce, any  
5 longer sustain the services that we need to  
6 get out to our residents that are paying some  
7 of the highest taxes.

8 I will say this, we are paying some  
9 of the highest taxes in the country and you  
10 may all be a little shocked at this but I  
11 don't blame Nassau County for that. You look  
12 at your tax bill and you will easily see that  
13 65 percent to 70 percent of our taxes go to  
14 our schools. Maybe they should start  
15 separating those tax bills.

16 The big problem, however, I will  
17 say that the Nassau guarantee this is what has  
18 angered me as a union leader. I've seen my  
19 members get laid off in the past years, 2011  
20 and '12, while school districts and special  
21 districts not only collected overtaxed and  
22 mistakes but refused to even cooperate and  
23 hand back what the overcollected. Called the  
24 Nassau guarantee. It's going to kill us if we  
25 don't get that fixed.

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2 I know as a union up here people  
3 are going to say what are you doing? You're  
4 going to have a lot of unions coming. I don't  
5 care anymore. I don't care if other unions  
6 and other bargaining units have a problem with  
7 what I'm saying because the Nassau County  
8 resident is being completely fooled by this.  
9 They think they're doing right by the  
10 children, which they're not, because public  
11 safety is now taking a tremendous hit between  
12 the three law enforcement unions the CSEA and  
13 COBA, we're all dying here. There is no money  
14 left in this budget and they're paying their  
15 taxes that they're paying. We are losing \$100  
16 million a year because of the guarantee.  
17 Imagine if we had that for the last ten  
18 years. There would be no control board. We  
19 would all be celebrating right now. This  
20 would be a great little meeting, wouldn't it?

21 What we brought up last time was  
22 that there's 28 funded vacant positions in  
23 this budget, and we really need you to work  
24 with us in 2019 to start getting them filled.  
25 We cannot continue to operate at this low

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2 level of enrollment of workers. I can tell  
3 you right now 911, the sheriff's department, I  
4 told you last time, I wasn't kidding around,  
5 we are down to really one locksmith in the  
6 jail for Nassau County. That's insane. I  
7 mean, we are the largest county in the state  
8 budget-wise and we don't have a locksmith.

9 And the sheriff says she's going to  
10 co-train us. That's impossible. You have to  
11 go to a special school. It takes weeks to  
12 learn that. There seems to be no forward  
13 thinking in this county anymore. That's the  
14 problem. We wait until it's a crisis and then  
15 we meet here and try to fix it going  
16 backwards.

17 So we are very happy about the  
18 precincts opening. We love the fact that  
19 we're going to have better public safety. We  
20 stand together with our brothers and sisters  
21 in the law enforcement union. But we also say  
22 County Executive Curran, get to the table, get  
23 some work done and let's start replenishing  
24 the workforce before it's too late and we have  
25 a serious crisis here. The residents of this,

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2 the employees of this county and even the  
3 legislators of this county do not deserve that  
4 kind of treatment because we all have to  
5 answer for what we do wrong. Thank you so  
6 much. I appreciate that.

7 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Jerry, she  
8 can come to the table all she wants but  
9 there's no money in the budget for contractual  
10 pay increases for 2019.

11 MR. LARICCHUITA: As we have been  
12 told and that's unbelievable actually.  
13 Because this January 1 we will be entering  
14 year two of an expired contract. Quite  
15 frankly, I didn't want to rain on the parade  
16 of the fact that you guys, the legislators up  
17 there, were able to at least get a victory,  
18 half a victory, with the precincts, and I  
19 think that goes a long way. We didn't want to  
20 rain on that with the contract issue. You  
21 know me. I tell it like it is. I'm being  
22 right from my heart.

23 However, some day we will be  
24 addressing that and without money she better  
25 find it in 2019. We're not going to go

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2 another year like this I can tell you that  
3 much. We are going to have big problems.

4 For today let's wait for the  
5 amendments to go through that you put forth.  
6 Majority Leader, Minority Leader and all  
7 legislators I think you did a great job on  
8 that at least and let's look forward to  
9 getting a better 2019.

10 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you  
11 Jerry. Last speaker is John Budnick.

12 MR. BUDNICK: Good morning  
13 Honorable Majority Leader, Honorable Minority  
14 Leader, honorable members of the legislature.  
15 I'm speaking for myself. I am the former past  
16 president of the Hicksville Community  
17 Counsel. I am a former park ranger who relied  
18 on the existence of the Sixth Precinct for my  
19 safety when I was working at various Nassau  
20 County parks in the northern part of Nassau  
21 County.

22 I would say, speaking again  
23 personally, that the people in the Sixth  
24 Precinct and Eighth Precinct, unless this  
25 budget goes through reopening those precincts,

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2 are being the victims of unequal protection of  
3 the law. The people in the jails are in  
4 serious need for the county to address the  
5 issues there. There is a severe potential  
6 liability set of issues that need to somehow  
7 be addressed.

8 I strongly applaud the legislature  
9 for the funds for CASA, the funds for the  
10 mental health people. Especially the mental  
11 health people that will help reduce so many  
12 problems for the police and the surrounding  
13 community. I also I have to highly commend  
14 you about restoring the buses. That way I  
15 won't have to provide transportation to people  
16 who can't get to places like Sagamore Hill on  
17 weekends because there's is no buses. But  
18 they have to work.

19 To do other than to support these  
20 budget amendments I feel is unconscionable. I  
21 wish you all the very best.

22 And I hope everybody had a  
23 wonderful Veterans Day. And let me take a  
24 moment to commend Colonel Gaylor who was just  
25 honored Friday night at the Hofstra basketball

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2 game where Hofstra won fortunately after a  
3 long, hard battle. Thank you very much. I  
4 commend you one and all.

5 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO:  
6 Congratulations Bill. First item is an  
7 emergency. Ask the clerk to read the  
8 emergency.

9 MR. PULITZER: Thank you  
10 Presiding Officer. Emergency Resolution  
11 18-2018. An emergency resolution declaring an  
12 emergency for immediate action upon a  
13 resolution pursuant to Section 305 of the  
14 county government law of Nassau County, to  
15 reconsider and approve items vetoed by the  
16 county executive in relation to the 2019  
17 Nassau County budget.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: That's  
19 it. So we need a motion on the emergency.  
20 Moved by Legislator Rhoads. Seconded by  
21 Legislator Ford. Any discussion or public  
22 comment? Hearing none, all in favor of the  
23 emergency signify by saying aye. Those  
24 opposed? The emergency passes.

25 So now we can consider the item

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2 which is a resolution pursuant to Section 305  
3 of the county government law of Nassau County  
4 to reconsider and approve items vetoed by the  
5 county executive in relation to the 2019  
6 Nassau County budget.

7 Moved again by Legislator Rhoads.  
8 Seconded again by Legislator Ford. That item  
9 is now before the legislature.

10 Is there anyone from the  
11 administration who is here and authorized to  
12 speak? Mr. Budnick?

13 MR. BUDNICK: I do want to take a  
14 second to say it has been since 1996, actually  
15 1995, when the new form of government of  
16 Nassau County was proposed. It is my humble  
17 and very strenuous belief that the county  
18 executive of Nassau County should be a  
19 sitting, nonvoting member of this body.  
20 Because the county worked well, perhaps much  
21 better than it currently does, when that  
22 provision was part of our county charter I  
23 would most respectfully submit to you all.  
24 Thank you very much.

25 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank you

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2 Mr. Budnick. I was kidding by the way.

3 Since there is no one here from the  
4 administration I have some comments that I  
5 want to make just to start things off.

6 First, the county executive has  
7 apparently made a deal with the minority to  
8 provide funding for some of the initiatives in  
9 the amendments passed by a vote of 19 nothing  
10 in this legislature. These apparently include  
11 funds for partial restoration of the sixth and  
12 eighth precincts, funds for restoration of  
13 some of the bus routes, funds for mental  
14 health training, public safety officers, as  
15 well as funds for salaries for staff for CASA  
16 and for Minority Affairs. These are all very  
17 worthwhile endeavors.

18 I say apparently made a commitment  
19 to us because no one from the administration  
20 has spoken to us about it. I've spoken to  
21 Kevan and seen the Newsday story. But again,  
22 no communication from the administration and  
23 they didn't see fit to come here today.

24 When considering the apparent  
25 commitment that the county executive has made

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2 it's important to review her statements as  
3 recorded in the media about the amendments.  
4 The county executive said that our actions in  
5 providing for the funds for these purposes by  
6 amendment was, quote, reckless, close quotes.  
7 The county executive said that it was, quote,  
8 irresponsible for lawmakers to start opening  
9 the precincts, closed quote.

10 The county executive said it would  
11 cost \$5 million to open the precincts. The  
12 county executive said we could risk losing a  
13 \$3 million state grant. The county executive  
14 not only made these statements, and they  
15 seemed pretty clear to me, but she also sued  
16 us to stop from making these amendments.  
17 While suing us the county executive said they,  
18 the legislature, are spending taxpayer money  
19 without transparency and without required  
20 notice.

21 Now, apparently, the county  
22 executive has decided to ahead and spend the  
23 money with no notice as part of this deal. In  
24 terms of the county executive's commitment, we  
25 remind you that earlier this year the county

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2 executive committed to this body that she  
3 would abide by the New York State cap on  
4 assessment increases. And even put that into  
5 the form of an executive order. Then later in  
6 the year the county executive changed her mind  
7 and rescinded that order.

8 So are we today supposed to rely on  
9 these commitments that the county executive  
10 has made? Are we to rely on these commitments  
11 that she is actually going to spend these  
12 monies that should be spent? I think not.  
13 The only way to ensure that the partial  
14 restoration of the precincts and the rest of  
15 these changes actually happen is to override.

16 Now what was not in the deal with  
17 the minority was the contingency fund for the  
18 contractual pay increase. Let's briefly go  
19 over those facts.

20 There's no money in the budget for  
21 contractual pay increases. County  
22 administration has represented that on  
23 multiple occasions. 2019 will be the second  
24 year in which all of our collective bargaining  
25 units are without a contract. We have no

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2 representation from the county executive as to  
3 how she intends to pay for a contract if it  
4 happens or with the police unions if there's  
5 an arbitrator's award. No one can argue that  
6 it is good budgeting to make believe that a  
7 major, foreseeable unfunded liability does not  
8 exist.

9 Lastly, to my friends on the left,  
10 by reaching this agreement with the county  
11 executive you have unfortunately ceded all the  
12 powers that you have over the county budget.  
13 The only leverage that you have, whether we  
14 have for that matter, is the threat of a veto  
15 override. Going forward that threat will no  
16 longer exist.

17 For a county executive who reacted  
18 violently to changes in her budget, make up  
19 .06 percent of her budget, and who for the  
20 first time in the history of this body sued  
21 the legislature to stop amendments, we will be  
22 interested to see how open the administration  
23 is in the future to changes to her budget that  
24 she may propose.

25 That's my statement. Does anyone

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2 else have -- Minority Leader Abrahams.

3 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you  
4 Presiding Officer Nicoletto. I have a brief  
5 response. One to talk about our thought  
6 process in what has transpired in the last  
7 couple of days and then to respond to a few of  
8 the points that the presiding officer made.

9 First and foremost, we truly  
10 believe that working with the county executive  
11 on our amendments is the most prudent way to  
12 proceed. Why do we believe that? Well, I  
13 have been in the legislature for quite some  
14 time and I've seen amendments be proposed to a  
15 budget. I've seen county executives veto  
16 amendments. I have even seen override  
17 meetings not even called even though we had  
18 agreement on amendments.

19 From that standpoint, the county  
20 executive does not have to proceed with any of  
21 the amendments. We can make amendments to  
22 include bus routes. We can make amendments  
23 for contingencies. We can make amendments for  
24 including precincts. She does not have to  
25 spend one nickel, not one. The legislature

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2 can only authorize the money going there but  
3 we cannot authorize force nor force her to  
4 spend one nickel.

5 By structuring an agreement like we  
6 did yesterday, what that gets basically is we  
7 are able to move forward with the  
8 initiatives. But at the same time we are able  
9 to move forward with the county executive's  
10 ability to authorize to move forward. And we  
11 anticipate when the precincts are reopened  
12 taxpayers receive the benefits. We anticipate  
13 that when the bus routes are implemented  
14 taxpayers reap the benefits. We anticipate  
15 all of our initiatives, whether it's the  
16 public safety officer, they're being hired, is  
17 the best way to go when you have the ability  
18 to work with the county executive that's able  
19 to proceed to implementing what you are trying  
20 to authorize. We feel it's more prudent to be  
21 able to proceed that way.

22 To respond to the issue of the  
23 lawsuit, that was contingent based off of the  
24 fact that we had an agreement yesterday. We  
25 would only entertain the agreement if it meant

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2 that the lawsuit would be dropped. Which we  
3 believe and received word yesterday that it  
4 would be dropped. That is a complete waste of  
5 taxpayer money to be able to go forward with  
6 the lawsuit if there is an agreement on the  
7 actual budget.

8 Then last but not least, as I said  
9 before, it kind of applies not just to all of  
10 our initiatives but to be specific on the  
11 contingency, it is very ideal and hopeful that  
12 we put money into the budget that is tied to  
13 addressing the salary increases for next  
14 year. I think everyone in this room, if they  
15 were planning their 2019, they would plan out  
16 to insure that they were budgeting enough  
17 money to cover their expenses. By no stretch  
18 of the imagination, if the unions and the  
19 county executive all come to fair like-minded  
20 structured deals this legislative body would  
21 support them. By no stretch of the  
22 imagination are we saying because the  
23 contingency was not a part of the agreement  
24 yesterday are we against labor or against  
25 unions not going forward. To me, I don't see

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2 how that agreement erases, in my case, 16  
3 years of supporting labor. If we are drawing  
4 new lines in the sand so be it.

5 That being said, we cannot force  
6 nor do anything to encourage the county  
7 executive to negotiate in good faith. We hope  
8 that she does that. We will hold her  
9 accountable that she does to that. But the  
10 bottom line is she has to engage in that  
11 process. A contingency doesn't do that.  
12 Contingency applies and ensures that the money  
13 is there. Which, quite frankly, I have to  
14 question whether or not the money would still  
15 be there even if the contingency went  
16 forward. Where it's coming from I mean.

17 That being said, the contingency  
18 does not force negotiations. What forces  
19 negotiations is by making sure all sides are  
20 willing to agree and we continue to push the  
21 county executive because it's in the county's  
22 best interests to be able to pursue so. Not a  
23 contingency fund. I've never seen a  
24 contingency fund -- NIFA has required for  
25 years that we budget for a reserve fund and

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2 not once have I seen that meant we had strong  
3 fiscal practices. I mean, it doesn't make any  
4 sense.

5 So, I think from our standpoint  
6 it's become very clear that if folks want to  
7 draw lines in the sand that's their  
8 prerogative. That being said, I don't believe  
9 it erases years and years of working for the  
10 betterment of our working class unions in this  
11 county.

12 I just once again want to stress  
13 the fact that I thought it would be better and  
14 more prudent to be able to accomplish more for  
15 the taxpayers by working with the county  
16 executive, and that is why we felt it was  
17 necessary to structure an agreement with her  
18 yesterday to ensure that our ideas and our  
19 goals actually get implemented. Which we  
20 believe that would not have been the case if  
21 we went forward with an actual override veto  
22 vote today. Thank you.

23 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: I'm going  
24 to turn this over to the legislators. I just  
25 had a question posed to the administration

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2 because they are not here. In terms of the  
3 bus restorations what did that encompass? Do  
4 you know? Anyone? Kevan? What routes are we  
5 restoring?

6 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Yes. Hold  
7 on a second. Sorry Presiding Officer. It's  
8 our understanding, based on our agreement,  
9 that it's \$300,000 for the Port Washington  
10 shuttle and \$100,000 for the Saturday-Sunday  
11 weekend service for Plainview.

12 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The  
13 original amendment had lump sum actually for  
14 both sides so routes in all areas of the  
15 county could be restored. It's unfortunate  
16 that the county executive has agreed to two  
17 routes, as some of my colleagues can tell you,  
18 I'm sure not just the majority but there were  
19 many bus routes that were taken away and those  
20 are very active bus routes that are very much  
21 needed. Apparently she didn't consider it  
22 important enough to include it in her  
23 agreement.

24 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer  
25 Ford.

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2 LEGISLATOR FORD: I do appreciate  
3 the comments made by our presiding officer and  
4 minority leader. I just want to say though  
5 for me and I'm going to be very brief, that I  
6 think that while the agreement I can  
7 understand why they made it but I firmly  
8 believe that the override would have achieved  
9 the same results. When we indicate that she  
10 really doesn't have to spend the money. If  
11 she wants to open the precinct she can.  
12 She'll have the money, the ability to do it.

13 But I really believe that if we had  
14 all stayed together, because we did work on a  
15 bipartisan effort to show the residents that  
16 we are willing to work together, join together  
17 for the benefit of everybody who lives in  
18 Nassau County, little saddened by it. But  
19 grown up enough to understand.

20 I firmly believe by not having this  
21 contingency plan does hurt labor. It's  
22 indicating to them that, quite clearly, that  
23 the door is closed to any type of  
24 negotiations. They're putting labor at a  
25 disadvantage at this point because we do not

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2     know if the funding will be there, if it will  
3     be accessible in 2019. I think that by having  
4     a contingency, and I agree by having that, it  
5     at least opens up the door to say let's start  
6     the discussion whether or not they come to any  
7     agreement in 2019. But to me, clearly as a  
8     labor person, it really is an indication that  
9     the county executive is not willing to really  
10    even meet them half way.

11                   I also believe that the  
12    contingency, the lack of it, by not having  
13    this and to move labor negotiations forward  
14    does hurt the hiring process because we don't  
15    know how many people can be hired, people  
16    don't know the salaries, what their future  
17    will be. Will they then be faced with steps  
18    that are being frozen in the future? There  
19    are so many different issues I think that we  
20    are sending a clear message to those that work  
21    in this county and those that would like to  
22    work in this county that, you know what, we  
23    are not necessarily on your side. I believe  
24    that we've left the workforce behind and we've  
25    made our residents vulnerable.

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2 I just want to cite to specifically  
3 then in this case issues of public safety,  
4 Brian Sullivan did correctly talk about the  
5 issues at the correctional facility. There  
6 are many, many problems there. What are we  
7 doing about it? We need sheriffs. We need  
8 guards there. We have been very, very slow in  
9 trying to pick up in hiring more.

10 Just take a look at over this  
11 weekend. As I understand it, there was a  
12 problem within the 911 bureau. Calls were  
13 being delayed. We have put our residents at  
14 risk. To them to say to residents instead of  
15 dialing 911 for any type of emergency perhaps  
16 you should started calling your precinct. To  
17 me that is unacceptable and unfair.

18 When we look even our school  
19 crossing guards. We don't have enough of  
20 them. We have taken away the ability to make  
21 a good living here. Those people, basically  
22 women, that watch out for our children that  
23 cross roads that are like by dangerous  
24 intersections exposed to traffic. We do not  
25 have enough school crossing guards. But

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2 instead of hiring more and, here it is, we  
3 don't even know if we can hire more. We then  
4 take police officers off their routes. We  
5 take the cops. They can't leave it. To me  
6 that doesn't make any sense.

7 We will look at our ambulances.  
8 They're down. We don't have enough ambulance  
9 operators. From what I understand they're  
10 partnering with Northwell. We need to send a  
11 clear message. For me, my message is that I'm  
12 going to stand with labor. While I do  
13 appreciate the efforts on the part of the  
14 county executive to try to keep this county  
15 going, I do take exception to the message that  
16 has been sent to labor and I think it's time  
17 that we all stand together. We did once  
18 before. Let's do it again. Let's all say we  
19 are here for the working men and women in this  
20 county. They are suffering from moral  
21 problems. There's not enough workers. I  
22 think now is the time to say you know what,  
23 let's go with the override. Let's give the  
24 contingency plan so that we can say to labor  
25 we are listening to you. We are here for

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2 you. Thank you.

3 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Legislator  
4 Muscarella.

5 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Thank  
6 you. It's nice to hear from my good friend,  
7 the minority leader, that an agreement was  
8 entered into by the minority caucus as to  
9 certain expenditures that the county executive  
10 would be making next year. How much nicer  
11 would it have been if the county executive  
12 reached out to the majority caucus also and  
13 entered into an agreement or understanding or  
14 information concerning those changes rather  
15 than through the media, through Newsday. It  
16 would have been much nicer. This  
17 administration that is so concerned with  
18 transparency would have been nice to enter  
19 into an agreement with us.

20 That being said, in the interest of  
21 transparency we haven't even seen that  
22 agreement. It would be nice if someone turned  
23 over that agreement to us or briefed us from  
24 the county executive's office. But there's no  
25 one here to do that.

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2 The majority leader spoke about the  
3 assurance in the reassessment going forward  
4 that the county executive, by executive order,  
5 would abide by the 6-20 rule. That assurance  
6 was revoked by the county executive. County  
7 executive, months ago, also implored us to  
8 borrow \$23 million because of the necessity to  
9 borrow money to fund the \$23 million Restivo  
10 judgement. We provided that. But the county  
11 executive then did not use that money.

12 Years ago I can recall Ronald  
13 Reagan in negotiating with the I guess Soviet  
14 Union that entered into agreements and Reagan  
15 said trust but verify. All we're asking in  
16 this veto from the county executive is we want  
17 to believe but we want to require her. And  
18 apparently by the minority not overriding this  
19 veto we are not going to get that requirement  
20 by the county executive.

21 You know, in the event going  
22 forward I would just say this. That if the  
23 county executive doesn't live up to that  
24 so-called agreement that she has with the  
25 minority, do not come to the majority and

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2 complained that the county executive has not  
3 opened the precincts. Do not come to the  
4 majority and say that you are disappointed  
5 that the bus routes have not been restored.  
6 Do not come to the majority that she has not  
7 funded the positions in CASA or the Minority  
8 Affairs. You members of the minority would  
9 have to go to your residents, to your  
10 constituents, and say that it is because of  
11 the inaction of the minority today that the  
12 county executive has reneged on those  
13 assurances that she apparently made you.  
14 Thank you.

15 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Any other  
16 legislators at this time have anything to  
17 add? We are going to have a roll call vote  
18 and you can explain your vote at that point.  
19 Hearing none, any public comment? Hearing  
20 none, I would ask the clerk to call the roll  
21 please.

22 MR. PULITZER: Thank you  
23 Presiding Officer. Roll call vote. Deputy  
24 Presiding Officer Howard Kopel.

25 LEGISLATOR KOPEL: I just want to

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2 say I'm going to vote for this bill because I  
3 think it's the responsible thing to do. I  
4 think what it does is that it recognizes  
5 reality. In fact, we will have certain  
6 obligations. In fact, there probably is some  
7 money that's available for the budget to  
8 provide for those anticipated actions that we  
9 will have to take. We do need to deal with  
10 the labor contracts. It's not realistic to  
11 assume that nothing is going to happen there  
12 indefinitely. I think that the vote against  
13 this is to close your eyes to what is actually  
14 happening and what is actually going to happen  
15 in the real world. Because of that I vote  
16 yes.

17 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
18 Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer Denise  
19 Ford.

20 LEGISLATOR FORD: Yes.

21 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
22 Legislator Siela Bynoe.

23 LEGISLATOR BYNOE: No.

24 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Carrie  
25 Solages.

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2 LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: No.

3 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.

4 Legislator Debra Mule.

5 LEGISLATOR MULE: No.

6 MR. PULITZER: Legislator C.

7 William Gaylor the Third.

8 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: The lines in  
9 the sand have been drawn apparently. The  
10 minority has entered into a back room deal.  
11 Hasn't been shared with us. For their own  
12 selfish purposes it appears. Rather than to  
13 guarantee the restoration of funding for such  
14 important things as precincts, labor, CASA,  
15 Minority Affairs, many more bus routes than  
16 the two that the Democrats worked out, is  
17 solely for selfish purposes.

18 So I believe the minority has  
19 entered into an era which consists of many  
20 more future back room deals lacking any  
21 transparency. Although they talk about  
22 transparency. The county executive and the  
23 minority clearly aren't transparent in their  
24 action.

25 A vote to override the veto ensures

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2 that those programs that minority says are so  
3 important to them are guaranteed. As well as  
4 providing the additional funding for labor.  
5 Which we have to address. By having a labor  
6 contingency fund it forces the administration  
7 to come to the table to negotiate a lot sooner  
8 than letting this drag on indefinitely. The  
9 lines have been drawn in the sand. It's clear  
10 as the minority said. So I'm voting yes to  
11 override the veto.

12 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
13 Legislator Vincent Muscarella.

14 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Yes.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Ellen  
16 Birnbaum is absent. Legislator Delia  
17 DeRiggi-Whitton.

18 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON: No.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator James  
20 Kennedy.

21 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: I'm voting  
22 yes. I believe we have been taken completely  
23 out of this. I feel like we are left in the  
24 dark. I'm worried that the promise of  
25 transparency is nowhere to be seen. I feel

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2 this is very necessary right now. I wish we  
3 could all come together and work for what is  
4 so important and that is the county residents  
5 and those who work for the county and make the  
6 county run. So I'm voting yes.

7 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
8 Legislator Thomas McKeivitt.

9 LEGISLATOR MCKEVITT: You know,  
10 except for five of the members up on this  
11 dais, I have been through more budgets than  
12 anyone else here can say. I have been through  
13 good budgets, bad budgets. I went through  
14 four governors. And so I came from a place  
15 that is well known that when agreements were  
16 made it happened with three men in a room. It  
17 was done in a back room deal where no one knew  
18 what was occurring. But at least at the very  
19 end that deal had to come to the legislature  
20 floor and you got to debate the good parts of  
21 it, the bad parts of it. The details. You  
22 got to see everything that was in it.

23 Today we come to a new depth in  
24 this county. When I came down here, mostly so  
25 I can be with my family full time, I was

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2 encouraged that there would be some  
3 transparency, some openness for the people to  
4 be a participant in their government and see  
5 what would occur. And apparently that's not  
6 what's happening here whatsoever. I've now  
7 seen behavior that I thought I left behind in  
8 Albany and now it's come right back down to  
9 Mineola. This to me is a day that the people  
10 of this county deserve better. I vote yes for  
11 the override.

12 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
13 Legislator Laura Schaefer.

14 LEGISLATOR SCHAEFER: Thank you.  
15 I also will be voting yes for the override. I  
16 do want to say that with regard to what was  
17 said by Legislator Muscarella and Minority  
18 Leader Abrahams, I also agree that speaking to  
19 the administration while we are making  
20 negotiations, while we are dealing with the  
21 budget is the right way to go. Unfortunately,  
22 we were not approached or given that  
23 opportunity to have that discussion. And that  
24 to me speaks volumes. And I think that it's  
25 clear that while we can see that the

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2 administration does not respect the majority  
3 enough to have those conversations to even  
4 reach out, I question how much respect they  
5 have for the minority when they're not even  
6 here. They left you hanging to be the only  
7 ones to support whatever the deal is that we  
8 were privy too. It's just a shame to see  
9 that.

10 So I would just be careful because  
11 I don't know that all those promises will be  
12 fulfilled. I vote yes.

13 MR. PULITZER: Thank you ma'am.  
14 Next John Ferretti, Jr.

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you  
16 Mr. Clerk. I've learned quite a bit in the  
17 almost one year since taking office and  
18 hearing from the minority, hearing them  
19 criticize the very contingency fund that they  
20 just voted for, having a county executive  
21 break a campaign promise advocate against  
22 precincts, sue the legislature to stop the  
23 precincts, call reopening the precincts  
24 reckless, irresponsible only to reverse  
25 herself on a dime it's something certainly new

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2 to me.

3 We hear the minority say in the  
4 event she does not fulfill these promises we  
5 would hold her accountable. The time to hold  
6 the county executive accountable is today.  
7 She has already broken promises made to every  
8 one of us going back to assessment. I don't  
9 know about any of you but I field calls every  
10 single day from residents in my district  
11 scared that they are going to be taxed out of  
12 this county. It's because of that  
13 misrepresentation that was made to us about  
14 six months ago. I implore the two remaining  
15 legislators on the other side of the aisle who  
16 have an opportunity here to end this madness  
17 take that opportunity.

18 Now, I am happy that county  
19 executive seems to have come to her senses  
20 regarding the Eighth Precinct and Sixth  
21 Precinct. But shame on any of us if we don't  
22 make sure today that she keeps this promise.  
23 For that reason I vote for the override.

24 MR. PULITZER: Thank you sir.

25 Next would be Legislator Arnold Drucker who is

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2 absent. Legislator Rose Marie Walker.

3 LEGISLATOR WALKER: When we voted  
4 last week, 19 of us, what a proud day that we  
5 worked together to put our amendments together  
6 and vote unanimously to pass those  
7 amendments. And I really thought to myself,  
8 you know, we really are working together.  
9 Working together for the benefit of labor, for  
10 the benefits of our departments, for the  
11 benefit in particular of all our residents.

12 And it saddens me today to think  
13 that deals could be made with part of us  
14 knowing nothing about it. Not being included  
15 at all. Promises that you believe are going  
16 to be kept I really tend to wonder because it  
17 feels like a lot of promises that have already  
18 been out there for all of us haven't been  
19 kept. And because of those reasons I'm voting  
20 yes for the override.

21 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Next  
22 Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

23 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: No.

24 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
25 Legislator Steven Rhoads.

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2 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Thank you  
3 Mr. Clerk. I could not agree with Legislator  
4 Walker more. Two weeks, by a 19 to nothing  
5 vote, we worked in a partisan fashion to stand  
6 up for what was right on behalf of the  
7 taxpayers and residents of Nassau County. I  
8 contrast that today, which I think is probably  
9 now that the votes have been cast and the  
10 override apparently will not occur, is perhaps  
11 one of the most disappointing. There is an  
12 old saying that says fool me once shame on  
13 you, fool me twice shame on me.

14 With that, the minority has made  
15 the decision that once again believe the  
16 promises that are made by the county  
17 executive. The reality is that we have a  
18 county executive who is governing by fiat.  
19 One who promised to be open and transparent.  
20 One who agreed that she was going to work in a  
21 bipartisan fashion with the legislature to  
22 ensure that we had a government that would was  
23 going to represent all of the people. What's  
24 occurred is the exact opposite.

25 How many promises are going to be

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2 broken? How many times is she going to  
3 attempt to bypass the legislature and do  
4 whatever it is that she wants? It started  
5 back in March with her deal to apparently  
6 bypass the county legislature and seek a five  
7 percent margin of error in assessment. Not  
8 even consult with us and seek that directly  
9 from the state legislature. She promised she  
10 was going to abide by our bill for Little  
11 League fees. Yet we find out that PALs are  
12 still being charged those fees by the same  
13 administration that promised to abide by it.

14 She promised to us back in March  
15 with respect to assessment that she was going  
16 to abide by the state assessment increase  
17 cap. The 6-20 Rule that you've heard about.  
18 Six months later when it's convenient and when  
19 the legislature can do nothing to change it  
20 she reverses her decision and has thrust the  
21 assessment system in chaos causing fear that  
22 Legislator Ferretti correctly alluded to.  
23 Causing a great amount of fear among  
24 homeowners as to what is going to happen with  
25 their property taxes.

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2 Legislator Muscarella mentioned  
3 another representation made by the  
4 administration with respect to the Restivo  
5 judgement. Implored us, begged us to provide  
6 her \$23 million in borrowing so she can pay  
7 that judgement. \$23 million that still sits  
8 unused today.

9 She's promised the taxpayers a five  
10 year phase-in with respect to her assessment  
11 changes. In fact, from what we're hearing,  
12 that five year phase-in, that transitional is  
13 going to be included on the notices that we  
14 are forcing her to send out to explain to  
15 taxpayers the impact of her assessment  
16 changes. Yet that transitional has never even  
17 been filed in Albany. They don't need our  
18 approval. They need approval from the state  
19 legislature. Yet she's making the  
20 representation to taxpayers that somehow this  
21 is a done deal when it's anything but.

22 In fact, when we actually stood  
23 together and passed budget amendments together  
24 to fight for and defend things that we as a  
25 legislature felt were important, she actually

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2 took the unprecedented, perhaps unprecedented,  
3 but the bizarre step of not simply issuing a  
4 veto and allowing this to play out in public,  
5 a forum where every Nassau County resident  
6 would have the opportunity to see it, but  
7 instead took to the courts and wasted taxpayer  
8 dollars in suing us.

9 So now we have the legislative  
10 minority who has decided that after that track  
11 record that they're going to put their faith  
12 in the county executive's promises again. I  
13 do not have that faith. And it pains me to  
14 say it.

15 So now we have a promise that the  
16 Sixth and Eighth Precincts are going to  
17 reopen. A promise that has no timetable other  
18 than generally saying that it's going to  
19 happen some time next year. We have no  
20 defined way as to how the county executive is  
21 actually going to pay for it.

22 We have a promise that there will  
23 be additional mental health training offered  
24 by the police department. With again, no  
25 mechanism to pay for it.

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2 We have a promise that some,  
3 coincidentally, the routes in the minority  
4 districts, bus routes, are going to be  
5 restored leaving individuals who rely upon  
6 public transportation in the majority  
7 districts out in the cold. But again, a  
8 promise that that's going to occur. Again  
9 with no mechanism to pay for it.

10 A promise for additional security  
11 in parks and county facilities with no  
12 mechanism to pay for it. A promise to fund  
13 CASA. A promise to fully staff Minority  
14 Affairs. With no mechanism to pay for it.

15 Then to cap it off, the one  
16 opportunity that we have in this budget to  
17 restore some fiscal responsibility to the  
18 county by creating a contingency fund to allow  
19 for contract collective bargaining  
20 negotiations that are supposed to be ongoing  
21 but are not yet ongoing, so that we're not  
22 facing a fiscal crisis if and when those  
23 contracts are resolved, that's left out of the  
24 agreement by the minority. What's going to  
25 happen when there is a contract resolution and

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2 we don't have \$12 million or whatever the  
3 figure is to pay for it? What is going to be  
4 cut then?

5 We talk about fiscal  
6 responsibility. We talk about planning. We  
7 talk about responsible budgeting. Yet when  
8 you have the single opportunity to actually  
9 back up that talk with action it falls by the  
10 wayside, along with every other promise that  
11 the administration has made.

12 And the sad thing is instead of  
13 standing together, we're allowing it to  
14 happen. You are allowing it to happen my  
15 colleagues in the minority.

16 So today is an extraordinarily  
17 disappointing day. I'm disappointed for the  
18 legislature. I'm disappointed for the  
19 residents of Nassau County. And I think we  
20 have seen two weeks after seeing the best of  
21 governance we are seeing the worst of  
22 governance. In a back room deal without any  
23 light of transparency, we still have no idea  
24 of what the actual details of these agreements  
25 are. And it's interesting, as one of the

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2 legislators pointed out, I think Presiding  
3 Officer Nicoletto, it's interesting that after  
4 you have the county executive challenging the  
5 legislature's actions based upon a lack of  
6 transparency that we have a back room deal  
7 that is made with the county executive and  
8 minority in the legislature and we have  
9 absolutely no idea what's in it. I'm not  
10 entirely certain that the minority knows  
11 what's in it.

12 We have managed today to clutch  
13 defeat from the jaws of victory. It is indeed  
14 a sad day for the residents of Nassau County.  
15 And I will, even though it's moot at this  
16 point, cast my vote in favor of overriding the  
17 county executive's veto.

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you  
19 Legislator. Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams.

20 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: First and  
21 foremost, I want to stand by what I said  
22 earlier. But then I think in light of the  
23 majority's comments prior to their vote I  
24 would like to respond.

25 I will say that it's kind of

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2 bewildering the rhetoric regarding  
3 transparency and back room deals. The  
4 agreement that we reached with the county  
5 executive, our amendments that were clocked in  
6 on October 22nd, specify everything that's in  
7 that agreement. Talks about the mental health  
8 aids, talks about the bus routes, talks about  
9 reopening of the precincts, talks about public  
10 safety officers. Everything that was publicly  
11 noticed on October 22nd is on that agreement.  
12 The fact that folks are throwing out the words  
13 transparency is a little astonishing.

14 Then to call the deal a back room  
15 deal, back door deal, whatever you want to  
16 call it. When I reached out to the presiding  
17 officer to ensure that our amendments could be  
18 one joint amendment that conversation wasn't  
19 done in the public. It was done in the office  
20 where I met with the presiding officer. Is  
21 that anymore of a back room deal than what was  
22 done with the county executive? No. Because  
23 the presiding officer and I agreed that we  
24 were working for the betterment of taxpayers  
25 in this county and that's why we agreed to

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2 it. But that's no more than a back room deal.

3 If you are going to criticize what  
4 the county executive and the minority have  
5 come to agreement to then you better criticize  
6 your presiding officer because he came to the  
7 same agreement with me two weeks ago in that  
8 back room. It's totally different. I  
9 understand Laura. I didn't speak when you  
10 spoke. You weren't there. I know. And  
11 neither was the county executive as a part of  
12 those amendments agreements either. She  
13 wasn't there either. The bottom line is you  
14 can't have it both ways.

15 It's funny. History has a way of  
16 reminding us. I keep hearing the same  
17 rhetoric about contingency. That the  
18 contingency is not there. This is not a knock  
19 on all of you, but when we approved the  
20 agreement that was done before this agreement  
21 we looked it up, there was no contingency that  
22 was proposed by the county executive. Where  
23 were your voices then? I would have loved to  
24 have heard you then say where's the  
25 contingency Mr. Executive? It's not part of

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2 this plan. But you know what? The county  
3 executive then found the money. He found the  
4 money to pay for it just like we believe the  
5 county executive now will find the money.

6 But I hear a lot about contingency,  
7 contingency, contingency, contingency. Okay.  
8 Where were your voices when the agreement that  
9 just expired had no contingency before the  
10 agreement was approved? Had none. But here  
11 you are, we're talking tough, we want  
12 contingency.

13 Then, it's funny, we talk about the  
14 bus. Well, the majority felt it was so  
15 important to have the bus in their agreements  
16 that it was absent from their original  
17 amendment that was submitted on October 22nd.  
18 It wasn't included until we had a joint  
19 amendment where we had our \$400,000 and they  
20 then proposed theirs. But they thought it was  
21 so important to have the bus and they're  
22 fighting for it today but they didn't even  
23 have it in their original amendment.

24 The bottom line is very simple. We  
25 may have a philosophical difference on how we

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2 get things done in this county. We believe  
3 that it's better and more prudent to be able  
4 to get things done with the county executive's  
5 assurances. They believe that you're better  
6 off and you talk tough and you show tough that  
7 when you basically override a veto not getting  
8 any assurances from the county executive that  
9 she's going to implement anything that you've  
10 overridden that adds money to the budget, they  
11 think that's the way to go. We may disagree.

12 I think I can say this to my good  
13 friends Vinnie Muscarella and to Rich  
14 Nicoletto, who I've served with, the latter  
15 never works. I've never seen a budget be  
16 implemented after an override veto and the  
17 county executive implement everything that has  
18 to happen. The way things get done in this  
19 county is by you rolling up your sleeves and  
20 working with the county executive and working  
21 out your differences. That's what we tried to  
22 accomplish to do.

23 And could we fall short? Could she  
24 fall short on some of the things that are  
25 possible? Yes, it's absolutely possible. But

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2 we are going to fight to ensure that at least  
3 we have an argument at the table to ensure  
4 that we are able to get those things done.

5 But I stand by what I said  
6 earlier. I just found it amazing to me and  
7 astonishing that we are throwing out  
8 references of transparency when the majority  
9 knows we filed all of our amendments and  
10 everything in the agreement is part of our  
11 amendments. And then to throw out back room  
12 deals is absurd. It's no more than a back  
13 room deal when I reached out to the presiding  
14 officer. The county executive wasn't there.

15 The bottom line is I vote no to the  
16 override for everything that I have stated  
17 before. Thank you.

18 MR. PULITZER: Thank you.  
19 Presiding Officer Richard Nicolello.

20 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: Thank  
21 you. Just three quick points. The County  
22 Executive Mangano actually did have a  
23 contingency in his labor agreements.  
24 Unfortunately it was red light cameras, which  
25 was a disaster. Speed cameras you're

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2 correct. Speed cameras was tied directly to  
3 the negotiated increases and it was  
4 disastrous. And that is exactly what we are  
5 trying to avoid by putting a contingency in  
6 the budget because those types of gimmicks  
7 don't work.

8 Secondly, in terms of how you want  
9 to characterize our agreement, it's clearly  
10 distinguishable after having discussions and  
11 reaching agreement the minority, majority put  
12 our agreements in writing, filed amendments,  
13 which were on file for a week, then we voted  
14 for it. It was all done in public. It wasn't  
15 an agreement apparently that doesn't exist in  
16 writing. It was an agreement that we reached,  
17 filed, voted on.

18 Lastly, what is most offensive  
19 about what has taken place is the exclusion of  
20 monies for restoration of bus routes in  
21 majority districts. I can understand the  
22 minority fighting for their districts. We all  
23 do that. I can understand them wanting  
24 restoration of funds for their district.  
25 Again, we all do that. We all fight for our

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2 districts. But the county executive doesn't  
3 represent a particular party. She doesn't  
4 represent a particular district. She  
5 represents the entire county. The fact that  
6 she has reached this agreement that  
7 specifically removes the funding from majority  
8 districts it's petty, it's directed, it's  
9 political. And I'm going to remind her and we  
10 will remind her to the residents who live in  
11 those majority districts that she's supposed  
12 to speak for them as well.

13 Having said that, I vote yes for  
14 the override.

15 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. We  
16 have a total vote out of 17 we have yes 11 no  
17 six.

18 LEGISLATOR NICOLELLO: The item  
19 fails. That is the conclusion of our business  
20 today. I need a motion to adjourn. Moved by  
21 Legislator Muscarella. Seconded by Legislator  
22 Bynoe. All in favor of adjourning signify by  
23 saying aye. Those opposed? Carries  
24 unanimously. We are adjourned.

25 (TIME NOTED: 12:43 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATION

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand this 25th day of  
October 2018

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FRANK GRAY